



2024 State Legislative Priorities



Going PRO Talent Fund

Action

The Michigan Works! Association advocates for a \$20 million increase in ongoing funding beginning in FY25 to meet the growing demand for this program.

Overview

The Going PRO Talent Fund provides grants to employers to assist with training, developing and retaining current and newly hired employees. Since 2014, more than 6,000 businesses have received grants to help train more than 175,000 workers, resulting in an average 18 percent increase in post-training wages. Each year, demand for the program outpaces available funding. During both funding cycles in FY23, more than \$108 million in training grants were requested by businesses across the state, nearly double the amount of available funding. The lack of available funds results in a loss of potential training, hiring, and increased earning opportunities for Michigan workers.



MI Skills Fund

Action

The Michigan Works! Association advocates for \$10 million for the MI Skills Fund to support short-term training opportunities and credentials for high-demand occupations.

Overview

The MI Skills Fund helps fund the cost of training for individuals pursuing industry-recognized credentials, certificates, and skills in high-demand fields. The inclusion of this program will allow businesses, education providers, and Michigan Works! agencies to partner in order to provide short-term training and upskilling opportunities to Michigan residents, while focusing on immediate labor-market needs not currently addressed by existing programs. In accessing this funding through local Michigan Works! agencies, individuals may also receive additional support for barrier removal services, career coaching, and job matching with employers.



Youth Career Exploration

Action

The Michigan Works! Association advocates for \$10 million in funding to enhance and expand youth career exploration and awareness activities across the state.

Overview

This funding will enable the implementation of proven, high-impact programs such as MiCareerQuest, Manufacturing Day, localized Talent Tours, internship programs, and mentorship opportunities, directly reaching thousands of students and providing them with invaluable hands-on experience and interactions with potential future employers. By ensuring equitable access to these opportunities, regardless of geographic or economic barriers, we are actively fostering a well-prepared, diverse, and resilient workforce that is essential for Michigan's long-term economic prosperity and competitiveness. This investment represents a commitment to the state's youth, ensuring they are equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary to thrive in the evolving job market and contribute meaningfully to Michigan's vibrant economic future.



Employer-Led Collaboratives

Action

The Michigan Works! Association supports LEO's funding request to convene employer-led collaboratives and develop customized solutions to fill identified talent gaps in key industries and business sectors.

Overview

Employer-led collaboratives stand as pivotal platforms, uniting businesses, educational entities, workforce development groups, and key stakeholders in a concerted effort to directly tackle nuanced workforce challenges and skill shortages. These collaboratives empower industries to actively shape and inform training programs, ensuring alignment with real-world job requirements and facilitating smoother transitions from education to employment. By investing in and fostering these strategic partnerships, lawmakers can help secure a robust talent pipeline, tailored to meet the dynamic needs of Michigan's diverse economy, while simultaneously enhancing the state's competitive edge and driving economic growth. This proactive approach ensures that Michigan's workforce is not just ready for today's challenges, but is also being prepared to excel in the jobs and industries of tomorrow.



Barrier Removal Employment Success

Action

The Michigan Works! Association advocates for sustainable, long-term funding to maintain the Barrier Removal Employment Success (BRES) program to remove systemic barriers to employment, while promoting workforce equity.

Overview

The Michigan Works! system has administered the BRES program to provide real-time wraparound services to job seekers who may face complex barriers to sustainable employment. Through this flexible program, Michigan Works! agencies have provided connections to reliable transportation, housing, child care, food access, and books and training materials for a wide range of eligible individuals, including Michigan Reconnect students, immigrants and refugees, low-income earners, and justice-involved residents. Maintaining the existing BRES policy will ensure barrier removal resources are available for job seekers who require customized assistance.