

Laura Miller Craig

As a Deputy Director at the Illinois Department of Employment Security, Laura Miller Craig ensures that the agency's workforce and economic development programs are delivered in line with state and federal policy. She works closely with business, labor, advocates, and community-based organizations to develop new policies and programs to better serve Illinois' workers and businesses. She has served as a policy advisor to the agency and to the Governor's Office on unemployment insurance, public labor exchange, labor market information, Workforce Investment Act, and Trade Act programs.

Craig believes strongly in building bridges between research and practice as a way to promote better outcomes for Illinois families. Under her leadership, IDES has promoted the use of a self-sufficiency standard to assess the economic health of the Illinois workforce. She has been instrumental in creating a data repository of education and workforce program participant information, to encourage analysis of publicly-funded program performance. Craig is also the co-author of a benchmarking report on Illinois' workforce development system.

Craig has a master's degree in public policy from the Irving B. Harris Graduate School of Public Policy at the University of Chicago. She earned her BA in religion from Bryn Mawr College.