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## McCormick Foundation Grants \$900,000 for Citywide Workforce Development Programs through Chicago Tribune Charities

**Chicago, July 12, 2013** — In a still-shaky economy, many individuals are struggling to access the training programs needed to find jobs that lead to careers. Recognizing the need, the [Robert R. McCormick Foundation](#) and the [Chicago Tribune](#) have announced \$900,000 in funding through [Chicago Tribune Charities](#), a McCormick Foundation Fund, to 16 local nonprofits helping individuals overcome the barriers to unemployment and more towards greater self-sufficiency.

“These post-recession times are hard on individuals without the skills to successfully compete for a job,” said Don Cooke, McCormick Foundation’s senior vice president of philanthropy. “We are pleased to support these programs that will help people achieve their goals of earning a living wage and being productive members of their community.”

“The programs supported by Chicago Tribune Charities help people build and improve their lives through education and job training,” remarks Tony Hunter, CEO Chicago Tribune Company. “These workforce programs provide a better path for participants to achieve success and self-sufficiency in a variety of careers.”

Since 1990, more than \$12 million has been granted through Chicago Tribune Charities to support community-based vocational and employment programs. The funds are raised from the public, with the McCormick Foundation matching all gifts at 50 cents on the dollar, increasing the impact of individual contributions dramatically. The Foundation and *Chicago Tribune* pay all campaign and administrative costs, **ensuring 100 percent of donations**, plus the match, are granted to local nonprofits improving individual lives across Chicagoland.

To learn about the individuals who have benefited from these programs, and/or to make a donation, please consider visiting us online at: [chicagotribune.com/donate](http://chicagotribune.com/donate), or calling us at 1.800.217.3190.

The 2013 workforce development grants will be awarded to nonprofits in July who provide high-quality services including:

- **Job Training and Economic Development (JTED):** \$260,000 to five nonprofits providing training programs based in community organizations developed in partnership with local businesses. JTED programs serve low-income job seekers with barriers, including low-wage/low-skilled experience and conviction histories, build skills related to growth industries that pay a living wage with opportunity for advancements. These programs include training that leads to a certificate or license.
- **Transitional Jobs Programs:** \$325,000 to five nonprofits providing real work experience, supportive services and earned income for the chronically unemployed. Program participants have significant barriers to overcome, including criminal records,

histories of homelessness, language proficiency, long-term welfare dependence and education below the 6<sup>th</sup> grade level.

- **Youth Skills Training:** \$110,000 for three nonprofits providing services that lead to a credential and job placement for youth, ages 16-24.
- **Systems Support:** \$205,000 for three organizations providing research on best practices, training direct service providers, promoting change in the workforce delivery system, and/or advocating for reallocation of public resources.

The 2013 Chicago Tribune Charities workforce development grant recipients include (grants are for one year unless otherwise noted):

1. [Breaking Ground](#) will receive \$40,000 over two years for the Machinist Training for Ex-Offenders program, which provides literacy skill development, manufacturing skills training, National Institute for Metalworking Skills (NIMS) certification and job readiness skills to individuals with criminal records.
2. [Cara Program](#) will receive \$100,000 over two years for the Job Training, Placement and Retention program, which provides intensive job readiness, training, placement and support services to low-income, low-skilled and formerly homeless men and women.
3. [Chicago House and Social Service Agency](#) will receive \$55,000 over two years for the iFOUR Employment and FAST program, which provides job readiness training, paid internships and job placements in the food industry for low-income individuals impacted by HIV/AIDS.
4. [Chicago Jobs Council](#) will receive \$90,000 for general support.
5. [Inner-City Computer Stars Foundation](#) will receive \$40,000 over two-years for general support.
6. [Inspiration Corporation](#) will receive \$75,000 over two years for the Workforce Development program, providing job readiness workshops, hard skills training, internships and job placements for clients with limited skills and work experience.
7. [Institute for Latino Progress](#) (Instituto del Progreso Latino) will receive \$70,000 over two years for the Carreras en Salud program, which provides a career pathway to bridge limited-English proficient individuals into CNA and LPN healthcare industry jobs.
8. [National Able Network, Inc.](#) will receive \$55,000 over two years for the Career Advancement program, providing traditional and on-line skills training in IT, office management, bookkeeping and sales to unemployed and underemployed adults with non-traditional schedules.
9. [National Latino Education Institute](#) will receive \$55,000 over two years for the Allied Healthcare Education program, providing job training, certification preparation and placement in four healthcare career tracks.
10. [North Lawndale Employment Network](#) will receive \$70,000 over two years for the U-Turn Permitted program, which provides an intensive job preparation curriculum, transitional jobs, placement and ongoing support to formerly-incarcerated adults.
11. [Safer Foundation](#) will receive \$40,000 over two years for the Policy & Advocacy program, which provides leadership in facilitating policy change at the city, county and state level on behalf of individuals with criminal records.
12. [St. Leonard's Ministries](#) will receive \$25,000 for the Michael Barlow Employment Center, which serves formerly incarcerated individuals with multiple barriers to employment.
13. [Women Employed](#) will receive \$75,000 for general support.

14. [Year Up, Inc.](#) will receive \$35,000 over two years for general support.
15. [Youth Guidance](#) will receive \$50,000 for the Project Prepare program at Harper High School, addressing the low certification and work readiness scores of students in Harper's Career and Technical Education program.
16. [Youth Job Center of Evanston, Inc.](#) will receive \$25,000 for the Career Pathways program, which offers individualized skills assessments, employment plans, and job training to in-school and out-of-school youth.

#### **About the Robert R. McCormick Foundation**

Robert R. McCormick Foundation is committed to fostering communities of educated, informed and engaged citizens. Through philanthropic programs, Cantigny Park and museums, the Foundation helps develop citizen leaders and works to make life better in our communities. The Foundation was established as a charitable trust in 1955, upon the death of Colonel Robert R. McCormick, the longtime editor and publisher of the *Chicago Tribune*. The McCormick Foundation is one of the nation's largest foundations, with more than \$1 billion in assets.

The McCormick Foundation continues McCormick's legacy by partnering with media outlets, such as the *Chicago Tribune*, sports teams and philanthropic organizations across the country, to encourage local giving, inspire civic involvement and address human needs. To learn more about the McCormick Foundation visit [www.McCormickFoundation.org](http://www.McCormickFoundation.org), follow us on [Twitter](#), or like us on [Facebook](#).

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