



Announcement

January 23, 2019

Chicagoland Workforce Leadership Academy: Launching the 2019 Cohort

The [Chicago Jobs Council](#) and the [Aspen Institute Economic Opportunities Program](#) are pleased to announce the launch of the inaugural Chicagoland Workforce Leadership Academy. The Academy was created with generous support from JPMorgan Chase, The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, and the Chicagoland Workforce Funder Alliance.

The goal of the Academy is to expand the network of leaders who can develop strategies to advance more equitable opportunities for low-wage workers while meeting local economic needs. Through a competitive application process, 24 individuals were selected from Chicago-based nonprofit organizations, business associations, community colleges and universities, and public agencies, to take part in this yearlong peer-learning opportunity. You can learn more about the selected Fellows [here](#).

Fellows will have the opportunity to work with leading practitioners from around the country, engage in leadership development activities, and use practical planning tools to

develop effective workforce strategies to strengthen their local workforce system. Fellows will explore strategies focused on systems changes, including “raising the floor” and “building career ladders” for workers; responding to industry needs within and across sectors; navigating the workforce policy and funding environment; and combatting disparities related to race, ethnicity, and gender in the labor market. All participants will join the Aspen Institute Economic Opportunity Fellows Network.

Building on the Aspen Institute Economic Opportunities Program’s long-running national Sector Skills Academy model, Chicago is the first of four cities launching Workforce Leadership Academies in 2019. The Chicagoland Workforce Leadership Academy will officially kick off at the end of January.



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