



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 23, 2026

Wevise and Career Transitions Center Sign Partnership Agreement

Two Chicago nonprofits formalize collaboration connecting mentorship and career coaching services

CHICAGO, IL — Wevise LLC and the Career Transitions Center of Chicago (CTC) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding establishing a formal collaboration between the two organizations. The one-year agreement, effective February 23, 2026, establishes a referral relationship and provides Wevise program participants with discounted access to career coaching services at CTC.

Under the agreement, CTC will deliver one career-focused presentation to Wevise mentors and mentees and offer a \$100 discount on CTC services to eligible Wevise participants. Wevise will present its services to CTC clients. Both organizations will refer potential participants to each other and coordinate scheduling for joint programming.

The partnership connects two distinct service models that serve adjacent populations in Chicago. Wevise operates structured mentorship cohorts that deliver governed access to professional networks for technology professionals from underserved backgrounds. CTC provides career coaching, workshops, and peer support to unemployed and underemployed professionals across industries. The referral relationship allows each organization to route participants to the service that best fits their current needs.

“Wevise provides mentorship and access to professional networks. CTC provides career coaching and job search support. Some of the people we serve need both,” said Jon Leinen, CEO of Wevise. “This agreement gives us a straightforward way to connect participants with career education resources that complement what our mentors provide, without duplicating services or overextending either organization.”

“CTC has worked with professionals in career transition for nearly 30 years, and we know that job seekers benefit when they have access to both coaching and professional connections,” said Anita Jenke, Executive Director of CTC. “This partnership with Wevise means we can refer clients who would benefit from structured mentorship, and Wevise participants who need career coaching have a clear path to our services.”

Wevise completed its first cohort in Chicago in 2025, serving 32 participants with 28 volunteer mentors. The organization is currently preparing to launch Cohort 2 in Q2 2026, which will serve 30–35 participants and introduce measurement systems to track career outcomes and access actions—infrastructure that was not in place during the pilot. CTC serves over 300 professionals annually through individual coaching, workshops, and peer support, and operates with more than 40 volunteer career coaches.

About Wevise

Wevise operates structured mentorship cohorts that connect capable professionals from underserved backgrounds with mentors who provide deliberate access—the networks, introductions, and insider knowledge that advance tech careers. Cohort 1 (Chicago, 2025) demonstrated operational feasibility with 32 participants and 28 mentors. Cohorts 2 and 3 are building the measurement systems to test whether governed access produces more consistent career outcomes than mentorship alone. Wevise is a validation-stage organization that expands only when evidence supports expansion. For more information, visit wevise.org.

About Career Transitions Center of Chicago

The Career Transitions Center of Chicago (CTC) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit providing career coaching and employment programming to mid-career professionals and first-generation college students and graduates. Founded in 1997, CTC operates with a staff of four and more than 40 volunteer career coaches who deliver weekly one-on-one coaching, workshops, and peer support. CTC is recognized as a Platinum-level nonprofit by GuideStar for transparency and meets the Better Business Bureau's 20 Standards for Charity Accountability. For more information, visit ctcchicago.org.

Media Contacts

Jon Leinen, Chief Executive Officer

Wevise LLC

jon.leinen@wevise.org | (763) 307-9139

wevise.org

Anita Jenke, Executive Director

Career Transitions Center of Chicago

info@ctcchicago.org | (312) 906-9908

ctcchicago.org

###