

## **Industrial Painting Pre-Apprenticeship Program Program Description and Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Program Description**

The Industrial Painting Pre-apprenticeship (IPP) Program is a six-week program offering hands-on training, career readiness, and skill-building free of charge for qualified candidates who wish to enter the demanding and rapidly growing field of industrial painting. The IPP Program strives to provide the knowledge, experience, career development skills, and certifications that will assist participants in becoming strong candidates for employment in the industrial painting trade and entering a registered apprenticeship program as a pathway to a long-term, fulfilling career.

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **Am I eligible to participate in the program?**

If you are at least 18 years of age or will be 18 by the completion of the program, have reliable transportation (which may include public transportation), have an interest in construction, and can perform the work, you can apply for this program. Preferred qualifications include having a high school diploma (or equivalent) and some previous work experience.

#### **What does industrial painting work involve? How large is the current need?**

Industrial painting is widely known as the most challenging painting work performed in the finishing industry. It focuses on applying industrial coatings to steel and concrete surfaces, such as those that make up our bridges, water towers, treatment plants, and many other types of vital community infrastructure. It is highly specialized and can be dangerous. Therefore, this work should only be performed by specialists who have received training in scaffolding and rigging; the science of corrosion; the use of high-powered blasting equipment; the application of specialized coatings; and health and safety protocols to keep themselves, their coworkers, and the public safe while the work is being performed.

There is currently a shortage of workers who meet the training requirements for this specialized field, which is why this IPP Program was developed – to help meet that need. Demand for industrial painters is also growing in Illinois and across the nation due to investments in infrastructure (including bridges, water towers, wastewater treatment systems, etc.).

#### **What is the goal of the IPP Program?**

The IPP Program is a solution to three challenges threatening the strength and security of our communities: deteriorating infrastructure (like bridges and water towers), the decline of skilled labor, and growing demand for industrial painters. Its primary goal is to provide workforce training opportunities that teach marketable skills and lead to lifelong employment security.

While the IPP is open to all qualifying candidates, the program sponsors welcome participation by women, minorities, and other populations historically underserved and/or underrepresented in the building trades, with the goal of diversifying the industry and helping to close the growing skilled labor gap.

#### **Do I have to pay anything to participate?**

There is no cost to participate in the IPP Program.

**Is this a paid program? Is there any support available to me as a participant?**

Each participant will receive a stipend of \$15 per hour for attendance, not to exceed 8 hours per day. The stipend is only for time spent on-site in scheduled classes, not for travel to and/or from the program. The stipend is based on attendance to encourage full participation and completion; therefore, if you attend a full day of coursework (7AM-3:30PM), you will be compensated for 8 hours. Each participant will also work with a Career Navigator to develop an Individual Career Program (ICP), which may result in access to additional funds to help offset transportation, housing, childcare, and other living expenses. Specific amounts are determined on a case-by-case basis.

**Following program completion, will I be immediately placed into an apprenticeship?**

The goal of the program is to equip participants with the tools necessary to secure job placement and enter an apprenticeship program. However, we cannot guarantee that a participant will become employed and/or enrolled in a unionized apprenticeship program upon completing the IPP Program. Each unionized apprenticeship program takes on new apprentices in a different manner, but the Career Navigator will help participants through this process in an effort to connect program graduates with job opportunities in the unionized finishing trades. Industrial painting employers will also be present and involved in the program in an effort to identify ideal candidates for hire.

**Who are the program instructors and facilitators?**

The IPP Program is run by seasoned professionals who are skilled in their various fields of study. The instructors and facilitators come from a variety of backgrounds, including the construction trades, colleges and universities, counseling, life and career coaching, and more. Together, they provide the knowledge, career development skills, and certifications necessary to successfully complete the program.

**What is the program schedule?**

The entire IPP Program takes place over a six-week period. In order to complete the program, you must be available two days each week from 7AM to 3:30PM. Two 15-minute breaks are provided during the first and second half of each day, and 30 minutes is provided for lunch each day. There may be individual meetings and some curriculum offered on additional weekdays, depending on the availability of instructors/facilitators. Plenty of notice will be given to plan for the additional course day.

**What does the curriculum entail?**

The following is a brief outline of what the program offers. You will receive the comprehensive program agenda once you are accepted into the program.

**Knowledge:** You will learn the following about the Industrial Painting Industry/Trade:

- The rights of workers and responsibilities of employers regarding federal health and safety standards (OSHA).
- The causes and consequences of corrosion and how to prevent it.
- The components and techniques of corrosion removal.
- The purpose, techniques, methods, and application of protective coatings.
- Quality control and the critical role of the Coatings Inspector in the industrial painting industry.

**Experience:** You will learn how to perform the following tasks of an industrial painter:

- Understand the methods of surface preparation and the tools used.

- Set up/assemble and operate abrasive blasting equipment/system.
- Properly mix and thin protective coatings.
- Apply stripe coats using hand application methods.
- Set up/assemble and operate equipment to apply protective coatings.
- Quality control utilizing various coatings inspection equipment.
- Common knots used in industrial painting.
- Basic rigging and containment techniques.

**Essential Career Development Skills:** You will learn the following from industry professionals in the construction and building trades:

- Basic personal financial literacy and money and debt management skills.
- How to navigate the registered apprenticeship system to get a job.
- How to be successful in a career, including the competitive advantage of a strong union-contractor partnership; the role of the worker in regarding safety, productivity, and quality goals; and the personal attributes (work ethic, commitment, growth mindset, and attitude) required to sustain a position in unionized construction, compared to non-union jobs.
- How to complete compelling job applications and prepare and practice for effective employment interviews within the construction industry.

**Certifications:** Upon successful completion of the program, you will obtain:

- Industrial Painting Pre-apprenticeship Certificate of Completion (IUPAT)
- OSHA 10-hour Construction Certification (OSHA)
- Respiratory Awareness Certification and Respirator Medical Evaluation & Fit Testing (IUPAT)
- Fall Protection Awareness Certification (IFTI)
- “Financial Skills for Life” Certificate of Achievement (IFEBCP apprenticeship curriculum)
- “Survival of the Fittest” Certificate of Completion (Breslin Strategies, Inc.)