

Be Noble

Noble County Economic Development



September 2022



Application / Employer Portal

Employer Training Grant opens

Indiana Department of Workforce Development has announced that the application for Employer Training Grant/Reimbursement, or “ETR 6.0”, is set to open Thursday, September 1, 2022.

The [employer portal](#) will be the landing page for the application. If you do not already have credentials to sign into the portal, an Indiana SUTA (State Unemployment Tax Authorization) number will be a required field on the application this year. If you are unsure what this number is, please speak with your accounting department or the individual that processes premium payments for unemployment insurance to Indiana Department of Workforce Development.

25% of the Northeast region's allocation will be set aside for new employers or employers that have not benefited from the grant in previous years.

ETG 6.0 program changes:

The employer reimbursement amount will be based upon the actual cost of training and type of training provided:

- Up to \$5,000/employee for training resulting in post-secondary credential or nationally recognized industry credential
- Up to \$3,000/employee for specialty company training
- Up to \$1,000/High School student enrolled in a work-based learning program

New employees must receive a minimum wage of \$17/hour. Existing employees must receive a minimum 3% wage increase. All other previous training/trainee requirements will remain in place. Please reach out to Kim Tempel, Senior Director of Business Services/Human Resources at Northeast Indiana Works, for information or assistance in determining eligibility and application. Kim can be reached at (260) 469-4311 or ktempel@neinworks.org.

Avilla company growing

ONXX Tool, Inc., a company in Avilla that produces parts and tools for the aerospace, food processing, and medical industries, plans to purchase new equipment that will expand operations and add new jobs. ONXX was granted a



About ONXX Tool

five-year tax abatement on an investment of \$325,000. The company currently employs nine people with an average salary of \$60,293. At least one new job is projected as a result of the project at a starting salary of \$45,000. ONXX is a family-owned and operated company that specializes in tool, die, and manufacturing technologies. The company was founded in 1990.

Tackling today's workforce challenges

EMPLOYER SEMINAR

Join us in-person or virtually

September 22, 2022

9 a.m.-Noon

**Sweetwater Sound
5501 U.S. 30 West
Fort Wayne, IN 46818**

Topics:

- Recruitment Strategies
- Childcare Resources
- Registered Apprenticeships
- Work Opportunity Tax Credit and Federal Bonding
- Diversity in the Workforce
- Retention and Engagement

Register by Friday, September 16 at:

<https://form.iotform.com/WorkOne/employer-seminar>



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Communities explore co-working

Just weeks after Be Noble Inc. sought to catalyze discussions around the development of an entrepreneurial ecosystem in Noble County, communities are talking. Avilla, Kendallville, and Ligonier are all considering options to give remote workers, gig workers, small businesses, and businesses in start-up mode places to network, enjoy affordable access to shared resources, be nurtured, and grow.

Early conversations have included consideration of the former fire station in Ligonier, a vacant building on Main Street in Kendallville, and a downtown building in Avilla that the Avilla Redevelopment Commission is considering purchasing and restoring. These early conversations are helping to define what a "network" of co-working spaces could look like for Noble County. The efforts are a main priority for Be Noble Inc. in the coming year.

Albion looks at day care development

Jacob Ihrie, Albion's town manager, presented a proposal that received authorization from the Albion Town Council to inquire about firms willing to provide architectural renderings and cost estimates for a 150-child day care center. The proposal, created in collaboration with Noble Thrive by 5 and Kendallville Day Care, calls for the



construction of a 7,500 square foot day care center that would be operated by Kendallville Day Care. The financing plan, which includes grants and a TIF bond, outlines a 15-year payback.



[Follow the Project](#)

Housing Hub lays out project

Community leaders from across Noble County met with officials from The Housing Resource Hub recently, marking the first official business of the Housing Coalition of Noble County, a "steering committee" that will execute on strategic housing plans to be developed in partnership with "the Hub".

Nearly 20 leaders representing county and local governments, non-profit agencies, and economic development are at the helm of the two-year project and expect to begin reviewing community-level market data later this year.

Noble County ponders solar limits

Progress has been slow, but steady throughout August as Noble County Commissioners and the Noble County Plan Commission continued to hash out the finer details that will determine if and how commercial solar energy systems are developed in Northeast Indiana's third largest county. Noble County Commissioners suggested extending a moratorium on receiving any applications, however the Plan Commission will recommend ending the moratorium



Noble for Solar

on October 31. The groups appeared to find common ground, suggesting a limit of 4,700 acres for commercial solar development in unincorporated areas of the county, as well as allowing a 12-month moratorium to be triggered when that limit is met. The proposed acreage limit would be the first allegedly enacted by a county in Indiana. Final decisions are up to the Noble County Commissioners, a body that meets on the second and fourth Mondays of each month in the Commissioner's Room, second floor, of the Noble County Annex at 109 N York Street in Albion. (Meetings on Mondays that are published holidays are postponed to Tuesday.)



[Website](#)

Leadership development series

Launches in October

Making a Difference: Influential Leadership Development Series will be offered by Freedom Academy in October. Classes will run on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m., from October 4 through October 18, in the Freedom Academy Training Room at the Community Learning Center, 401 E Diamond Street, Kendallville.

Jake Gamble is the course facilitator. Tuition, per student, is \$975 and includes all materials and a DISC Assessment. To learn more or register, contact Anita Shepherd at ashepherd@freedomacademy.net.



The third largest workforce in the U.S., those working for non-profit organizations, celebrated National Nonprofit Day in Noble County on August 17. Representatives from 25 nonprofit agencies gathered, as they do each month, for the Noble County Interagency meeting, joined by Mayor SuzAnne Handshoe and Chris Crabtree, from Congressman Jim Banks' office, to celebrate. Crabtree noted after the meeting, "I was so inspired by all the good work by the organizations represented," and indicated he has seen nothing quite like the Interagency collaboration in other counties.

Congratulations to two Noble County families inducted into the Noble County Livestock Hall of Fame as part of the Noble County Fair held in July. The Fred Rawles family was recognized for more than 70 years in crop and dairy farming. The Longyear family's homestead farm was founded in 1844. Roger Longyear and his wife, Becky, met at a 4-H Round Up. Their four children and 15 grandchildren also share a long history in 4-H.

Longtime Albion Town Council member Christina K. Magnuson was honored for nearly 20 years of service on the council. Magnuson announced a change in residence from Albion to Kendallville recently, resulting in a resignation from council. Zane Gray, a lifelong Albion resident, was elected by caucus to fill the vacancy left by Magnuson through the end of 2023. His appointment creates a new vacancy on the Albion Park Board that will need to be filled.

A new urgent care clinic is under construction at US 6 and Sawyer Road in Kendallville. Tennessee-based Fast Pace Health is behind the 3,726 square foot development, marking the first this operator brings to northeast Indiana. The company operates similar healthcare centers in Tennessee, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, and a few Indiana locations. Fast Pace Health clinics provide urgent care, primary care, orthopedic services, behavioral health, dermatology, and telehealth services.

Kenney Park in Ligonier is home to a new bicycle repair station, courtesy of the Ligonier Rotary Club. Members of the public will find tools to fix their bicycles while riding the

Strawberry Valley Cultural Trail.

Lisa and Dan Lock were recently honored as the Grand Marshalls of Onion Days in Wolf Lake. The Locks are long-time community residents recognized for their willing to help when and where needed.

Noble County Disposal has stepped up as lead sponsor of a Corn Hole Tournament coming to downtown Albion. A \$2,000 purse, one of the largest in the region, will pay out winnings to the Top 5 teams at the Fall Celebration and Cruise-In event on Saturday, September 17. The blind draw, double-elimination tourney will register teams beginning at 10 AM and bags will fly at 11 AM on a portion of West Main Street on the south side of the courthouse square. The tourney is also sponsored and organized by Hidden Ego Volleyball and Event Center as part of the Albion STAR Team's fall community event.

The Dekko Foundation announced investments of over \$50,000 to organizations benefiting Noble County in their latest round of grant awards. The foundation, started in 1981 by the late Chester E. Dekko, supports efforts that help foster economic freedom through education by granting funds for projects and programs that help build knowledge, skills, and character in children and youth from birth through age 18.



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