

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

Thursday, October 15, 2026, from 9:00-10:30 a.m.

In-person attendance is encouraged

The Upjohn Institute, 300 S. Westnedge Avenue, Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Public Access is available at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81115803750?pwd=gBAoaT3C4MnnBI2bZe5bl9UvQ5C1nF.1>

Meeting ID: 811 1580 3750 Passcode: 810340

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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 *(Vote Required)***
 - A. September 17, 2026 WDB Quarterly Meeting Minutes *(Exhibit A)*
- V. Dialog with Service Provider Staff**
 - A. Michigan Works! Southwest – Talent Solutions *(Exhibits B1-B6)* Mark Waurio
Jennifer Teske
- VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS**
 - A. Career and Educational Advisory Council (CEAC) 5/11/26, 9/14/26 Darrin Adair
- VII. NEW BUSINESS *(Vote Required)***
 - A. Plans Amanda Rosenberg
 - 1. Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 Food Assistance Employment and Training (FAE&T) Program *(Exhibit C)*
 - 2. Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 Food Assistance Employment and Training (FAE&T) Plus Expansion *(Exhibit D)*
 - 3. Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 Food Assistance Employment and Training (FAE&T) Plus *(Exhibit E)*
 - B. WDB Action Items *(Vote Required)*
 - 1. 2027 WDB Proposed Calendar *(Exhibit F)* Debbie Horn
 - 2. 2027 CEAC Calendar *(Exhibit G)* Debbie Horn

VIII. STAFF REPORTS

- A. Business Solutions Update, Dashboard (*Exhibit H*) and
Lightcast Data Analytics (*Exhibit I*) Amy Meyers
- B. Operations Update & Dashboard (*Exhibit J*) Amy Meyers
- C. Directors' Report Jakki Bungart-Bibb

IX. OLD BUSINESS

X. PUBLIC TIME

XI. MEMBERS' TIME

XII. UPCOMING MEETINGS

- A. Full Workforce Development Board – Thursday, November 19, 2026 (9:00-10:30 a.m.)
At a location in Calhoun County
- B. Disability Awareness Resource Team (DART) – Tuesday, October 20, 2026 (2:00-3:30 p.m.)
At Upjohn Institute, 300 S. Westnedge Ave, Kalamazoo, MI 49007
- C. Career & Educational Advisory Council (CEAC) – Monday, December 7, 2026 (1:00-3:00 p.m.)
At Upjohn Institute, 300 S. Westnedge Ave, Kalamazoo, MI 49007

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Brian O'Donnell, Chair

**Workforce Development Board
 Quarterly Board Meeting Minutes
 September 17, 2026**

CALL TO ORDER: Workforce Development Board Chair Brian O'Donnell called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m. at Glen Oaks Community College, 62249 Shimmel Road, Centreville, MI 49032.

WDB Members Present:

Darrin Adair (Educ)*	Karen Marcath (PAA)	Dr. Paul Watson (EDU) [✓]
Jill Bland (Econ Dev)	Brian O'Donnell (PS)*	
John Fiore (RA)	David Pawloski (Labor) [✓]	
Randall Hazelbaker (PS)* [✓]	David Prellwitz (Labor)	[✓] Virtual
Jared Hoffmaster (PS)	Frank Tecumseh (PS)*	*Exec Committee
Al Ives (PS)*		

WDB Members Absent

Jonathan Current (Labor)	Derek King (PS)	Liz Van Dussen (PS)
Ross Daniels (PS)	Dave Maurer (PS)*	Ken Willcutt (PS)
Jessica Eyster (PS)	Sabrina Radenovic (PS)	
Jeff Hepler (PS)	Windy Rea (PS)	
Lisa Johansen (OTH)	David Stafford (PS)	

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

Jakki Bungart-Bibb	Amy Meyers
Debbie Horn	Amanda Rosenberg
Ashley Iovieno	

Guests Present

Misti Arndt (MWSW)	Heather Kevnic (LEO)	Kristine Stevens (GOCC)
Riley Augst (MWSW)	Shannon McVoy (LEO) [✓]	Amanda Sutherland (KRESA)
Dr. Adam Cloutier (GOCC)	Dr. Bryan Newton (GOCC)	Jennifer Teske (MWSW)
Director Susan Corbin (LEO)	Nick Owens [✓]	Mark Waurio (MWSW)
Paige Daniels (KRESA)	For Rep Rogers	Shannon Yarbrough
Blaine Farr (WDI) [✓]	Lynn Page (MWSW)	(MWSW) [✓]
Molly Fitz-Henry (KRESA)	Eric Pshigoda (GOCC)	
Krista Johnson (LEO)	Ann Marie Stafford (LEO)	

INTRODUCTIONS

All attendees introduced themselves and the entities they represent.

RECOGNITION

Michigan Works! Southwest Shining Star Awards

May 2026 – Riley Augst was recognized for her exceptional dedication, flexibility, and commitment to serving customers and supporting colleagues. Since joining the MWSW Kalamazoo/St. Joseph County Welfare Reform team, Riley has demonstrated a willingness to step in wherever needed, assist coworkers, support customers, and adapt to changing needs. Her professionalism, collaborative spirit, kindness, and positive

attitude have made a meaningful impact on both her team and the individuals she serves. Riley's consistent efforts to go above and beyond reflect the spirit of the Shining Star Award and make her a deserving recipient of this recognition.

June 2026 – Shannon Yarbrough was recognized for her exceptional dedication to serving employers, commitment to customer service, and support for her colleagues. As the Going PRO Talent Fund Coordinator on the Business Solutions team, Shannon consistently provides employers with guidance, patience, and attention to detail throughout the Going PRO Talent Fund process. She builds strong relationships, responds to questions, and ensures employers receive the support they need. Shannon also demonstrates a strong commitment to teamwork by assisting colleagues, maintaining an organized and efficient approach, and contributing to a positive work environment. Her professionalism, dedication, and willingness to go above and beyond exemplify the spirit of the Shining Star Award.

July 2026 – Misti Arndt was recognized for her dedication to customer service, willingness to take on new challenges, and commitment to excellence. Since joining the organization, Misti has demonstrated initiative and flexibility by taking on new responsibilities, assisting with organizational efforts, and facilitating workshops. She consistently supports customers by listening to their employment needs, developing job leads, and connecting them with career opportunities. Misti's positive attitude, strong work ethic, and willingness to go above and beyond have made a meaningful impact on both her colleagues and customers she serves.

August 2026 – Molly Fitz-Henry was recognized for her longstanding leadership, commitment to excellence, and dedication to supporting youth and colleagues. Under her leadership, the MyCITY program has expanded to positively impact hundreds of young people across the four counties served by Michigan Works! Southwest. Molly's focus on youth voice, innovation, advocacy, and continuous improvement has helped create meaningful opportunities for young people to explore their potential and shape their futures. She is also recognized for leading with empathy, building trust, and consistently supporting and advocating for those around her. Her professionalism, dedication, and positive impact on youth, colleagues, and the community exemplify the spirit of the Shining Star Award.

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)

Brian O'Donnell reported an amendment, not reflected in the packet, to the August 20, 2026 Executive Committee Meeting minutes that Debbie Horn would read prior to the vote. The amendment proposed is as follows: "*Jose Orozco noted the absence of Hispanic participation in the WIOA Youth demographic data. MWSW Admin staff clarified that this is only a single program and does not represent the broader multi-program demographics. MWSW Admin staff provided information on outreach efforts and offered to discuss strategies with Mr. Orozco following the meeting.*"

Mr. O'Donnell asked the board to consider the minutes with the amendment, requested a vote including the amendment, and reported that the corrected minutes would be disseminated following the meeting.

Motion made by Frank Tecumseh, as amended, and supported by Jill Bland to approve the August 20, 2026, Executive Committee meeting minutes. Motion carried

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

NEW BUSINESS

WDB Plan Ratifications (*Exhibits B-G*)

Amanda Rosenberg requested Board ratification of the six workforce development plans included in the agenda packet. Details for the plans were described in the corresponding Exhibits and are listed below:

- Apprenticeship Success Coordinators (ASCs) and Registered Apprenticeship Program (RAP) (*Exhibit B*)
- FY2026 Michigan Industry Driven Skills Training Program (MIDSTP) (*Exhibit C*)
- FY2026 Michigan Industry Driven Skills Training Program (MIDSTP), change 1 (*Exhibit D*)
- FY2026 Going PRO Talent Fund (GPTF) Cycle 2 (*Exhibit E*)
- FY2026 Going PRO Talent Fund (GPTF) Employer-Led Collaborative (ELC) (*Exhibit F*)
- Opioid Settlement Workforce Initiative Allocations (*Exhibit G*)

Amy Meyers thanked the Board for their willingness to view and approve workforce development plans in an expedited fashion last week, noting that the State of Michigan required early approvals due to end of fiscal year procedures, which resulted in the call of a Kalamazoo Board of Commissioners meeting and led to ratifications today. Further, present Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity (LEO) staff expressed appreciation for the strong partnership with Michigan Works! Associations (MWAs), local workforce partners, education and training providers, employers, labor and community organizations to ensure opportunities reach every corner of the state of Michigan.

Motion made by Al Ives and supported by Jared Hoffmaster to approve the plans as presented. Motion carried.

WDB Policy Ratification (*Exhibit H1-H2*)

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

- WDB Policy6R10 – Procurement and Property Management (*Exhibits H1-H2*)

Motion made by Darrin Adair and supported by Frank Tecumseh to approve the policy as presented. Motion carried.

CEAC Action Item – Membership Changes (*Exhibit I*)

Debbie Horn requested Board consideration and approval for the appointment of Sarah Mansberger, Executive Director at KRESA, to the WDB Career and Educational Advisory Council (CEAC) for Michigan Works! Southwest to replace Cindy Goss, CTE Program Coordinator at KRESA, for the balance of a two-year term that began July 1, 2026, and ends June 30, 2028.

Ms. Horn also requested Board consideration and approval for the appointment of Lucas Schrauben, Executive Director of Career & Technical Education (CTE) at St. Joseph County Intermediate School District (ISD), to replace James Berry, Superintendent at St. Joseph County ISD, for the balance of a two-year term that began July 1, 2026, and ends June 30, 2028.

Motion made by Jared Hoffmaster and supported by Alan Ives to approve the CEAC membership changes/appointments as presented. Motion carried.

PROGRAM

Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity (LEO)

Director Susan Corbin presented on behalf of the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity (LEO), building opportunities through strong partnerships. The presentation provided an overview of Michigan's first Statewide Workforce Plan, launched in 2024 and centered on three pillars: Skills, Opportunity, and Growth. Key highlights included Michigan's continued leadership in apprenticeships and credential attainment, expanded

access to education and training through programs such as Michigan Reconnect and the Going PRO Talent Fund, and efforts to remove barriers to employment through career navigation, transportation assistance, skills-based hiring, and vocational rehabilitation. The presentation also highlighted regional workforce initiatives involving AI and digital skills, healthcare and infrastructure apprenticeships, career exposure, and economic transition strategies. Michigan continues to invest in business growth, broadband expansion, workforce training, and emerging technologies while receiving national recognition for its workforce development efforts. Recent survey results showed strong satisfaction with Michigan Works! services, with 88% of employers reporting satisfaction and 95% indicating they would engage with Michigan Works! programs again.

Michigan Works! Southwest (MWSW)

Jakki Bungart-Bibb presented on behalf of Michigan Works! Southwest, sharing the MWSW mission to prepare a qualified workforce to meet the current and emerging needs of business and industry through data-driven decision-making. In an effort to create meaningful transformation in the people, businesses, and communities served by fostering collaborative partnerships and empowering a compassionate, respectful, and knowledgeable team dedicated to continuous improvement. Ongoing efforts include expanded branding and outreach, innovation and AI initiatives, apprenticeships, regional collaboration, and employer partnerships. From July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, MWSW hosted 113 events with 1,565 attendees, conducted 246 workshops with 845 attendees, held 404 outreach events, and engaged in 6,293 students through five career exploration events. MWSW also reported \$166,974,122.63 in wages and 227,260 service center visitors. Employer-led collaboratives included healthcare, human resources, advanced IT solutions, and manufacturing, demonstrating continued efforts to strengthen partnerships and shape Southwest Michigan's workforce future.

Glen Oaks Community College (GOCC)

Dr. Bryan Newton and Dr. Adam Cloutier presented on behalf of GOCC, focusing on Workforce Development as one of the six pillars of its 2025-2028 Strategic Plan. GOCC is working to expand short-term and employer-focused training while strengthening connections between students, employers, education, and the needs of the regional economy. Glen Oaks emphasized that every student should have a clear path toward either a career or transfer to a four-year institution, with career planning beginning in their college experience. New opportunities include a CDL program to help meet the region's need for commercial drivers and a Radiologic Technology program developed in response to employer demand from Beacon Health, with the first cohort expected to begin in Winter 2027. The college is also expanding customized training, including leadership development, upskilling, and other short-term programs designed around employer needs. A strong interest was expressed in working with Michigan Works! Southwest, employers, K-12 schools, and economic development partners to identify workforce needs early, connect people with training and resources, and develop solutions that strengthen the region's talent pipeline.

OLD BUSINESS

None

PUBLIC TIME

None

MEMBERS' TIME

None

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Full Workforce Development Board – Thursday, November 19, 2026 (9:00-10:30 a.m.)
At a location in Calhoun County
- Executive Committee – Thursday, October 15, 2026 (9:00-10:30 a.m.)
At the Michigan Works! Service Center, 1601 S. Burdick St., Kalamazoo, MI 49001

Note: After this meeting concluded, the Executive Committee Meeting was moved to The Upjohn Institute, 300 S. Westnedge Avenue, Kalamazoo, MI 49007

- Career and Educational Advisory Council (CEAC) – Monday, December 7, 2026 (1:00-3:00 p.m.)
At the Upjohn Institute, 300 S. Westnedge Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49007
- Disability Awareness Resource Team (DART) – Tuesday, October 20, 2026 (2:00-4:00 p.m.)
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 10:27 a.m. by Brian O'Donnell.

After the meeting was adjourned, attendees stayed for a discussion at the request of Director Corbin about several challenges that may affect workforce development efforts across the region. These included changes to work requirements and unemployment insurance policies, including Medicaid, SNAP, and UI work-search requirements, as well as fluctuations in federal funding and continued regulatory uncertainty. Additionally, the discussion included the impact of an aging workforce and declining labor force participation, emphasizing the importance of attracting and retaining workers while connecting individuals with meaningful employment.

Finally, a discussion highlighted several opportunities to strengthen partnerships and improve workforce outcomes. Key areas included expanding Registered Apprenticeships and exploring ways to provide college credit for apprenticeship experiences and preparing for changes to UI registration. The continued growth of skills-based hiring and the need for employers and workforce partners to understand how AI is changing the workplace. Discussion also included the importance of workforce development and education partners working together toward the State of Michigan 60 by 30 goal and addressing literacy needs as part of broader efforts to build a stronger and more prepared workforce.

Debbie Horn

Date

Brian O'Donnell

Date

APPROVED

These minutes were approved on _____



WAGNER-PEYSER EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

JULY 1 – JULY 30

SERVICE PROVIDER

Upjohn Institute / Michigan Works! Southwest administers the **Wagner-Peyser Employment Services** workforce development program in Branch, Calhoun, Kalamazoo, and St. Joseph Counties.

FUNDING SOURCE

Employment Services – Wagner-Peyser Act

PROGRAM FOCUS

Wagner-Peyser Employment Services assists job seekers in securing employment and employers in finding qualified workers.

TARGETED POPULATION TO BE SERVED

General Public – Job Seekers and Employers

ELIGIBILITY

Employment Services are provided to all individuals who request assistance. There are no preconditions or eligibility requirements for accessing standard employment services.

MEASURES OF SUCCESS PY26 (JULY 1, 2026 – JUNE 30, 2027)

Employment Rate 2 nd Quarter After Exit	70%
Employment Rate 4 th Quarter After Exit	67%
Median Earnings 2 nd Quarter After Exit	\$8,679
Effectiveness for serving employers *	Baseline

* Definition: Percentage of participants in unsubsidized employment during the second quarter after exit who were employed by the same employer in the second and fourth quarters after exit.



WAGNER-PEYSER EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

JULY 1 – JULY 30

RESOURCES

[Official ES Manual](#)

Updated January 22, 2026

[Unemployment Insurance Agency](#)

MI Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity

[Fidelity Bonding Program Overview](#)

MI Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity

MI Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity – Workforce Development (LEO-WD) Policy [26-14](#)

[91 FR 54024](#) WP ES Staffing
Released August 20, 2026

USDOL [TEGL 10-25](#)

Issued April 28, 2026

SERVICES

Employment Services focuses on a variety of employment-related labor exchange solutions including:

- Universal Access
- Job search, referrals and placement assistance
- Assessments
- Reemployment services
- Workshops and training
- Career exploration
- Recruitment services for employers
- Assisting employers with lay-offs

ADDITIONAL PROGRAM SPECIFICS

- **Unemployment Insurance** - Provide access to filing for Unemployment Insurance
- **Fidelity Bonding Program** - Serve as Bonding Coordinator for the Fidelity Bonding Program
- **Services for Unemployment Claimants** – Registration for work, verification of claimant registration, work test and eligibility assessment, work waivers, and training
- **Services for Veterans** – Priority of Service
- **Services to Migrant Seasonal Farmworkers** – Services include, but are not limited to, registration for UI, employment and training referral services, a full range of career and supportive services, etc.



REEMPLOYMENT SERVICES & ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENT

OCTOBER 1 - SEPTEMBER 30

SERVICE PROVIDER

Upjohn Institute / Michigan Works! Southwest is responsible for the administration of the **Reemployment Services & Eligibility Assessment** in Branch, Calhoun, Kalamazoo, and St. Joseph Counties.

PROGRAM FOCUS

Reemployment Services & Eligibility Assessment (RESEA) provides customized services to claimants deemed most likely to exhaust their UI benefits. This proactive approach with early intervention should result in the unemployed returning to work sooner.

TARGETED POPULATION TO BE SERVED

Individuals most likely to exhaust their Unemployment benefits.

FUNDING SOURCE

Unemployment Insurance (UI)

ELIGIBILITY

Individuals are referred from the Unemployment Insurance Agency (UIA) to receive services through the RESEA program.

SERVICES

Michigan Works! Southwest must deliver the RESEA activities listed below during an initial RESEA appointment, either virtual or in-person, depending on customer needs:

- Orientation to MWA Services
- Confirmation of an active profile on Pure Michigan Talent Connect (PMTTC)
- Assessment of UI Eligibility
- Verification of the Monthly Record of Work Search Form
- Development of an Individual Employment Plan (IEP)
- Review specific Labor Market Information
- Referral to appropriate Reemployment Services



REEMPLOYMENT SERVICES & ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENT

OCTOBER 1 - SEPTEMBER 30

RESOURCES

[RESEA Manual](#)

August 21, 2024

MI Department of Labor and
Economic Opportunity
RESEA Program

[Policy Issuance 25-16c 2](#)

[USDOL TEGL No. 01-26](#)

USDOL Training &
Employment Guidance
Letter

[MiTalent.org](#)

Mandated subsequent RESEA appointments will be scheduled for half of the individuals who attend an initial RESEA appointment and are still receiving unemployment benefits five (5) weeks after their initial RESEA appointment.

Participants have the opportunity to voluntarily return for a subsequent RESEA appointment if they remain unemployed five (5) weeks after their initial appointment and have not been selected for a mandatory subsequent RESEA. This voluntary appointment may be scheduled within 45 business days of the initial completed RESEA.

During the second RESEA appointment, the following activities must occur:

- UI Eligibility Assessment
- Verification of the Monthly Work Search
- Review of the IEP

ADDITIONAL PROGRAM SPECIFICS

To qualify for unemployment benefits in Michigan, individuals are required to register for work through their local Michigan Works! Agency and MiTalent.org.



TAA

TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE

OCTOBER 1 – SEPTEMBER 30

SERVICE PROVIDER

Upjohn Institute / Michigan Works! Southwest is responsible for the administration of the **Trade Adjustment Assistance** (TAA) workforce development program in Branch, Calhoun, Kalamazoo and St. Joseph Counties.

Kalamazoo RESA provides services related to TAA merit-based requirements.

FUNDING SOURCE

Trade Adjustment Assistance

PROGRAM FOCUS

The **Trade Adjustment Assistance** (TAA) Program provides services to assist U.S. workers who have lost or may lose their job as a result of foreign trade.

The Trade Act has not been reauthorized for worker groups affected after July 1, 2022.

TARGETED POPULATION TO BE SERVED

Trade Act services are for workers adversely affected by foreign competition in accordance with TAA legislation.

ELIGIBILITY

To qualify for services under any TAA law, adversely affected workers must meet all the following requirements:

- Be a member of a worker group certified by the USDOL/TAA as eligible for services.
- Be separated or partially separated from adversely affected employment within the certification period or have a documented future separation (between the impact date and expiration date).
- Be separated (or, if applicable by appropriate TAA law, have a notice that the adversely affected worker will be separated) due to a “lack of work” that is expected to last seven days, attributable to the employer between the impact date and expiration date.

SERVICES

Individuals may be eligible for the following services:

- **Employment and Case Management Services:** Assessments, career guidance, pre-vocational services, labor market information, supportive services, information on financial



TAA

TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE

OCTOBER 1 – SEPTEMBER 30

RESOURCES

[TAA Program Description and Worker Resources](#)
MI (LEO-WD)

LEO-WD [Policy 25-38](#)
PY2026 TAA Allocations
dated Dec 4, 2025

LEO-WD [TAA Comprehensive Manual](#)
updated May 10, 2019

[Trade Act Programs](#)
USDOL

[USDOL TEGL No. 01-25](#)
USDOL Training &
Employment Guidance Letter

[USDOL TEGL No. 13-21](#)

[20 CFR S618.325](#) released
September 21, 2020

aid, employment planning, and information on training.

- **Training:**
Classroom Training, On-the-Job Training, Customized Training, and Registered Apprenticeships.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAM SPECIFICS

- There are multiple versions of the TAA Program. Individual benefits and services vary depending on the petition number.
- Effective September 21, 2020, Trade Act participants are to be offered co-enrollment in the WIOA Dislocated Worker Program. Doing so will provide participants with the opportunity to utilize additional resources that may be available to them.



GEMS

GAIN EMPLOYMENT MAINTAIN SUPPORT

OCTOBER 1, 2025 – DECEMBER 31, 2026

SERVICE PROVIDER

Services are provided directly by Michigan Works! Southwest for the **Gain Employment Maintain Support (GEMS)** programs in Branch, Calhoun, Kalamazoo, and St. Joseph Counties.

FUNDING SOURCE

FY2026 Federal TANF and State P&I funds

PROGRAM FOCUS

Gain Employment Maintain Support (GEMS) initiative aims to assist parents who are responsible for child support and are facing challenges such as job loss, underemployment, or the need for occupational training. The goal is to help these individuals secure stable and consistent employment.

TARGETED POPULATION TO BE SERVED

Non-custodial parents who live in and have an established court order within the Michigan Works! Southwest service area of Branch, Calhoun, Kalamazoo, and St. Joseph Counties.

ELIGIBILITY

- Non-custodial parents who have a Title IV-D case.
- Live in and have an established order within the four counties in the MW Southwest area (Branch, Calhoun, Kalamazoo, and St. Joseph).
- If the participant has a child support case in multiple counties, only the child support case in the participating county is eligible for the GEMS program.

A Judge/Referee may require a child support payer to participate in the GEMS program as part of a court order, or a child support payer may voluntarily agree to participate in the GEMS program. Eligible participants must be referred by Friend of the Court (FOC)

MEASURE OF SUCCESS

RESOURCES

- GEMS [Program Overview](#), MI Dept. of Health and Human Services
- GEMS Program for [FY2026, Policy Issuance 25-30c2](#), MI Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity, June 25, 2026
- FY2025 PATH Program Plan Instructions, [Policy Issuance 25-34](#), c 1. MI Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity, Aug 20, 2026
- [PATH Program Manual](#) MI Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity, updated April 16, 2025
- [MDHHS IV-D Child Support Manual](#), updated March 25, 2026

A participant is considered for exit/graduation when they have successfully reached 6 months of continuous employment with child support deductions/payments.

SERVICES

The MWA will provide direct client services through a comprehensive approach to serving program participants that may include employment placement and occupational skills training. In addition, the MWA may provide the following services:

- Prepare an Individual Service Strategy for each participant.
- Provide an orientation for each participant, including a review of the GEMS participant agreement
- Provide supportive services and incentives as appropriate.
- Resume writing.
- Job training.
- Mentorship/Training programs.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAM SPECIFICS

- The GEMS Program follows the Partnership. Accountability. Training. Hope. (PATH) program design.
- Once the participant is enrolled in the program, the participant will be monitored by FOC and MW! Staff for adherence to the rules of the GEMS participant agreement

PATH AEP

**PARTNERSHIP.ACCOUNTABILITY. TRAINING.
HOPE AND APPLICATION ELIGIBILITY PERIOD
OCTOBER 1 – SEPTEMBER 30**

SERVICE PROVIDER

Upjohn Institute / Michigan Works! Southwest administers the **PATH (Partnership. Accountability. Training. Hope.)** programs in Branch, Calhoun, Kalamazoo and St. Joseph Counties.

FUNDING SOURCE

- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- State Penalty and Interest (P&I) Funds

PROGRAM FOCUS

PATH is a robust, results-oriented work participation program designed to identify barriers and help participants connect with the resources they need to obtain employment. PATH prepares participants to pursue a job and build the skills needed to keep one.

PATH serves employers and job seekers, in an effort for employers to have skilled workers and job seekers to obtain jobs that provide economic self-sufficiency.

TARGETED POPULATION TO BE SERVED

Individuals receiving FIP (Family Independence Program) benefits, a temporary cash assistance program, from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS).

ELIGIBILITY

MDHHS refers clients to the PATH program once they apply for cash assistance.

MEASURES OF SUCCESS

- Work Participation Rate (WPR) of 50%
- Average Wage at Placement – Locally, the goal is a wage of more than the state minimum wage.

PATH AEP

**PARTNERSHIP.ACCOUNTABILITY. TRAINING.
HOPE AND APPLICATION ELIGIBILITY PERIOD**
OCTOBER 1 – SEPTEMBER 30

RESOURCES

- MI Dept of Labor and Economic Opportunity [PATH Program Overview](#)
- LEO-WD [PATH Program Manual](#) dated April 16, 2025
- LEO-WD [Policy 25-34c1 FY2026 PATH Program Plan Instructions](#) dated Aug 20, 2026
- LEO-WD [Policy 25-32 FY2026 TANF Refugee](#) dated Nov 13, 2025
- LEO-WD [Policy 25-31 FY2025 Refugee Cash Assistance Program](#) dated Nov 13, 2025

SERVICES

The program provides training, job search/job readiness activities, and supportive services to help participants remove barriers to entering or advancing in the workforce.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAM SPECIFICS

Application Eligibility Period (AEP)

Michigan requires FIP applicants to successfully complete a 10-day AEP at an MWA as a condition of eligibility for FIP benefits. Upon successful completion of the 10-day AEP, applicants continue with PATH participation

TANF Refugee Program (TRP)

Refugee participants referred by DHHS are also served through the PATH Program and are subject to PATH guidance.

Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA)

RCA is available to eligible single or married refugees without dependents who are not pregnant, for up to 12 months following their arrival in the United States. RCA recipients participate in employment preparation and self-sufficiency activities designed to help them obtain employment and work toward achieving economic independence. RCA recipients are referred directly from MDHHS.


FAE&T

FOOD ASSISTANCE EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING

OCTOBER 1 – SEPTEMBER 30

SERVICE PROVIDER

Upjohn Institute / Michigan Works! Southwest administers the Food Assistance, Employment, and Training programs in Branch, Calhoun, Kalamazoo, and St. Joseph Counties.

FUNDING SOURCE

- US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- General Fund/General Purpose (GF/GP)

PROGRAM FOCUS

The **Food Assistance Employment and Training (FAE&T)** program is designed to provide opportunities for individuals receiving food assistance to gain skills, training, or experience, improving their ability to obtain employment and increase self-sufficiency.

TARGETED POPULATION TO BE SERVED

Able-bodied adults without dependents who are receiving food assistance.

ELIGIBILITY

The FAE&T Program is open to adults aged 18 through 64 years old who receive FAP benefits and are not currently receiving cash benefits from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS). MDHHS determines eligibility and refers individuals to the Michigan Works! Agencies.

MEASURE OF SUCCESS

Outcome data for the reporting measures will be tracked in the OSMIS and provided to the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) annually. The measures include employment during the second and fourth quarters after completion of FAE&T; median quarterly earnings during the second quarter after completion; the number and percentage of participants who completed training, education, work experience, or an on-the-job training component; and various state-determined activity measures.

RESOURCES

- MI Dept. of Labor and Economic Opportunity (LEO) [FAE&T Program Overview](#)
- LEO-WD [FAE&T and FAE&T Plus Program Manual](#), March 13, 2026
- LEO-WD [Policy 26-28 FY27 FAE&T Program Plan Instructions](#) dated Sept 29, 2026
- USDA [SNAP Employment and Training Program Description](#)

SERVICES

The program provides training, job search/job readiness activities, and supportive services to help participants remove barriers to entering or advancing in the workforce.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAM SPECIFICS

- FAE&T may be available to FAP recipients over the age of 64 on a case-by-case basis.
- The FAE&T Program is also open to adult members of the FAP household who have minor children.
- Prior to December 1, 2025, there were no specific work requirements to receive FAP benefits due to a waiver that was revoked. Under the waiver, during FY25 (October 1, 2024-September 30, 2025), FAE&T served 33 unduplicated participants across all four counties, with 28 of them being served between December 1, 2024, and September 30, 2025. Since the waiver has been revoked, MWSW staff have served 384 unduplicated participants between December 1, 2025, and September 30, 2026.

FY2027 Food Assistance Employment and Training Program

PI: 26-28

Background

For fiscal year 2027, October 1, 2026 – September 30, 2027, \$110,236 has been allocated to Michigan Works! Southwest, by the Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity (LEO), for the Food Assistance Employment and Training (FAE&T) program. This is a decrease from the \$115,903 allocation in FY2026. Allocations are based on the number of Food Assistance Program (FAP) cases by county. Michigan Works! Southwest will receive separate allocations for program delivery and supportive services.

Eligibility

The FAE&T Program is designed to establish a connection to the labor market for able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs), receiving Food Assistance, between the ages of 18 and 64, without minor dependents under the age of 14 on their Food Assistance Program (FAP) case. The FAE&T Program is also available to adult members of a FAP household with minor children under the age of 14, however, these individuals will not have to meet a work requirement.

Activities

The FAE&T funds may only be used to provide employment and training activities and supportive services to individuals referred to Michigan Works! by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS). Time Limited Food Assistance (TLFA) individuals must meet specific work requirements to receive Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits. Failure to do so limits the individual's FAP eligibility to three months within a 36-month period.

In addition to program delivery costs, program operations funds may be used for actual educational costs if no other source of financial assistance is available to the participant. Supportive service funds may be used for expenses incurred to assist participants in overcoming barriers that prevent them from engaging in employment and training activities. Job retention supportive services are also available and designed to assist participants in maintaining employment.

Funding

FY2027 Program Allocation	\$110,236
Program	\$99,213
Administration	\$11,023
 FY2027 Supportive Service Allocation	 \$14,838
Supportive Services	\$14,838

FY2027 Food Assistance Employment and Training (FAE&T) Plus Expansion

PI: 26-30

Background

For Fiscal Year 2027, October 1, 2026 – September 30, 2027, \$75,000 is available to Michigan Works! Southwest to expand operation as a Plus Intermediary for planning and implementation of the FAE&T Plus program and receive a fifty percent reimbursement. The FAE&T Plus program connects with third-party partners, known as Plus providers, that focus on employer demand while offering skills training and credentials required to obtain self-sustaining employment. The FAE&T and FAE&T Plus programs follow the same basic guidelines.

The FAE&T Plus Expansion helps Michigan Works! Southwest to support administrative functions necessary to expand the FAE&T Plus program and deliver intermediary services providing training and support for their Plus providers.

Activities

Michigan Works! agencies (MWAs) play a vital role in the FAE&T Plus program as Intermediaries. As an Intermediary, MWAs provide support to the MDHHS and LEO-WD by centralizing and performing the administrative functions to subcontract with a variety of Plus providers in the service delivery area.

The role of an intermediary requires a strong knowledge of FAE&T policy and how E&T funding works. It is also necessary to be able to effectively work with partners in the local workforce development system.

Intermediary functions include the following:

- Identify suitable partners to become Plus providers.
- Subcontract with Plus providers.
- Onboard and train Plus providers.
- Facilitate reverse referrals.
- Review monthly invoices and process reimbursement payments.
- Monitor for programmatic and fiscal compliance.

Funding

Total Allocation	\$75,000
Program	\$75,000

FY2027 Food Assistance Employment and Training (FAE&T) Plus Program

PI: 26-29

Background

For fiscal year 2027, October 1, 2026 – September 30, 2027, \$64,412 is available for reimbursement to Michigan Works! Southwest to operate as a Plus Intermediary for the planning and implementation of a Food Assistance Employment and Training (FAE&T) Plus program.

The program leverages non-federal funding provided by third-party organizations (Plus providers) to access a 50% federal reimbursement, expanding employment and training opportunities.

Eligibility

The FAE&T Plus program is a voluntary workforce development initiative designed to help Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients gain the skills, training, and credentials necessary to obtain self-sustaining employment. Participants must not be receiving cash benefits from the MDHHS, and they must be able to work upon program completion.

Activities

Funding may reimburse approved employment and training activities, including education and skills training, case management, and job retention services.

Supportive services must be reasonable, necessary, and directly related to participation in approved activities. Examples include transportation, work clothing and equipment, training materials, technology, licensing fees, limited housing assistance, and other employment-related needs. Job retention supportive services are allowable only for participants enrolled in an approved Job Retention Services activity.

Funding

Total Allocation	\$64,412
Administration	\$ 5,691
Program	\$51,221
Supportive Service	\$ 7,500

Workforce Development Board 2027 Meeting Schedule

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 3 rd Thursday	FULL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD 3 rd Thursday
Thursday, January 21, 2027, from 9:00-10:30 am At the Michigan Works! Service Center 200 W. Van Buren St., Battle Creek, MI 49017	
	Thursday, February 18, 2027, from 9:00-10:30 am At a location in Kalamazoo County
Thursday, April 15, 2027, from 9:00-10:30 am At the Michigan Works! Service Center 1601 S. Burdick St., Kalamazoo, MI 49001	
	Thursday, May 20, 2027, from 9:00-10:30 am At a location in Branch County
Thursday, August 19, 2027, from 9:00-10:30 am At the Michigan Works! Service Center 200 W. Van Buren St., Battle Creek, MI 49017	
	Thursday, September 16, 2027, from 9:00-10:30 am At a location in St. Joseph County
Thursday, October 21, 2027, from 9:00-10:30 am At the Michigan Works! Service Center 1601 S. Burdick St., Kalamazoo, MI 49001	
	Thursday, November 18, 2027, from 9:00-10:30 am At a location in Calhoun County

The 2027 WDB Meeting Calendar will be posted at:

<https://www.michiganworkssouthwest.org/workforce-development-board>

10-6-2026 – Draft

Career & Educational Advisory Council (CEAC)

2027 Meeting Schedule

DAY	DATE	TIME	PLACE
Monday	March 15, 2027	1:00-3:00 p.m.	Upjohn Institute 300 S. Westnedge Ave. Kalamazoo, MI 49007
Monday	May 17, 2027	1:00-3:00 p.m.	Upjohn Institute 300 S. Westnedge Ave. Kalamazoo, MI 49007
Monday	September 13, 2027	1:00-3:00 p.m.	Upjohn Institute 300 S. Westnedge Ave. Kalamazoo, MI 49007
Monday	December 6, 2027	1:00-3:00 p.m.	Upjohn Institute 300 S. Westnedge Ave. Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Additional meetings may need to be added if initiatives are presented that require the attention of the CEAC.

A virtual link will also be provided for each of the meetings.

CEAC Agendas, Minutes, and Schedules will be posted on the Michigan Works! Southwest website at: <https://www.michiganworkssouthwest.org/workforce-development-board>. Select the heading: Career Educational Advisory Council.

Business Solutions Summary Dashboard

October 2026



Business Solutions Services

Served 07/01/2026-9/30/2026

191 Employers Served

789 Services Provided

State Apprenticeship Expansion 2026 (SAE 2026)

3/1/26-12/31/26 (Data pulled 10/4/26)

Target Industry:

Advanced Manufacturing

Employers Served: 8

Apprentices Trained: 21

Going PRO Talent Fund FY2026 Cycle 1

12	\$706,955.54	297	105	32
companies awarded	awarded to companies	individuals to be trained	planned apprentices	anticipated new hires

Going PRO Talent Fund FY2026 Cycle 2

9	\$446,235.25	209	66	35
companies awarded	awarded to companies	individuals to be trained	planned apprentices	anticipated new hires

Going PRO Talent Fund FY2026 ELC

4	\$66,735.00	49	0	0
companies awarded	awarded to companies	individuals to be trained	planned apprentices	anticipated new hires

Service Summary Dashboard

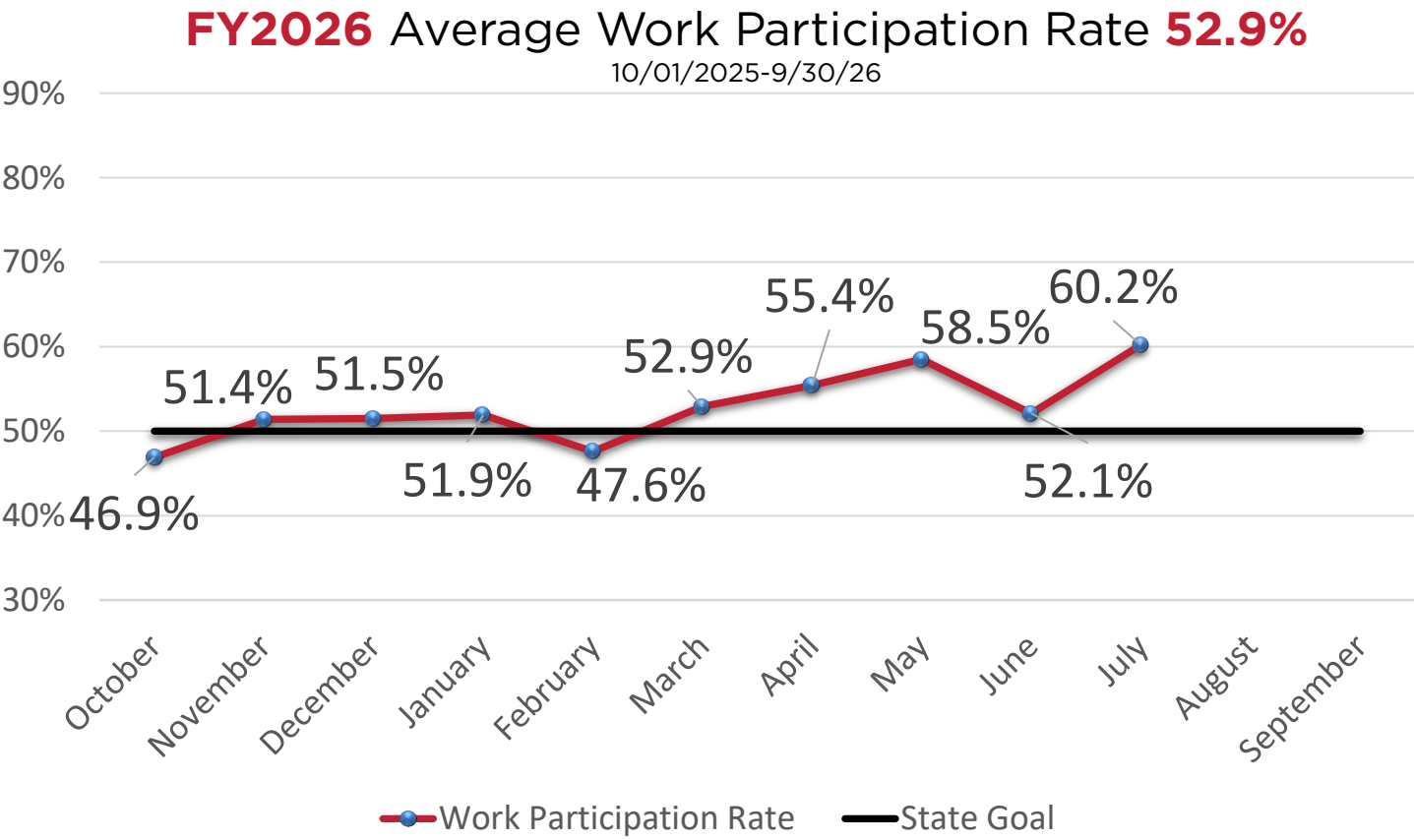
October 2026



Partnership. Accountability. Training. Hope.

Served 10/01/2025-9/30/2026

1,005 Participants
44.7% Employment Rate
\$15.51 Average Wage



Gain Employment. Maintain Support.

Served 10/01/2025-9/30/2026

183 Participants
51.4% Employment Rate
\$16.28 Average Wage

Food Assistance, Employment & Training

Served 10/01/2025-9/30/2026

437 Participants
15.3% Employment Rate
\$16.96 Average Wage

WIOA & Wagner-Peyser Performance Dashboard

October 2026



PY2026 (7/01/2026-6/30/2027); Data pulled 10/03/2026

	WIOA ADULT		WIOA DISLOCATED WORKER		WIOA YOUTH		WAGNER-PEYSER	
	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual
Employment 2nd Quarter After Exit	88.6%	84.8%	91.4%	80.0%	72.0%	49.0%	70.0%	65.3%
Employment 4th Quarter After Exit	84.0%	84.2%	88.1%	96.9%	72.0%	72.3%	67.0%	62.3%
Median Earnings 2nd Quarter After Exit	\$9,136	\$8,104	\$10,746	\$10,301	\$4,950	\$2,969	\$8,679	\$9,108
Credential Attainment Rate	84.4%	68.3%	83.0%	87.5%	60.0%	39.1%	N/A	N/A
Measurable Skill Gains	71.5%	37.9%	75.9%	18.8%	52.2%	2.6%	N/A	N/A