



Looking for Work? Avoid being Scammed

With unemployment reaching levels unseen in decades, you need to protect yourself from being scammed.

- Be wary of paying up-front fees for business opportunities. Check out companies on-line, with the secretary of state, chambers of commerce or the BBB to see if a business is legitimate.
- Guard your personal information from "phishing" scams. Never supply your social security number on internet job boards. That applies to bank account numbers, too.
- Executive recruiters are typically paid by the company, you shouldn't have to pay up-front fees.
- Federal jobs are listed at www.usa.gov. There are no secret channels to get a government job.
- Own your own business opportunities or network-marketing programs may just be a pyramid scheme.
- Mystery shoppers and work-at-home jobs need to be scrutinized.

Some areas that will have legitimate work-from-home options are:

- Virtual call centers will continue to recruit strongly across the U.S.
- Freelance (independent contractors) or project-oriented work will continue to grow.
- Website designers and other IT specialists will continue to be in demand.
- Direct sales opportunities such as Mary Kay, Avon, and others will have to contend with decreased discretionary spending.
- Home-based nursing, tutoring (especially foreign students learning English) and teaching will continue to grow.

Check work-at-home-parent forums such as www.WAHM.com and www.workplacelikehome.com, for dialogues on good and bad work-at-home opportunities.

When searching sites like Monster.com for work from home jobs, you must enter the "right" search terms to keep the search legitimate. For example - "work at home" renders millions of results (many of them scams), a more focused search with a phrase like "this is a work at home position" will narrow the field. "Work at home" is a common "hook" for scammers, the latter phrase is more "natural" to the phrasing used in legitimate work ads. Use the "exact phrase" option on the job board searches to limit the number of jobs results.

How we can help – We offer many resources to help you gain a new position on your way to a career. The Career Resource Specialists at [Kane County Department of Employment and Education](http://www.kcdee.org) can help you with many tips and ideas to effectively use the internet and other tools to find a new job.

Four Offices to serve you:

Elgin – 30 DuPage Court	847-888-7900 x 230
N. Aurora – 2 Smoketree Plaza	630-844-6640 x 203
DeKalb – 1701 E. Lincoln Hwy.	815-756-4893 x 240
Yorkville – 811 W. John St.	630-553-8304

www.kcdee.org

