

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

Thursday, April 16, 2026 from 9:00-10:30 a.m.

In-person attendance is encouraged

Michigan Works! Service Center, 1601 S. Burdick St., Kalamazoo, MI 49001

Public Access is available at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85692655562?pwd=dahVnf45fJMXGAe1ROC3qXXb5sqr50.1>

Meeting ID: 856 9265 5562 **Passcode:** 449158

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|---|------------------------|
| I. CALL TO ORDER / INTRODUCTIONS | Brian O'Donnell, Chair |
| II. TRANSPARENCY & INTEGRITY OF WDB DECISIONS | Debbie Horn |
| III. PUBLIC TIME | |
| IV. MINUTES <i>(Vote Required)</i> | |
| A. February 19, 2026 WDB Quarterly Meeting Minutes <i>(Exhibit A)</i> | |
| V. DIALOGUE WITH SERVICE PROVIDER STAFF | Amanda Sutherland |
| A. KRESA | |
| 1. Program Summary WIOA Youth <i>(Exhibit B)</i> | |
| 2. Program Summary Jobs for Michigan Graduates (JMG) <i>(Exhibit C)</i> | |
| 3. Program Summary WIOA Young Professionals <i>(Exhibit D)</i> | |
| 4. Program Summary WIOA Young Professionals Plus <i>(Exhibit E)</i> | |
| VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS | |
| A. DART March 12, 2026 | John Fiore |
| B. CEAC March 16, 2026 | Darrin Adair |
| VII. NEW BUSINESS <i>(Vote Required)</i> | |
| A. Plans | Amy Meyers |
| 1. FY2026 GF/GP Funding for YPP <i>(Exhibit F)</i> | |
| 2. FY2026 Going PRO Talent Fund Program Administration Cycle 1 <i>(Exhibit G)</i> | |
| B. Plan Ratifications | Amy Meyers |
| 1. AY2025 WIOA Statewide Activities Funding for the YP 2026 Initiative <i>(Exhibit H)</i> | |
| C. Request For Proposal (RFP) Announcement | Amy Meyers |

VIII. STAFF REPORTS

- A. Business Solutions Update, Dashboard (*Exhibit I*) and
Lightcast Data Analytics (*Exhibit J*) Ashley Iovieno
- B. Operations Update & Dashboard (*Exhibit K*) Amy Meyers
1. Annual Monitoring Outcomes
- C. Directors' Report Jakki Bungart-Bibb

IX. OLD BUSINESS

X. PUBLIC TIME

XI. MEMBERS' TIME

XII. UPCOMING MEETINGS

- A. Full Workforce Development Board – Thursday, May 21, 2026 (9:00-10:30 am)
At Clemens Food Group, 572 Newton Road, Coldwater, MI 49036
- B. Executive Committee – Thursday, August 20 2026 (9:00-10:30 am)
At the Michigan Works! Service Center, 1601 S. Burdick Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49001
- C. Disability Awareness Resource Team (DART) – Tuesday, October 20, 2026 (2:00-3:30 pm)
At Upjohn Institute, 300 S. Westnedge Ave, Kalamazoo, MI 49007
- D. Career & Educational Advisory Council (CEAC) – Monday, May 11, 2026 (1:00-3:00 pm)
At Upjohn Institute, 300 S Westnedge Ave, Kalamazoo, MI 49007

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Brian O'Donnell, Chair

**Workforce Development Board
 Quarterly Board Meeting Minutes
 February 19, 2026**

CALL TO ORDER: Workforce Development Board Chair Brian O'Donnell called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. at the Michigan Works! Southwest Service Center, 200 W. Van Buren Street, Battle Creek, Michigan.

WDB Members Present:

Darrin Adair (Educ)*	Brian O'Donnell (PS)*	Dr. Paul Watson (EDU)
Jonathan Current (Labor)	Jose Orozco (CBO)	
Randall Hazelbaker (PS)*	David Pawloski (Labor) [∨]	
Al Ives (PS)	David Prellwitz (Labor) [∨]	[∨] Virtual
Dave Maurer (PS)*	Frank Tecumseh (PS)*	*Exec Committee
Karen Mar cath (PAA)		

WDB Members Absent

Jill Bland (Econ Dev)	Jared Hoffmaster (PS)	David Stafford (PS)
Ross Daniels (PS)	Lisa Johansen (OTH)	Liz Van Dussen (PS)
Jessica Eyster (PS)	Derek King (PS)	Ken Willcutt (PS)
John Fiore (RA)	Sabrina Radenovic (PS)	
Jeff Heppler (PS)	Windy Rea (PS)	

Center for Workforce Innovation and Solutions / Michigan Works! Southwest Staff Present:

Jakki Bungart-Bibb	Ashley Iovieno	Amanda Rosenberg
Debbie Horn	Amy Meyers	Jennifer Teske [∨]
Mike Horrigan (Upjohn)		Mark Waurio

Guests Present:

Jim Benton (KRESA)	Blaine Farr (WDI)	Eric Pschigoda (GOCC)
Owen Brennan [∨]	David Gregory	Kristine Stevens (GOCC) [∨]
For Representative	Julie Gregory (WDI)	Amanda Sutherland
Rogers	Sarah Mansberger (KRESA)	(KRESA)

INTRODUCTIONS

All attendees introduced themselves and the entities they represent.

RECOGNITION

Michigan Works! Southwest Shining Star Awards

December 2025 – Julie Gregory has been recognized for her exceptional performance, professionalism, and positive impact on colleagues and customers. She consistently delivers accurate, high-quality work and supports her team with collaboration and innovative ideas, helping improve internal processes and customer satisfaction. Julie's dedication, reliability, and commitment to excellence reflect the organization's core values and make her a trusted, valued team member. Amy Meyers added that Julie is a resource for so many of the Michigan Works! staff, and her expertise is unmatched.

TRANSPARENCY & INTEGRITY OF WDB DECISIONS

Debbie Horn asked members present if there were any items on the agenda for which a conflict of interest exists, and if so, the conflict should be declared at this time.

There were none.

PUBLIC TIME

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Exhibit A)

Motion made by Randall Hazelbaker and supported by Al Ives to approve the January 15, 2026, WDB Executive Committee board meeting minutes. Motion carried

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

NEW BUSINESS

WDB Plans (Exhibit B)

Amanda Rosenberg requested Board consideration and approval of one workforce development plan included in the agenda packet. Details for the plan were described in the corresponding Exhibit and are listed below:

- CY 2026 Michigan Works! System Plan Instructions (Exhibit B)

Motion made by Frank Tecumseh and supported by Dr. Paul Watson to approve the plan as presented. Motion carried.

WDB Policies (Exhibits C1-C3)

Amanda Rosenberg requested Board consideration and approval of one workforce development policy included in the agenda packet. Details for the plan were described in the corresponding Exhibit and are listed below:

- WDB Policy 33 R04 – Rapid Response (Exhibits C1-C3)

Motion made by Dr. Paul Watson and supported by Al Ives to approve the policy as presented. Motion carried.

PROGRAMS

Workforce Development Partner Spotlight – KRESA Career Connect Center

Sarah Mansberger, Executive Director of Career Connect KRESA, gave a presentation highlighting KRESA's services in the Kalamazoo County Intermediate School District. KRESA provides services across nine local school districts as well as some non-public and homeschooled students. Its core functions include supporting special education and career and technical education (CTE), with additional focus areas such as early childhood programs, educator support, and operational services to help districts run effectively. The Career Connect department, launched in 2019, leads efforts to expand career learning across the county by helping students explore career options early, connect with local employers, and gain real-world experience.

The new Career Connect campus opened on August 25, 2025, and brings CTE programs into one central location for students across the county. The 167,000 square-foot facility includes 22 labs and currently serves about 1,150 students in hands-on, two-hour courses taught largely by instructors with industry experience. Programs are designed with input from local employers and lead to industry-recognized credentials tied to in-demand careers in the region. Since opening, the program has increased countywide CTE participation by 25% and continues to focus on helping students build both technical skills and important workplace skills like communication, teamwork, and problem-solving.

Economic Outlook – The Upjohn Institute for Employment Research

Mike Horrigan, President, provided a presentation highlighting that the U.S. economy remains relatively strong overall, with Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growing at an annualized rate of approximately 4.4% in late 2025. However, some warning signs are emerging. Consumer confidence has been declining, and certain leading indicators have slowed. While job growth continues, it is concentrated in a few sectors, especially healthcare and social assistance, rather than spread evenly across various industries.

Inflation has improved significantly, dropping from a peak of 9.1% in 2022 to around 2.4%, though many people still feel the impact of higher prices, particularly for housing, rent, and healthcare. Locally, the economic outlook is somewhat stronger than the national picture. Employment in Kalamazoo and nearby counties has largely recovered from pandemic losses, with solid labor force participation and job growth in areas like healthcare and local government, although sectors such as retail and food services remain softer.

STAFF REPORTS (Exhibits D & F)

Business Solutions - Ashley Iovieno reported that the Dashboard (Exhibit D) was included in the agenda packet and contains the updated numbers of employers served and services provided through January 2026. Ms. Iovieno also stated that in December 2025, unemployment rates for the four-county region ranged from 4% to 5.1%, which continues to show an increase compared to past numbers. The state unemployment rate is currently 4.4%.

Ms. Iovieno further reported that the most recent Lightcast reports were included as a link in the email sent to Board members and can also be found on the Michigan Works! Southwest website. Currently, no significant changes are posted. The top four occupations remain within the healthcare sector. There are 261 unique job postings in the MWSW area, which is below the average of 300.

Ms. Iovieno also reported that the Going PRO Talent Fund section of the dashboard now reflects FY26 Cycle 1, with awards announced in mid-December. The other two sections pertain to FY25 figures, which are still in progress. It is important to note that GPTF's budget has been significantly reduced, resulting in approximately \$29 million being available statewide, compared to \$55 million in previous years.

Additionally, Ms. Iovieno reported that the Michigan Works! Association is organizing an AI Summit titled "AI at Work" scheduled for April 28th and 29th at the MotorCity Casino Hotel in Detroit. Registration for this event is now open and encourages the participation of employers. Two sessions are scheduled that will feature small to mid-size businesses showcasing how they are using AI. National Apprenticeship Week this year will be April 26th through May 2nd, and plans for that week are underway.

Ms. Iovieno reported that Shiloh Industries, also known as Grouper Acquisition Company, recently announced a significant layoff impacting 160 positions, scheduled for March 31st. This unfortunate news was anticipated, and MWSW has been actively working with the company to avert layoffs. Positively, the company has expressed a willingness to cooperate, and MWSW will advocate for a job fair prior to the closure. This company is located in Galesburg, Michigan.

Operations

Amy Meyers reported that the state has released the updated four-year Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) state plan for public comment as part of its required two-year modification cycle. This update will prompt revisions to the Region 8 regional plan and the local four-county plan. The updated regional and local plans are expected to be presented to the board for review in late spring or early summer.

Ms. Meyers further reported that the unemployment insurance system, MIWAM, is currently undergoing a planned outage while updates are made to transition to a new system called MIUI. Employer-side updates are expected to launch on February 23rd, with customer-side updates scheduled for later this summer. Staff have been assisting job seekers during the transition due to increased foot traffic at service centers.

Additionally, Ms. Meyers reported that changes related to merit-based staffing requirements for Wagner-Peyser services have been delayed. Although the requirement was scheduled to take effect in January 2026, implementation has now been extended to January 2027 while federal guidance finalizes. Service delivery at Michigan Works! Service Centers will remain unchanged in the meantime.

Ms. Meyers further reported that Michigan Works! Southwest continues to expand services beyond its main offices by hosting office hours with community partners. Current locations include VOCES, Liberty Commons, The Northside Association for Community Development (NACD), the Douglas Community Association, and the Kalamazoo Defender, allowing residents to access employment and career services directly within their communities.

Lastly, Ms. Meyers reported that the dashboard included in the agenda packet contains highlights such as a youth Talent Tour with the Battle Creek Police Department and increased participation in the Food Assistance Employment and Training (FAE&T) program. The growth in recent months shows that over 160 individuals have been served, which follows the end of a state waiver that previously made the program voluntary.

Directors Report

Ms. Bungart-Bibb reported that Congress passed a funding package at the end of January, allowing workforce programs to avoid operating under a continuing resolution. Funding will remain largely level through September, with only a small reduction in WIOA funding despite earlier concerns about significant cuts.

Ms. Bungart-Bibb reported that staff attended the National Skills Summit in Washington DC, where workforce leaders met with members of Congress to discuss workforce priorities and share program successes. While there is bipartisan interest in supporting workforce development, congressional members indicated that full WIOA reauthorization is unlikely this year, meaning programs will continue operating under current rules.

Ms. Bungart-Bibb shared that Senator Gary Peters recently reintroduced the Lifelong Learning Act, a bipartisan bill that would increase flexibility and funding caps for workforce boards to invest more in training programs that address local talent shortages. The bill is currently in the early stages of the Senate committee process.

Ms. Bungart-Bibb also reported that the Governor's proposed FY2027 budget includes \$30 million in ongoing funding to support Medicaid and SNAP work requirements. Of that amount, \$25 million would support Michigan Works! agencies in providing job search, training, and placement services, and \$5 million would support Registered Apprenticeship Programs.

In conclusion, Ms. Bungart-Bibb shared that the Legislative priority documents will be shared with board members as part of the annual budget and advocacy season. The upcoming Advocacy Day in Lansing on March 11 will focus on promoting Michigan Works! programs and advocating for continued workforce funding. Board members were invited to participate.

OLD BUSINESS

None

PUBLIC TIME

Eric Pschigoda from Glen Oaks Community College introduced himself and mentioned his role in the Workforce Development Office. He highlighted the upcoming launch of short-term training programs, including CDLA, and expressed gratitude for the support he has received since joining. The conversation also touched on the implementation of short-term health training opportunities set for July 2026, with funding being announced for community colleges to assist in this effort.

MEMBERS' TIME

Jose Orozco thanked the MWSW team in Battle Creek for their efforts in assisting community members who

are facing challenges in securing employment and making connections. They have begun to address these issues and are currently focusing on soft skills; he believes they are heading in the right direction.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Full Workforce Development Board – Thursday, May 21, 2026 (9:00-10:30 am)
At a location in Branch County
- Executive Committee – Thursday, April 16, 2026 (9:00-10:30 am)
At the Michigan Works! Service Center, 1601 S. Burdick Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49001
- Career and Educational Advisory Council (CEAC) – Monday, March 16, 2026 (1:00-3:00 pm)
At the Upjohn Institute, 300 S. Westnedge Ave, Kalamazoo, MI 49007
- Disability Awareness Resource Team (DART) – Tuesday, March 12, 2026 (2:00-4:00 pm)
At the Upjohn Institute, 300 S. Westnedge Ave, Kalamazoo, MI 49007

ADJOURNMENT

There being no additional reports or business for the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:18 a.m. by Brian O'Donnell.

Debbie Horn Date

Brian O'Donnell Date

APPROVED

These minutes were approved on _____



WIOA YOUTH

WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT - YOUTH

JULY 1, 2025 – JUNE 30, 2026

SERVICE PROVIDER

Kalamazoo Regional Educational Agency (KRESA) administers the **WIOA Youth** workforce development program in Branch, Calhoun, Kalamazoo, and St. Joseph Counties.

FUNDING SOURCE

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)

RESOURCES

[WIOA Youth Program Overview](#)

MI Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity

[Official WIOA Manual](#)
March 11, 2021

PROGRAM FOCUS

The **WIOA Youth** program aims to improve academic and job skills for youth ages 14-24 who face significant challenges in the labor market.

- The focus for In-School youth is on obtaining credentials and a high school diploma.
- The focus for Out-of-School youth is on obtaining a GED and employment.

Priorities

- **Out-of-School Youth (OSY)** – A minimum of 50 percent of the funds allocated must be used to provide services to OSY.
- **Work Experience** – No less than 20 percent of Youth funds must be used to provide paid and unpaid work experience.
- **Focus on Partnering** – Co-enrollment with other workforce development programs is encouraged, where appropriate.

TARGETED POPULATION TO BE SERVED

In-school and Out-of-school youth residing in Branch, Calhoun, Kalamazoo, and St. Joseph Counties.

ELIGIBILITY

- **In-School Youth** - 14-21 years of age, attending school, low income, with one or more barriers to employment.
- **Out-of-School Youth** - 16-24 years of age, not attending any school, with one or more barriers to employment.

MEASURES OF SUCCESS

Quantitative Goals

- Registrations: In-School 88 Out-of-School 132

Federal Performance Goals

- Employment Rate 2nd Quarter After Exit 79%
- Employment Rate 4th Quarter After Exit 79%
- Median Earnings 2nd Quarter After Exit \$4,600
- Credential Attainment Rate 64.7%
- Measurable Skill Gains 48.7%
- Effectiveness in Serving Employers Baseline

SERVICES

The WIOA Youth program includes the following 14 program elements, which are required to be made available in each local area. The program elements outline a vision for supporting youth and young adults through an integrated service delivery system.

1. Tutoring, study skills training, instruction, and evidence-based dropout prevention and recovery strategies
2. Alternative secondary school services or dropout recovery services
3. Paid and unpaid work experiences
4. Occupational skills training
5. Education offered concurrently with workforce preparation and training for a specific occupation
6. Leadership development opportunities
7. Supportive services
8. Adult mentoring
9. Follow-up services
10. Comprehensive guidance and counseling
11. Financial literacy education
12. Entrepreneurial skills training
13. Services that provide labor market information
14. Postsecondary preparation and transition activities



JMG

JOBS FOR MICHIGAN'S GRADUATES

OCTOBER 1, 2025 - SEPTEMBER 30, 2026

SERVICE PROVIDER

Kalamazoo Regional Educational Agency (KRESA) administers the **Jobs for Michigan's Graduates** workforce development program in Branch, Calhoun, Kalamazoo, and St. Joseph Counties.

PROGRAM FOCUS

The **Jobs for Michigan's Graduates Program** aims to equip young adults with essential skills to overcome barriers and succeed in their educational pursuits. JMG specifically targets at-risk and disadvantaged youth, both in school and out of school, to improve graduation and GED completion rates. The ultimate goal of the program is to facilitate a seamless transition from education to a successful career path.

FUNDING SOURCE

Base JMG Funds paid to JMG Affiliate Partner from Youth Solutions are derived from the State of Michigan, General Fund-General Purpose (GF/GP).

TARGETED POPULATION TO BE SERVED

Youth served through this agreement may include in-school youth, out-of-school youth (OSY), disconnected youth, foster youth, and others who face barriers to education or employment.

ELIGIBILITY

Participants must be between the ages of 14 and 24 and do not need to be eligible for the WIOA Youth, Adult, or Dislocated Worker Programs.

RESOURCES

[Jobs for America's Graduates \(JAG\)](#)
National Non-Profit

[Jobs for Michigan's Graduates](#)
Youth Solutions

MEASURES OF SUCCESS

Service providers shall strive to serve 170 participants, including students in JMG designated in the “active” and “follow-up” stages of programming.

Key Outcome Metrics are as follows:

Key Outcome Metrics	Multi-Year	Alternative	Out-of-School/College Success
Graduation Rate	90%	75%	50%
Employment Rate	60%	50%	60%
Full-Time Employment Rate (30+ hours/week)	60%	50%	60%
Full-Time Positive Outcomes Rate	75%	60%	75%
Further Education Rate	35%	30%	35%
Connectivity Rate	95%>	95%>	95%>
Return-to-School Rate	90%	75%	--
High School Transition/Matriculation to the next grade	90%	90%	--
Improvement in Attendance	70%	50%	--
Academic Improvements	90%	75%	--
Reduction of Discipline Referrals	60%	60%	--
Contact Hours Per Student	130 Hours	80 Hours	40 Hours
Service-Learning Hours Per Youth	10 Hours	7.5 Hours	5 Hours
Average Number of Selection Criteria/Barriers	6	6	7
Average Barriers Removed by End of Year	1	1	1

SERVICES

JMG services will include dropout prevention and recovery, work-based learning, postsecondary preparation and transition services, and other supports that align with the mission of the program.

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

MARCH 1, 2026 THROUGH FEB 28, 2027

SERVICE PROVIDER

Kalamazoo Regional Educational Agency (KRESA) administers the **Young Professionals Initiative** workforce development program in Branch, Calhoun, Kalamazoo, and St. Joseph Counties.

FUNDING SOURCE

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Statewide Activities

PROGRAM FOCUS

The purpose of the **Young Professionals Initiative (YP)** is to increase career awareness and preparation while reducing youth unemployment. This will be accomplished by introducing youth and young adults facing barriers to success in the labor market to the workforce while providing income to participants. Combined services will place participants on a path to gain the necessary skills to achieve lifelong economic self-sufficiency.

PARTICIPANTS SERVED

In-School and Out-of-School Youth residing in Branch, Calhoun, Kalamazoo, and St. Joseph Counties.

ELIGIBILITY

Though participants do not have to be co-enrolled in a WIOA program, they must be eligible for the WIOA Youth, Adult, or Dislocated Worker (DW) program(s), and between the ages of 14 and 24.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

The goal was to serve 55 participants for this program year, with a goal of 10 in Branch County (with a focus on Coldwater); 15 in Calhoun County 15 (with a focus on Albion); 20 in Kalamazoo County (with a focus on the City of Kalamazoo); and 10 in St. Joseph County (with a focus on Sturgis and Three Rivers).

Young Professionals programs must provide outcome metrics following program completion as detailed below:

- Number of young adults served by the grant.
- Number of young adults who received workforce preparation services.
- Number of young adults who entered a work experience.
- Number of young adults who completed their work experience.
- Number of participating employers.

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

MARCH 1, 2026 THROUGH FEB 28, 2027

RESOURCES

[WIOA Young Professionals Initiative Policy](#)

MI Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity
Policy Issuance 26-03

[Paid and Unpaid Work Experience](#)

Workforce GPS

[Youth Resources Page](#)

Workforce GPS

SERVICES

Services include Career Pathway Planning, Career Exploration, Internship Preparation, Hands-on Work Experience, Career Training and Professional Development, Barrier Navigation, Financial Literacy, and Academic and Career Awareness.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAM SPECIFICS

- Wages/stipends may be paid for participation in work experience.
- Incentive payments are allowable when directly tied to the completion of work experience or classroom training for those enrolled as WIOA Youth.
- Supportive services are also allowable.



YPP

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS PLUS

MAR 1, 2026, THROUGH FEB 28, 2027

SERVICE PROVIDER

Kalamazoo Regional Educational Agency (KRESA) administers the **Young Professionals Plus** Initiative workforce development program in Branch, Calhoun, Kalamazoo, and St. Joseph Counties.

FUNDING SOURCE

State of Michigan General Fund-General Purpose (GF/GP)

PROGRAM FOCUS

The **Young Professionals Plus (YPP) Initiative** will introduce young adults to the world of work while providing increased opportunities to earn income. Local programs will provide career preparation, employment opportunities, and supportive services with a goal of placing young adults on the right path to gain the skills necessary to achieve lifelong economic self-sufficiency.

PARTICIPANTS SERVED

Youth and young adults residing in Branch, Calhoun, Kalamazoo, and St. Joseph Counties.

ELIGIBILITY

- Participants must be between the ages of 14 and 24 and do not need to be eligible for the WIOA Youth, Adult, or Dislocated Worker Programs.
- Preference should be given to individuals living in households within the ALICE population.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Young Professionals Plus programs must provide outcome metrics following program completion as detailed below:

- Total number of participants served.
- Number of participants who received workforce preparation services.
- Number of participants who entered a work experience.
- Number of participants who completed their work experience.
- Number of participating employers.



YPP

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS PLUS

MAR 1, 2026, THROUGH FEB 28, 2027

RESOURCES

[Young Professionals Plus \(YPP\) Initiative Policy](#)

MI Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity Policy Issuance (PI) 26-04

[Youth Resources Page](#)
Workforce GPS

SERVICES

Services include Career Pathway Planning, Career Exploration, Internship Preparation, Hands-on Work Experience, Career Training and Professional Development, Barrier Navigation, Financial Literacy, and Academic and Career Awareness.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAM SPECIFICS

- Wages/stipends may be paid for participation in work experience.
- Incentive payments are allowable when directly tied to the completion of work experience or classroom training for those enrolled as WIOA Youth.
- Supportive services are also allowable.

**Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 General Fund/General Purpose (GF/GP) Funding for
 the Young Professionals Plus (YPP) 2026 Initiative
 PI: 26-04**

Background

The Young Professionals Plus (YPP) Initiative supports MWAs to strive for continuous improvement of young adult programming, in alignment with Michigan's Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity Workforce Development's focus on providing valuable work experience to individuals between the ages of 14 and 24 years old. Michigan Works! Southwest has been awarded General Fund/General Purpose funding to implement the YPP Initiative, from March 1, 2026 through February 28, 2027, increasing career awareness and preparation while reducing youth unemployment.

Eligibility

Individuals served with this funding must be between the ages of 14-24 years old and do not need to be eligible for the WIOA Youth, Adult, or Dislocated Worker (DW) program(s). Individuals who are Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed (ALICE) should be prioritized to be served with this funding; however, use of these funds is not limited to this population.

Activities

Activities that support career exploration and preparedness may be funded under the initiative. It is permissible to provide services in a virtual capacity, when necessary. Although not an exhaustive list, allowable expenditures with funding awarded include the following:

- Wages/stipends paid for participation in work experience/career exploration activities.
- Staff time working to identify and develop a work experience opportunity, including staff time spent working with employers to identify, develop, and evaluate the work experience.
- Staff time working with employers to ensure a successful work experience, including staff time spent managing, and evaluating the work experience.
- Participant work experience and/or related activities orientation sessions.
- Employer work experience orientation sessions.
- Classroom training or the required academic education component directly related to the work experience.
- Incentive payments tied to the completion of work experience or classroom training.
- Employability skills/job readiness training to prepare youth for work experience.
- Supportive services.
- Volunteer and/or community service.

Funding

Total Allocation	\$63,946
Admin	\$6,394
Program	\$57,552

**Going PRO Talent Fund (Talent Fund) Program Administration Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Cycle I,
 the Period of January 1, 2026 through September 30, 2027**

PI: 26-05

Background

The Going PRO Talent Fund FY 2026 Cycle 1 provides individuals with employment, industry recognized credentials, and strong wages through competitive awards to employers to assist in training, developing, and retaining new and current employees. The Talent Fund helps to ensure Michigan's workers have the skills they need for in-demand jobs and employers have the talent they need to compete and grow. Talent Fund-supported training expands and improves employees' skills and develops their opportunities for growth or promotion within the company and for economic advancement.

Eligibility

Training funded by the Talent Fund FY 2026 Cycle 1 must fill a demonstrated talent need experienced by an eligible participating employer. Training must lead to a credential for a skill that is transferable and recognized by the industry.

Activities

Allowable training includes:

- Classroom or customized training for new and current employees
- On-the-job training for new employees
- Apprenticeships for first-year United States Department of Labor (USDOL) Registered Apprentices (new and current employees)

Funding

MWAs receive an award of Talent Fund funding based on the total number of company applications approved for funding.

Total Allocation	\$809,381
Award	\$749,426
Admin	\$59,955

**Appropriation Year (AY) 25 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Statewide Activities (SWA) Funding
 for the Young Professionals (YP) 2026 Initiative**

PI: 26-03

Background

Michigan Works! Southwest has received an allocation of WIOA statewide activities funding for the time period of March 1, 2026 through February 28, 2027 to increase career awareness and preparation while reducing youth unemployment. This will be accomplished by introducing youth and young adults, ages 14 to 24, facing barriers to success in the labor market to the workforce while providing income to participants. Combined services will place participants on a path to gain necessary skills to achieve lifelong economic self-sufficiency.

Eligibility

All individuals served with this funding must be eligible for the WIOA Youth, Adult, or Dislocated Worker program, and they must be between the ages of 14 and 24 years old. Co-enrollment in the WIOA Youth program is not required.

Activities

Although not an exhaustive list, examples of allowable expenditures with Young Professional Initiative funding include:

- Wages/stipends paid for participation in a work experience and/or related activities orientation session
- Stipends paid for participation in career exploration or career preparedness activities.
- Participant work experience and/or related activities orientation sessions.
- Staff time working to identify and develop a work experience opportunity, including staff time spent working with employers to identify and develop the work experience.
- Staff time working with employers to ensure a successful work experience, including staff time spent managing the work experience.
- Volunteer and/or community service.
- Staff time spent evaluating the work experience.
- Employer work experience orientation sessions.
- Classroom training or the required academic education component directly related to the work experience.
- Incentive payments directly tied to the completion of work experience or classroom training for those enrolled as WIOA Youth.
- Employability skills/job readiness training to prepare youth for a work experience.
- Supportive services.

Funding

Total Allocation	\$214,544
Admin	\$21,454
Program	\$193,090