

A worker in a white shirt and cap is operating a Hyster forklift in a warehouse. The forklift is carrying a pallet of Joe IPA beer cases. The cases are labeled "JOE IPA" and "INDIA PALE ALE". The forklift has "HYSTER" written on its mast and "POOR MANE" on its side. The worker is sitting on the forklift, which is positioned in front of a large door labeled "CASCADE 800 45'".











Middle-Skills Pathways in Chicago: Transportation, Distribution and Logistics Sector Analysis

TDL Middle-Skills Pathways in Chicago Overview

- Most of the High Priority Occupations don't require postsecondary credentials or degrees but require significant on-the-job training to be promoted to supervisory roles.
- Some roles have niche certificate requirements (heavy truck driver, auto mechanic).
- Many roles are lagging in the living wage category but have skills that could reasonably be useful in attaining higher wage roles (e.g., auto mechanics can build on the skill sets to become higher-earning diesel bus/truck mechanics, and light truck drivers or forklift operators can build to the higher-earning roles as heavy truck driver or bus driver).



TDL Priority Occupation and Promising Credential Areas

Middle Skill Credential Area	Occupations	Typical Entry Education	Chicagoland Wage \$/hr	Chicagoland Projected Growth (10 yr.)	Annual Chicagoland Job Openings	Term
Automotive Maintenance & Technology	Automotive Service and Specialty Technicians , Master Mechanics	Postsecondary Certificate	\$22.36	4%	1,033	 Gateway Occupation
	Automotive Body and Related Repairers	High School Diploma	\$20.75	2.1%	256	 Gateway Occupation
Diesel Technology	Bus and Truck Mechanics and Diesel Engine Specialists	High School Diploma	\$28.71	7.7%	392	 High Priority Occupation
Supply Chain	Industrial Truck and Tractor Drivers	High School Diploma	\$17.39	3.5%	3,572	 Gateway Occupation
	Production, Planning and Expediting Clerks	High School Diploma	\$23.01	2.1%	1,691	 Gateway Occupation
	First-Line Supervisor of Helpers, Laborers, & Material Movers	High School Diploma	\$28.00	11%	602	 High Priority Occupation
	First-Line Supervisors of Transportation & Material Moving Machine and Vehicle Operators	High School Diploma	\$28.00	6%	263	 High Priority Occupation
Commercial Driver	Light Truck Drivers	High School Diploma	\$21.56	8.8%	2,320	 Gateway Occupation
	Bus Drivers – Transit & Intercity	High School Diploma	\$31.27	3.1%	512	 High Priority Occupation
	Heavy & Tractor Trailer Truck Drivers	Postsecondary Certificate	\$24.68	6.4%	3,210	 Gateway Occupation

Overview of Private Training Landscape

Based on [Chicagoland CareerPathways](#), the private training landscape is limited:

- City Colleges of Chicago has some redundancy on CareerPathways.net for entry CDL and auto mechanic credentials, but likely more for-profit competitors exist beyond the database.
- Some youth WIOA and training programs lead to forklift operator credential, but the trajectory beyond that initial job placement is uncertain.



Pre-College Landscape

CCC Programs

Model Pathways

Bridge Programs

Non-Credit
Articulation
Private/Non-profit
Providers
Gateways Credentials

Automotive Maintenance
and Collision Technology

Diesel Technology

Commercial Driving

Supply Chain

Automotive Fuel Tech
Certificates

Automotive Body
Certificates

Physical Ed. AA

Automotive Technology
AAS

Diesel Technology
Certificates and AAS

Class C

Commercial Driver

Commercial Passenger

Forklift Certificate

Supply Chain AAS



Recommended Improvement Strategies for TDL

- A. Develop career pathway support programs for individuals earning a CDL for related roles, such as construction equipment operator, highway maintenance technician, or tractor-trailer technician.
- B. Maximize incumbent worker training opportunities for individuals with CDL to advance into supervisory and other related roles.

