Chicago-based OAI is a nationally recognized pioneer in workforce development. Our work opens career pathways, fuels business success, promotes health, safety, and the environment; and supports community development. For more than 40 years, we’ve been delivering real economic benefit to individuals, employers, and communities across the country. In 2017 we continued important coalition building in the Chicago Southland through the new Southland Jobs Collaborative and the establishment of the innovative Calumet Manufacturing Industry Sector Partnership. We also aimed for a greater neighborhood-scale impact of our Environmental Careers Program through strategic partnerships in the Chicago communities of Woodlawn and North Lawndale. We began a new sector strategy in healthcare, paired with resources for family supports such as childcare and transportation, essential elements to accessing education and ending the cycle of poverty. We also expanded the reach of our critical health and safety training to vulnerable populations through the California Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative and the Latino Worker Safety Center. Finally, we installed gorgeous landscapes across the region and created good paying jobs through our social enterprise High Bridge, L3C. Through all of this work, we give people the knowledge and skills to earn a living wage, protect themselves and the environment, and build a good life.

Everyone has the right to be safe, no matter what the job.

OAI’s Hazardous Waste Worker Training program provided OSHA-related health & safety training to 3,266 vulnerable workers in 15 states.

Everyone deserves the chance to get ahead, no matter where they’re starting from.

Together, OAI’s Environmental Career Worker Training and Greencorps Chicago programs enrolled 98 students and placed 74 graduates into employment.

Everyone succeeds when workers are skilled, engaged, and employed.

OAI’s Chicago Southland department placed 167 participants into employment in healthcare and manufacturing, which includes 65 interns under the age of 24.
NEW INITIATIVES IN 2018

This year OAI is embarking on two new exciting programs that will allow us to better meet our mission and serve new industries.

FUTURE ENERGY JOBS ACT

The Lyte Solar Training Program is funded in part by ComEd through the Future Energy Jobs Act (FEJA) of Illinois. Over a four year period, OAI will train 160 participants in solar photovoltaic (PV) systems for employment with solar contractors. Participants will be low-income students including returning citizens, minorities, current and former foster children, women and veterans living in and around environmental justice communities. Our training partner is IBEW Local 134 and our first cohort will begin in the summer of 2018 at South Suburban College in South Holland, IL.

RETENTION PLUS

OAI is launching the Retention Plus program with funding from Worklab Innovations to offer confidential on-site coaching to employees as an extension of their benefits. Companies enrolled in the Retention Plus program will relieve their HR department of non-work related employee challenges, improve retention and attendance, and generate a significant return on investment. Our Career Navigators will assist employees navigate public and private resources available to address a wide range of work/life challenges such as: childcare, elder care, transportation, budgeting, financial wellness, housing, mental health, healthcare and healthcare benefits. This is a fee-based social enterprise program priced according to company size and capacity.

SUCCESS STORY

Crystal Barren is a graduate of OAI’s Strengthening Working Families initiative. Crystal took a Medical Central Services program at Prairie State College and completed her externship at Advocate Christ Hospital, a Trauma 1 hospital. She was then hired on at that same hospital as a Sterile Processing Department Technician.

“I am so grateful for you guys, and the help that you guys gave me and my family. I truly thank God for your organization. It’s definitely life changing. God bless!”

- Crystal Barren

FINANCIALS

Public Support and Revenue FY17

- 75% Federal Grants $2,835,868
- 11% State of Illinois Grants $406,214
- 8% Fee for Service & Program Income $304,472
- 4% Foundation Grants $135,000
- 2% Donated Materials & Services $82,325
- < 1% Contributions $7,362
- < 1% Interest & Misc Income $1,415

89% of funding goes directly to programs

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Angela K. Mason, MS
Associate Vice President, Urban Agriculture, Chicago Botanic Garden

Brent Olson Denzin, JD
Partner, Ancel Glink, P.C.

Cheryl M. Francis
Principal, Francis & Associates

John M. Watson Jr.
Director of Economic Development, Village of South Holland, IL

Kelly Farley
Executive Director, ReBuilding Exchange

Kindy Kruller,
AICP, LEED AP
Board Chair, Senior Planner, Forest Preserves of Cook County

Pamyla F. Brown
Director of Community & Citizenship, Turner Construction

Sheila D. Pressley,
DrPH, REHS/RS, DAAS, CPH
MPH Director/Assistant Professor, Eastern Kentucky University

FUNDERS

- National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Department of Labor
- IL Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity
- IL Department of Natural Resources
- Cook County Justice Advisory Council
- Cook County Department of Planning and Development
- Bank of America
- Boeing
- Business & Career Services, Inc.
- ComEd
- First Midwest Bank
- The Nature Conservancy
- Turner Construction
- WorkLab Innovation Network
- IL Clean Energy Foundation
- IL Manufacturing Association
- Lloyd A. Fry Foundation
- McCormick Foundation
- Polk Bros. Foundation