



PROGRAM REPORT

**Board of Directors Update
September 11, 2025**

 **ECONOMIC ALLIANCE**
OF KANKAKEE COUNTY

MISSION

The Economic Alliance of Kankakee County is a public-private partnership that works to create jobs and expand the economic base by improving the local business climate in Kankakee County.

The Alliance employs a collaborative approach to support development in the strategic areas of business retention, expansion and attraction, workforce and community development, residential needs and educational outcomes.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Economic Alliance of Kankakee County Board of Directors is comprised of private-sector leaders and elected members of the Kankakee County Board.

Jeff Bennett, Chairman
Managing Partner
McColly Bennett Real Estate

Theodis Pace, Vice Chair
President
Kankakee County NAACP

Matt Alexander-Hildebrand, Kankakee County Board
Bernie Anderson, Regional Manager, Community Affairs, Nicor Gas
Dr. Michael Boyd, President, Kankakee Community College
Dr. Gregg Chenoweth, President, Olivet Nazarene University
Rosemary Foster, Kankakee County Board
Jeff Hammes, President / CEO, Peoples Bank
David Johns, Partner, GJM Advisory
Phil Kambic, President / CEO, Riverside Healthcare
Ryan Marion, Kankakee County Board
John McCann, Economic & Business Development Manager, ComEd
Chad Miller, Kankakee County Board
Russell Tobey, Vice President, Kankakee Valley Construction Co.
Sara Vaubel, Vice President, The Newberg Group
Dr. Matt Vosberg, Superintendent, Bradley Bourbonnais Com. High School
Patrick Young, President, Kankakee Iroquois Building Trades





COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

WE

R

ROADS

RAILS

RIVER

RESOURCES

KANKAKEE COUNTY



ROUTE 50 RENOVATIONS

- \$13.8M Reconstruction of Route 50 and Armour Road
- Began in March 2023
- Dedicated turn lanes, traffic signals and lighting, utility relocation, sidewalks and curbs



IDOT PROJECTS

- **I57 at Manteno:** \$80M for Exit #322 reconstruction
- **I57 at East Court Street:** \$95M interchange redesign & build
- **I57 at US 45/52:** \$70M for Exit #308 rebuild
- **IL Rte 114 in Momence:** \$19.5M resurfacing and drainage
- **IL Rte 50 from Brookmont Blvd. to US 45/52:** \$17M for pavement
- **Rte 113 from Will County to Edgewater Dr.:** \$3.5M resurfacing & culvert replacement



CONSTRUCTION BEGINS



**Heritage Prairie
Renewable**

Essex Substation construction begins, anticipated 12 months

\$1.75B Private investment, \$235M in new tax revenue

600MW Wind, 300MW Solar in Kankakee & Livingston Counties

Will power 265,000 homes / year



SHAPIRO SITE DEVELOPMENT

- 70 unused acres at Shapiro Developmental Center campus, Kankakee
- Illinois' Surplus to Success program to prepare unused state land for private development



FORMER CIGNA BUILDING GIFTED



- 155,000 SF on 18+ Acres
- Built in 2000 at corner of Route 45 and St. George Road, Bourbonnais
- 40 Riverside Healthcare locations in Kankakee, Iroquois, Will, and Grundy counties



COMMUNITY BENEFIT REPORT



2,901
EMPLOYEES

280,082
OUTPATIENT
VISITS

342,207
PATIENT
ENCOUNTERS

\$68.7M
TOTAL COMMUNITY
BENEFIT

776
NEWBORN
DELIVERIES





MANUFACTURING MONTH

BUSINESS



- 250 Employees
- 5 lines producing energy storage packs, EV batteries and small generators
- Majority of items shipped within US





HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER TOUR

October 16, 2025

7:30 am - 9 am

**YOU'RE
INVITED!**

Gotion
333 S. Spruce St
Manteno, IL

MANUFACTURING TOURS
SHOWCASING AREA
EMPLOYERS

Interested in learning about career options for your students?

Learn about current or future job opportunities & what skills are required.

HEAR FROM GOTION AND TOUR THEIR FACILITY

Registration required with limited availability

<http://bit.ly/4mYGQJg>



*PLEASE BRING YOUR PHOTO ID, DRESS CASUALLY AND WEAR CLOSE-TOED SHOES

*CONTACT LADONNA AT LRUSSELL@GLKWB.COM WITH ANY QUESTIONS



REGISTER

<http://bit.ly/4mYGQJg>
kankakeecountyed.org



MADE IN KANKAKEE COUNTY



TRAINING GRANTS AVAILABLE



Employee Training Investment Program (ETIP)

Reimburse manufacturers for up to 50% of job training costs

2024: \$3.5M in grant funding to upskill 30,000 employees





LIVABILITY

NEW SUBDIVISION

PONY FARM BOURBONNAIS

Across from All Saints Cemetary
Bourbonnais

120 Total Lots
Phase 1: 24 homes



COST OF LIVING

KANKAKEE COUNTY

87.7%

OVERALL COMPOSITE Q2 2025

HOUSING 65.4%

GROCERY 95.1%

TRANSPORTATION 100.6%

HEALTH CARE 100.2%

UTILITIES 91.6%

MISC. GOODS & SERVICES 95.1%



COLI is a comparative benchmark of after-tax consumer costs contributing to a professional/managerial standard of living.



KANKAKEE COUNTY

TOURISM



Photo Courtesy: Kankakee River Valley Regatta

Hotel occupancy, jobs, labor income and local tax revenue increased over 2023

- \$166.9M spent in 2024 in Kankakee County
- 1,247 related jobs
- \$6.8M local tax revenues



COMING SOON



Exit #315 next to Holiday Inn Express

73 Suites - Kings and double queens rooms

Expected completion: Late 2026





WORKFORCE & EDUCATION

UNEMPLOYMENT

KANKAKEE COUNTY

5.1%

KANKAKEE COUNTY UNEMPLOYMENT JULY 2025

4.8%

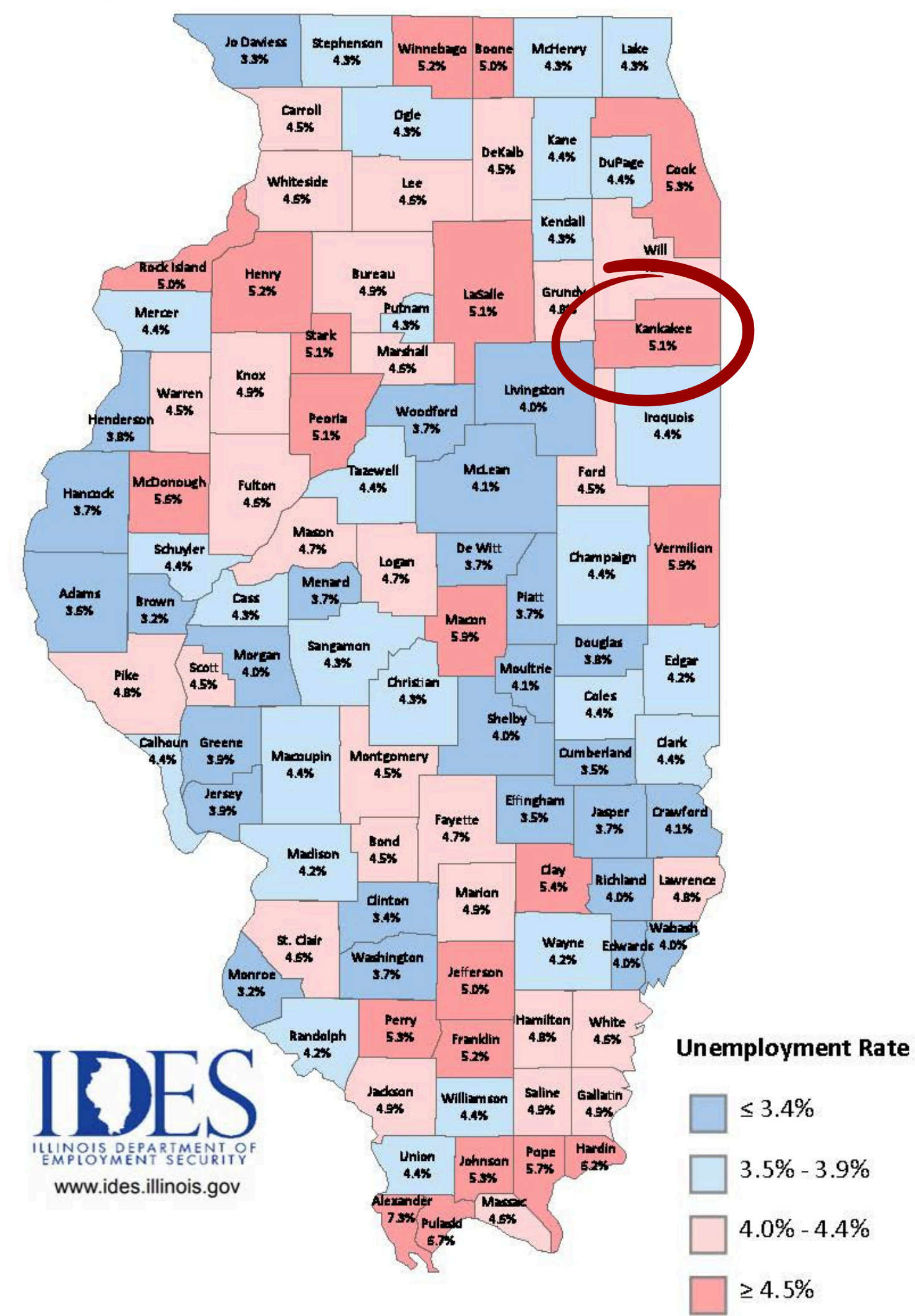
ILLINOIS UNEMPLOYMENT

JULY 2025

4.6%

U.S. UNEMPLOYMENT

JULY 2025



EMPLOYERS HIRING



MOMENCE AREA JOB FAIR

220+
JOB SEEKERS

VISIT
ILLINOISJOBLINK.COM
CAREER COACH AT KCC.EDU





creating entrepreneurial opportunities

- Kankakee County CEO Cohort #3
- Business visits, guest speakers, mentors, class and individual businesses
- Placed 1st and 3rd in national pitch competition in 2 years



NEW ISSUE COMING SOON

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BEGINS WITH EDUCATION

Publication: November 2025





MARKETING & OUTREACH



NAACP

Illinois State Conference

THE FIERCE URGENCY OF NOW

SEPTEMBER 26-28, 2025

Workshops include criminal justice, economic development, education, health and wellness, political rights, legal action and more.

Contact Theodis Pace, NAACP President, naacpkancb@aol.com



BOARD & COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

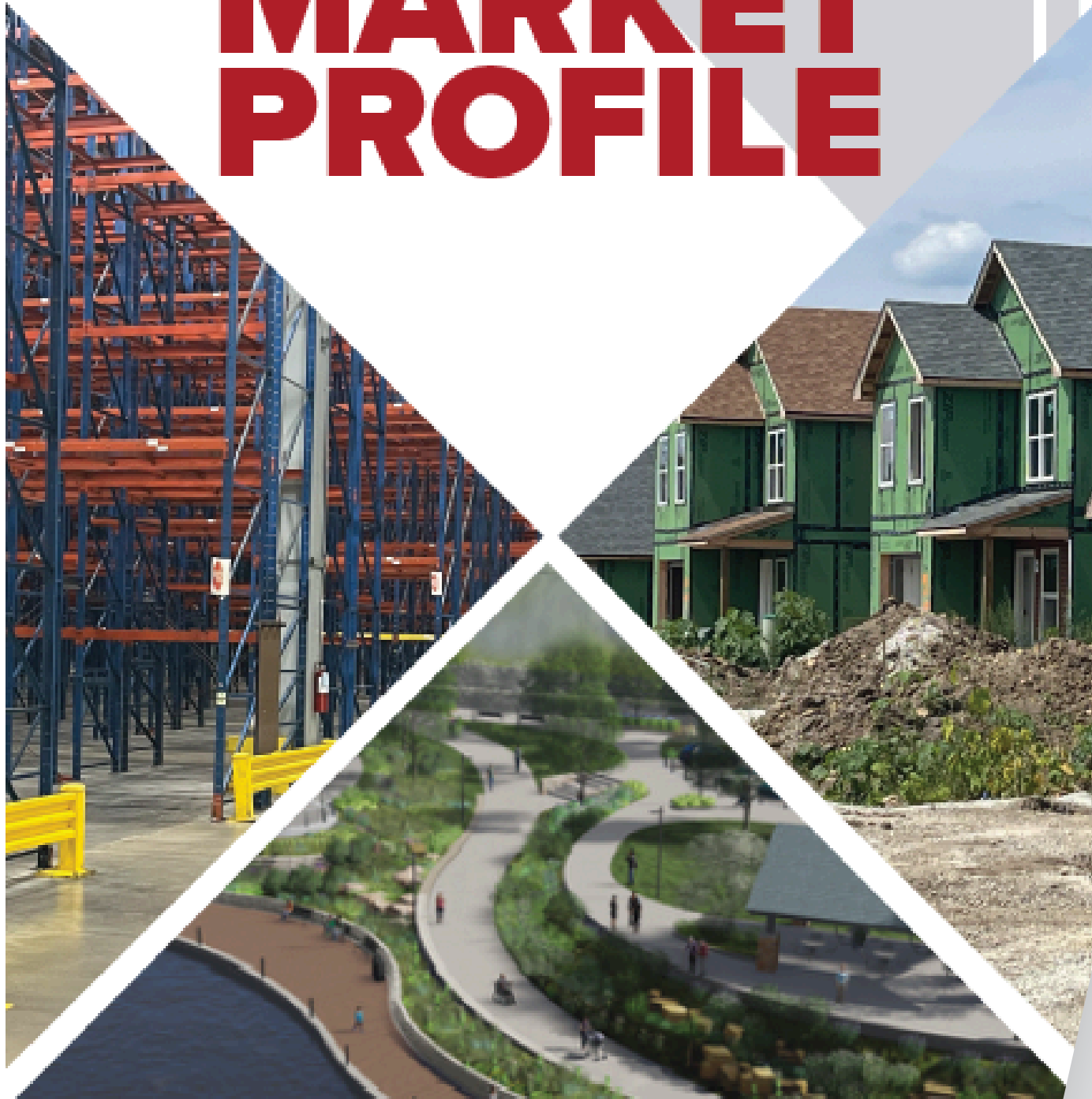
- 79th District Economic Opportunity & Advisory Council, IL Representative Jackie Haas
- Community Foundation of Kankakee River Valley
- Great Lakes Economic Development Council
- Illinois Industrial Biotechnology Coalition
- International Economic Development Council
- Kankakee Area Career Center Executive Advisory Committee
- Kankakee Development Corporation
- Kankakee Co.LAB Advisory Committee
- KCC Business/Office Professional Advisory Committee
- KCC Manufacturing Technology Advisory Committee
- KCC Equity, Diversity and Inclusivity President's Council
- Kankakee County Chamber of Commerce Legislative Committee
- Kankakee County CEO
- Kankakee County Convention & Visitors Bureau
- Kankakee Riverfront Society
- Pembroke Township & Village of Hopkins Park Utility Infrastructure Initiative
- United Way of Kankakee & Iroquois Counties
- U.S. Rep. Robin Kelly's Economic Development Task Force
- Will Kankakee Regional Development Authority





2025

KANKAKEE COUNTY **MARKET PROFILE**



 **ECONOMIC ALLIANCE**
OF KANKAKEE COUNTY

AVAILABLE



Contact Angela Morrey for copies
amorrey@kankakeecountyed.org

INVESTMENT APPEAL

ALLIANCE PROGRAM OF WORK

Funding

- 15% funded by Kankakee County
- 70% by Kankakee County Economic Development Association
- Additional private investments



200 East Court Street, Suite 507
Kankakee, IL 60901
Phone: 815.935.1177
kankakeecountyed.org

2025 MEETINGS

November 13, 2025

7:30-9:00am

Location TBD

Previous board reports available at kankakeecountyed.org



200 East Court Street, Suite 507
Kankakee, IL 60901
Phone: 815.935.1177
kankakeecountyed.org



CONTACT US



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THANK YOU



ECONOMIC ALLIANCE
OF KANKAKEE COUNTY