



REVOLUTION WORKSHOP

OUR 2019 IMPACT

It is Revolution Workshop's vision to advance social and economic equity in all communities with free skills training for unemployed and underemployed adults seeking a career in construction.



We help communities and our graduates build financial independence and careers through skills, hope, and resilience.

\$18 per hour

average hourly wage for RW trainees

105 trainees

served since October 2018

49 companies

have hired RW alumni



87% complete the program



92% of trainees placed in jobs



14% of jobs obtained are union



35 drivers licenses obtained or reinstated



40+ hours of math training per trainee



25+ community partners



RW has been the best thing to ever happen to me.

I'm grateful for the opportunities they have bestowed upon me, and each day I go to work making a good wage doing something I love. I've also had the opportunity to bond with the other members of my cohort, and even get to work with a few RW alums daily. It's really like an extended family at RW, and I can honestly say I wouldn't be as blessed as I am today without the sacrifices and impacts they have made for me and others.

- CJ, Revolution Workshop Alumni



SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

Revolution Workshop is not only a training center, but a social enterprise. Our trainees create custom-made wood pieces and offer services such as milling and refinishing. In our first year of operation, we created various custom pieces for residential spaces, offices, synagogues, and worked with partners like Inspiration Kitchens, where we refinished chairs and table tops, and Garfield Park Conservatory, where we built a custom podium. In 2019, this work raised \$35,000 that directly supported our construction training program.



ADVOCACY

In addition to advocating for our individual trainees, we also fight for policies that advance equity and remove barriers to employment in our local communities. In 2019, we actively participated in coalitions such as, the Skills Agenda, the Transit Table, and the IL Apprenticeship Board, and collaborated with a long list of community partners including, the Chicago Jobs Council and Woodstock Institute. Our key policy issues included, eliminating barriers to transportation, ending money bond, reforming drug sentencing, and reducing barriers to recovery. We're proud to announce that our work with the Transit Table led to the successful passing of the License to Work Act, a critical win for our trainees who need reliable transportation to their job sites.



EMPLOYER ENGAGEMENT

Our partnerships with construction companies and organizations in and around Chicago allow us to bring invaluable knowledge, networks, and experiences to our trainees. Our employer-partners hire our trainees, conduct mock job interviews, provide guest lectures and demonstrations, host job site tours, and ensure that our program holistically prepares our trainees for success in the field. We have an active advisory council of union and non-union contractors that informs our training curriculum, including members from Power Construction, F.H. Paschen, McHugh Construction, Pepper Construction, Walsh Construction, Rabine Group, Xced Design Build, BlueEarth Deconstruction, Chicago Booth Manufacturing, Evryman Wood, and Scott Simpson Design & Build. We also work closely with trade unions including the Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), and are working to expand union opportunities in 2020.