

# **Illinois' Employment Specialist Roundtable Exit Survey Report**

## **Employment Specialist Roundtable: August 29-30, 2024.**

Report Date: October November 11, 2024

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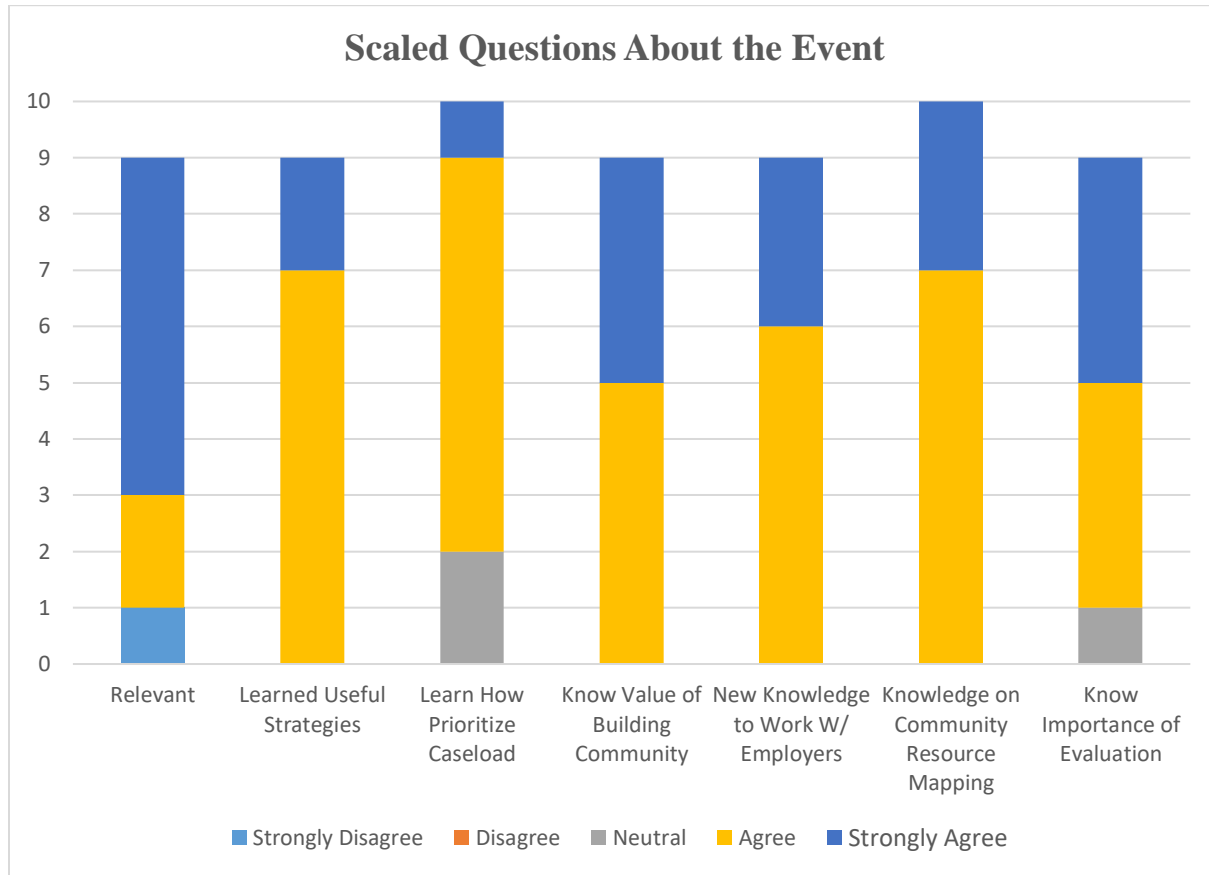
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Illinois Institute for Rehabilitation and Employment Research

Subminimum Wage to Competitive Integrated Employment (SWTCIE) Illinois Project

### **Background/Overview**

The Employment Specialist Roundtable was a two-day event held in Champaign from August 29th-30th, 2024. It brought together all 12 employment specialists (ESs) from the SWTCIE Illinois Project. Led by community research specialists (CRSs) Aletha Alexander, Sharon Bergfeld, Christina Irland, and Kyle Menke, the event featured presentations, group activities, and discussions. These sessions aimed to provide ESs with new information, facilitate brainstorming and problem-solving of barriers and solutions, enable networking and connection with other ESs, and allow them to ask questions of other SWTCIE team members. At the end of the event, each ES was asked to complete a survey about their experience. This report summarizes their responses.



Y-axis represents number of participants; x-axis represents questions asked

**\*Key:** Relevant= “the event topics were relevant for my job”; Learned Useful Strategies= “I have learned time management strategies useful for my job”; Learn How Prioritize Caseload= “I know how to effectively prioritize my client caseload”; Know Value of Building Community= “I understand the value of building community”; New Knowledge to Work W/ Employers= “I gained new knowledge useful to develop relationships with employers”; Knowledge on Community Resource Mapping= “I know how to use community resource mapping in my job”; Know Importance of Evaluation= “I understand the importance of evaluation in my job.”

## Open-Ended Questions

1. *What did you find the most valuable about the Employment Specialist Roundtable event?*



2. *What suggestions do you have for improvement at future roundtable events?*

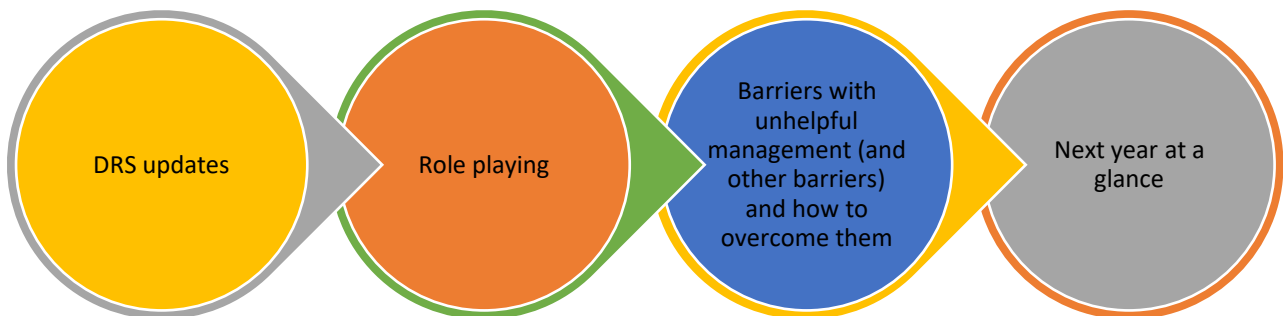


“More discussion on how to turn ‘no’ into ‘yes’”

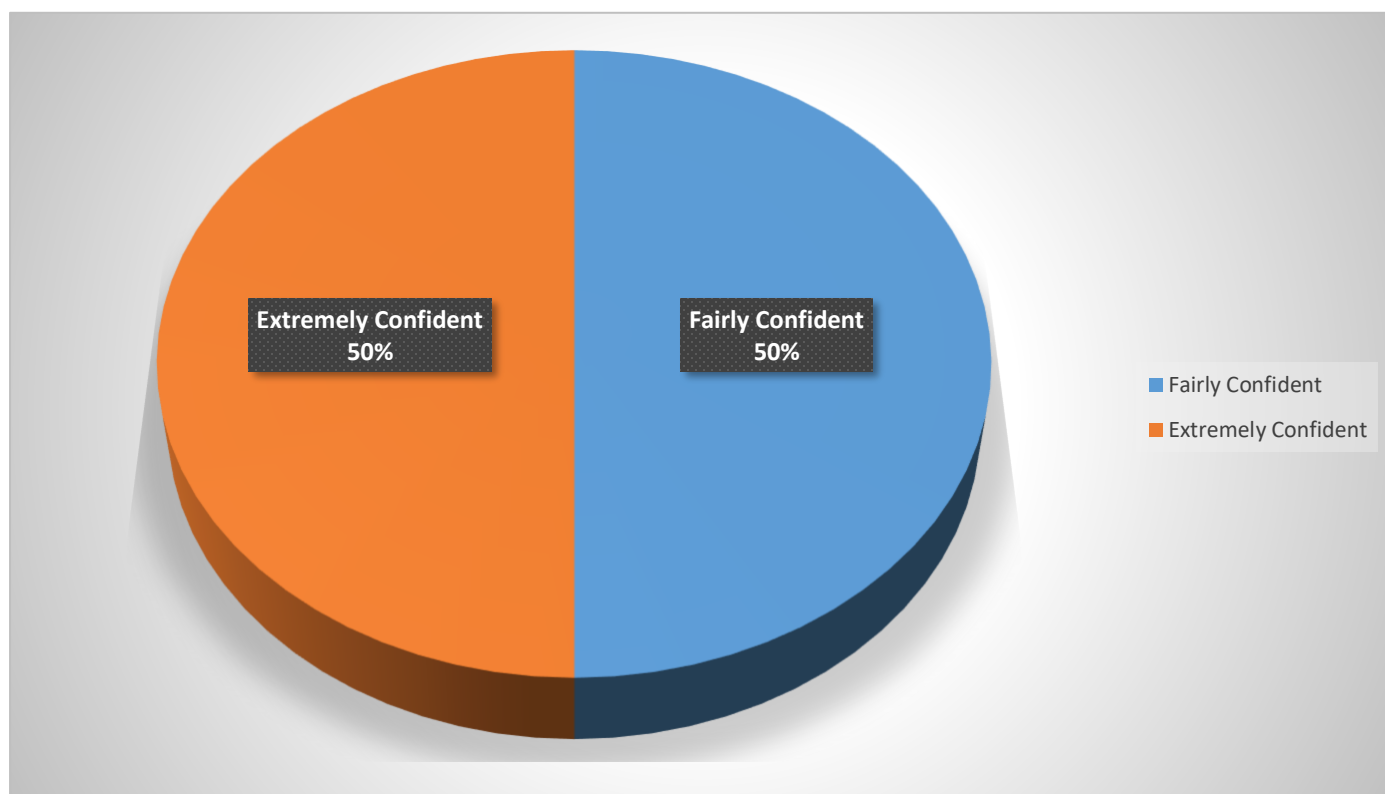


“More hands-on learning activities”

3. *What topics would you like to see discussed at future roundtables?*



4. *How confident are you that you will be able to apply what you have learned back on the job?*



*5. What assistance or resources will you need to successfully apply what you learned on the job?*



OPEN COMMUNICATION



ANSWER QUESTIONS  
ABOUT CONTINUING TO  
CREATE MY MAP



PROBLEM SOLVING WITH  
OTHER ESS



HOW TO REBUILD PARTNERSHIPS  
WITH LOST-CONTACT PARTNERS  
AND BUSINESSES



UNDERSTAND CLIENTS' PERSONAL  
LIVES MORE



MORE SUPPORT FROM  
PARTNERING AGENCIES

6. *What outcomes are you hoping to achieve as a result of your efforts?*

