



## **For Immediate Release**

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## **Small Business Advocacy Council Applauds Niles Township Job Skills Development Grant Program**

The Covid-19 pandemic devastated Illinois' small businesses. Many are now struggling to hire qualified employees as they fight to recover. To make the process easier, Niles Township has launched a new grant program that helps businesses and underemployed individuals searching for stable employment. Under the Skills Development Grant program, vetted businesses will receive a grant of up to \$5,000 after providing a Niles Township general assistance client six months of training in a particular field.

The grant is intended for on-the-job training or to subsidize a training course. The Township will partner with local businesses on this important program.

"I am exceptionally proud to have a program developed to help folks get into good paying jobs that can offer stability and life changing outcomes for our general assistance clients. The grant is a win for both businesses that faced unprecedented challenges during the pandemic as well as many who found their working lives suddenly slowed or ground to a halt," Niles Township Supervisor Bonnie Kahn Ognisanti said.

"It is uplifting to see Niles Township take a proactive approach to help their businesses and residents recover from the pandemic. This program is an excellent example of how local governments can help spark economic development by supporting small businesses and

creating good jobs,” said Elliot Richardson, President and Co-Founder of the Small Business Advocacy Council.

Participating clients will be vetted by the Township’s General Assistance Director while participating businesses will be vetted by designated Niles Township Trustees. Trustee Peggy Tolleson helped create the new grant program, which is intended to help neighbors in need return to work.

Please contact Niles Township Trustee Peggy Tolleson at 847-612-9798 with questions or for more information about this program.

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