

For Immediate Release
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YBLC Opens New Career Training & Workforce Hub in North Chicago

YouthBuild Lake County former Great Lakes Credit Union headquarters transformed into a modern training center for Lake County young adults.

[Photos available here.](#)

North Chicago, IL — YouthBuild Lake County (YBLC) has officially opened the doors to its new Career Training & Workforce Hub, a facility designed to expand education, workforce development, and construction training opportunities for young adults across Lake County.

The ribbon cutting ceremony featured remarks from Illinois State Representative Rita Mayfield, Illinois State Senator Adriane Johnson, Executive Director Tameka Wilson, Board President Jim Biel, Capital Campaign Co-Chairs Regis and Leigh Ann Charlot, North Chicago Chief of Staff Gregory Jackson, and YouthBuild graduates Gissel and Laquon, who shared their experiences in the program.

The new Hub, located in the former headquarters of Great Lakes Credit Union, marks a major milestone for the organization as it strengthens programming and prepares for long-term growth. Over the past four months, YBLC teams worked extensively to prepare the more than 30,000-square-foot space for workforce development programming and community partnerships.

“This is truly a historic day for YouthBuild Lake County, our participants, and our community because we have finally found our forever home,” **said Tameka Wilson, Executive Director of YouthBuild Lake County.** “The opening of this Hub strengthens our ability to serve more young people, deepen workforce partnerships, and create long-term impact throughout Lake County.”

YBLC has now completed the first of three phases of its facility transformation, which includes:

- A **state-of-the-art Participant Lounge** that provides a welcoming environment for connection, study, and support
- **New classrooms** equipped for academic instruction, workforce readiness, and certification training
- A fully redesigned **lobby and reception area** that offers a welcoming entry point for participants, partners, and guests



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The new location brings together education, industry-recognized credential training, leadership development, and wraparound services under one roof. The Hub also creates expanded opportunities for collaboration with local employers, unions, and community partners seeking to develop Lake County's next generation of skilled workers.

The opening of the facility aligns with YBLC's ongoing Transforming Futures Capital Campaign, which supports expanded programming, modernized training environments, and future phases of construction expected to further enhance the campus footprint.

The first cohort of participants is already using the new space for high school credential completion, construction skill-building, and career preparation. Additional workforce training pathways—including transportation, logistics, customer service, and manufacturing—will continue to grow within the new Hub as the organization prepares for Phase II development.

Photos from the ribbon cutting ceremony, participant tours, and interior spaces of the new Hub are available [here](#).

The mission of YouthBuild Lake County is to provide underserved young adults with education, training and life skills necessary to become gainfully employed and build a better future. Through three different education and career programs, YBLC offers career training opportunities in Construction, Healthcare, Transportation/Distribution & Logistics, and Utilities.

YouthBuild Lake County has served more than 1,200 young adults over the past 20 years. YBLC now serves over 100 young people each year and provides follow up and assistance to hundreds of alumni. YBLC Inc. is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501 (c)(3) organization, with a 509 (a)(1) designation.