

# New Trier Township to offer employment seminars with National Able Network

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New Trier Township seeks to help unemployed residents

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**N**ew Trier Township is partnering with the Chicago-based National Able Network to assist unemployed residents in the township and throughout the North Shore.

Starting Tuesday, Nov. 10, the National Able Network will host free orientation sessions offering job placement assistance to those who are unemployed or have been laid off. The sessions will take place at 10 a.m. the second Tuesday of each month at the township office.

Although the North Shore is known for its affluence, Jeanne Winsted Rosser, social service administrator with New Trier Township, said these upcoming sessions and similar services are needed throughout the country due to a high level of job uncertainty in our economy.

"There's a common misconception in this area," Rosser said. "My mantra is that there are no magic ZIP codes. Unemployment exists here just as it does everywhere else. There's lots of uncertainty. There are no bullet-proof careers anymore. Anything can happen to anyone."

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New Trier Township Supervisor Paddie Brennen said because of the prevalence of job uncertainty, the National Able Network has recently been seeking to expand its programs to the North Shore. Part of the expansion, she said, has been due to the high numbers of North Shore residents taking advantage of similar seminars in Chicago and at the Evanston Public Library.

"We're guessing this is fallout from other state budget problems," Brennen said. "So we're making the services available here."

Brennen said New Trier Township has always offered services like job placement assistance and a food pantry, but many in the area do not realize these services are available.

"They've always been a pretty well-kept secret," she said. "We need a presence in northern Cook County, so it was the perfect partnership."

Although the seminars are open to anyone on the North Shore, Brennen said any financial assistance would only be available to New Trier Township residents.

"We feel like we'll have a positive response in the community to this," said Debbie Van Solkema, communications director for New Trier Township.

Rosser said the township is also working with agencies like the New Foundation Center in Northfield to assist those who are disabled, as well as Lake Forest-based Career Resource Center and other agencies to help young people find jobs.

"Whichever resource we can find that can represent each segment of the population," Rosser said.

Although help with resumes and job interview preparation will not be available at these seminars, Van Solkema said attendees will receive free information on where to obtain those services.

"No one program works for everyone," she said. "Everyone has eligibility requirements, so people can learn about those requirements."

Rosser said she believes many North Shore residents, when hit with a job or other economic crisis, often feel pressure to keep the crisis behind closed doors.

"There can be applied pressure to present your life as problem-free," she said. "The desperation often does not present on the outside."

Van Solkema said the township recently created a page on its website with housing information to help residents who are experiencing job loss remain on the North Shore rather than having to move their families to other communities.

The job seminars, she said, are currently scheduled for Nov. 10, Dec. 8 and Jan. 11 at the township office at 739 Elm St.

"We would like to be part of helping people find employment," Van Solkema said. "We have three scheduled and we're hoping it's successful and that we can continue it on a monthly basis."

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