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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**September 9, 2020 – Rockford, IL:** The Office of Governor Pritzker will be hosting a press conference at 10 a.m. on Thursday, September 10<sup>th</sup> at The Workforce Connection (TWC) regarding the Employment Recovery grant The Workforce Connection board received to serve dislocated workers. TWC intends to quickly put people back to work and will serve as many as 75 individuals.

In conjunction with Governor Pritzker and his office, Chris Connors, The Workforce Connection Board's Planning and Quality Assurance Manager will speak at the press conference related to the grant.

Serving dislocated workers is a crucial aspect of the regional and local [strategic workforce plan](#). The Employment Recovery grant will further allow The Workforce Connection to offer training programs that offer industry recognized certifications in industries identified as high-growth, high-demand in our region, to individuals who have lost their jobs. In order to get individuals back to work as quickly as possible, the training programs used for the Employment Recovery Project are short-term programs that are less than 12 months in length. TWC will also connect individuals who already possess the necessary skills to re-enter the workforce to employers through on-the-job training and work experience.

Seating at the press conference is limited but a video will be streamed on The Workforce Connection's [Facebook page](#).

### **About The Workforce Connection**

The Workforce Connection (TWC) Board is one of 22 local workforce boards established by the Governor of the State of Illinois pursuant to the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). Utilizing Federal and State funds, TWC provides a system for individuals to get employed and also works with employers to find skilled workers and access other services, including education and training for their current workforce in Boone, Stephenson, and Winnebago Counties. The board staff is a leadership team that oversees the workforce system. Its American Job Centers are located at 303 N. Main Street, Rockford, 530 S. State Street, Belvidere, and 307 W. Main Street, Freeport.

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