



Greater West Town Community Development Pro-

Agency Fact Sheet

GWTP has long been recognized by community leaders for the quality and effectiveness of its programs.



Mayor Daley with Alderman Burnett, Jr. commended Greater West Town's training program for ex-offenders.



President Barack Obama visited GWTP to learn about community job training needs during his '04 Senate campaign.



Alderman Burnett addressed former dropouts earning their high school diploma at the West Town Academy's graduation ceremony.



GWTP students and staff explained program operations to local and national elected officials during the 2004 campaign season.

About Greater West Town Community Development Project :

The Greater West Town Community Development Project (GWTP) is a community-based economic development initiative successfully expanding employment and educational opportunities for low-income residents in the Humboldt Park, East and West Garfield Park, Austin, and North Lawndale community areas. **GWTP's mission is to develop model programs and policy initiatives linking the employment and training of the neighborhood workforce with local economic development efforts and the needs of small and mid-sized employers.** We achieve this mission through the provision of comprehensive services to economically disadvantaged community residents, dislocated workers, and at-risk youth.

GWTP Goals Are :

- To develop programs which can serve as practical, model solutions to problems which limit the educational and economic opportunities of neighborhood residents.
- To link the employment and training of neighborhood residents with economic development programs and the needs of area businesses.
- To pursue research and advocacy activities which pose solutions to the problems which create barriers to educational and economic opportunities for area residents.

Founded :

Greater West Town Community Development Project (GWTP) was founded in 1988 as a collaborative community initiative linking employers, employment training, and social services. GWTP was founded by local community leaders who recognized the need to establish effective job training, job placement, education and economic development programs to restore the community's economic base and address the social problems exacerbated by poverty. Through the formation of creative collaborations, innovative partnerships, coupled with progressive research and advocacy GWTP has significantly expanded employment and training opportunities for area residents while providing support for local business retention and expansion efforts. GWTP has developed a highly effective model of community-business partnership and cooperation which has earned regional and national recognition.

Impacts:

- GWTP has trained, provided support services and placed 6,600 low-income youth, adults and dislocated workers in jobs within the community.
- GWTP's Woodworking and Shipping and Receiving programs have trained and placed over 1,100 graduates in jobs with local companies.
- GWTP has provided education, job training, placement, mentoring and dropout prevention services to more than 2,600 high school age students.
- GWTP has distributed over \$1 Million in federal grants to local businesses to support the hiring and training of neighborhood workers.
- GWTP served over 3,600 disadvantaged youth and adults last year.

Participants : GWTP's client population includes:

- Low-income community residents, dislocated workers, single parents, women seeking non-traditional careers, non-high school completers, ex-offenders, homeless and persons at risk of homelessness, at-risk and drop out youth.

Website : www.gwtp.org



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Program Overview

GWTP provides a comprehensive array of highly successful, interrelated workforce development and educational services. These services focus upon 3 areas:

- **Youth career and educational development**, including dropout retrieval and prevention, alternative high school, mentoring, and post-secondary education and career planning.
- **Comprehensive adult employment services** including client skill and background assessment, case management, job placement, access and training in computer-based technology, year-long follow-up, and support services.
- **Occupational training in both Woodworking and Shipping and Receiving** that integrates basic skills remediation, technical skills and job readiness components.

Youth Education & Career Development

Greater West Town Project provides a broad array of youth-focused, education, and workforce development services designed to provide the skills, motivation and values that enable our participants to take responsibility for themselves, their families and their communities. Our teachers, trainers, mentors and staff are highly trained and state certified to provide flexible, personalized attention. Our goal is that our program graduates become lifelong learners and contributors to their communities and the larger society.

West Town Academy

The cornerstone of GWTP's youth programs is the West Town Academy (WTA). WTA is an alternative high school for students between the ages of 17 and 21 who are not enrolled in a traditional high school or GED program, and wish to return to school and obtain their high school diploma.

The Academy's unique approach to learning combines traditional classroom curriculum with social, cultural, and educational field activities which prepare them for the world beyond the walls of the classroom.

Youth Employment

GWTP's youth workforce development extends beyond the classroom. Our Youth Opportunities Program provides students with capable career and education mentors. Other employment services include job placement and employment.

Adult Job Placement Services

We're a job-seeker's personal one-stop center. We help bring together solid, experienced workers and motivated entry-level workers with local business looking for quality job candidates. We do the recruiting and assessment so the employer doesn't have to.

We Can Help

Whether our clients need assistance drafting a resume, gaining computer skills, obtaining a GED, or a referral to our extensive network of service providers, we can meet their needs. Our multilingual staff is trained to help overcome language difficulties. We have worked with a diverse set of clients and have helped overcome a wide range of employment barriers, including ex-offender status, homelessness, transportation issues and more.

We're Experienced

Over 450 local companies have hired our candidates since we began our job placement, training and education programs in 1989.

We're Holistic

We work with both our youth programs and training programs to provide job placement assistance upon graduation. Utilizing our network resources, we have had a 90% placement rate for GWTP training program graduates.

Job Training Programs

The Greater West Town Training Project provides two sector-based training programs designed to help match the needs of area manufacturers and local workers. Our classroom curriculums and hands-on trainings have been developed in partnership with local industry and continuously updated by community business leaders to ensure that the skills participants develop in class are marketable and meet current industry standards.

Like all GWTP educational offerings, our training school is fully accredited (members of ACCSCT), and are available at **no-cost** to qualified participants.

Woodworking

Greater West Town Project's 14-week Woodworkers Training Program combines classroom coursework with practical, tangible experience utilizing high-tech, industry-standard equipment, including a state-of-the-art CNC machining center.

Shipping and Receiving

GWTP's 12-week Shipping and Receiving Training Program prepares students with the tools they need for in-demand jobs in warehousing, logistics, inventory control and more. From Computerized classrooms to OSHA-certified forklift training, this comprehensive course provides the skills for success in Chicago's largest career field.

Contact

GWTP Youth Development Programs are located at:
534 N. Sacramento Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60612
For more information visit us at: gwtp.org
Or call: (312) 563-9044

GWTP Adult Job Placement Services are located at:
790 N. Milwaukee Ave.
Chicago, IL 60642
For more information visit us at: gwtp.org
Or call: (312) 432-1300

GWTP Job Training Programs are located at:
500 N. Sacramento Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60612
For more information visit us at: gwtp.org
Or call: (312) 563-9028