

Young Adult Services

Register your business to help train the next generation!

Make a connection with your future workforce!

Nearly 45 percent of Michigan high school students are economically disadvantaged and could greatly benefit from preparation for and entry into the workforce. Providing real-world work experience to young adults reduces the impact of high-risk factors, such as poverty, while also providing an opportunity to earn valuable wages for themselves and their families.

For these reasons and more, Michigan Works! West Central and the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity are expanding the Young Professionals Program to a year-round effort.

The purpose of the program is to engage young adults, increase career awareness, develop meaningful opportunities to connect to the workforce and reduce youth unemployment.

To achieve these goals, Michigan Works! West Central is seeking partnering employers to help introduce under-represented young adults (ages 16-24) to the working world, while providing participants and their families with income.

Our combined efforts will place young adults on the right path to gain the skills necessary to achieve lifelong economic self-sufficiency.

WHAT CAN YOU DO

Employers are encouraged to take part in the program to engage with the next generation of local workforce. Making a connection with the young adults in the program will not only expose them to your company's business and mission, it also has the potential to generate brand loyalty toward your organization and industry sector.

These young adults will recognize the investment you placed in them, and in

doing so will think kindly of your organization. They will share their positive experiences with their family and friends, and in doing so create a strong, invaluable word-of-mouth reputation for your business within the community. This positive reputation and brand recognition has the potential to produce more dividends than any paid marketing campaign ever could.

Furthermore, it makes your company part of a thriving community where people want to live and work, as well as makes your business a desired place to work.

There are several ways your company can help the under-represented young adults registered in the program, including the following*:

- Employment opportunities
- Internships opportunities
- Job shadow opportunities
- On-the-Job Training opportunities
- Pre-apprenticeship programs
- Transitional jobs

FINANCIAL BENEFITS

In addition to the invaluable goodwill generated through first-hand experiences at your business, there is minimal financial risk to your company.

Young adults enrolled in our various programs will be paid (in most scenarios) by Michigan Works! West Central.

CONTACT US FOR MORE INFO

For more information about how your business can participate in any of our Young Adult services, please reach out to Michigan Works! West Central.

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SERVICES THAT WORK!



Tiana was struggling to make ends meet working in local restaurants. She was determined waitressing was not her goal in life – she wanted more. After losing her job in November 2019, she sought help and was determined to take control of her career.

She had interest in the medical field as a CNA, and reached out to Michigan Works! West Central to see how we could help. We were able to enroll her in the WIOA Out-of-School Youth program.

After completing the necessary paperwork, Tiana was enrolled in a 2-week class through Agape Health Care Schools at Spectrum Health Reed City Hospital. She completed class by late January 2020, and was applying to take her Prometric Test for her state license shortly thereafter.

Having successfully graduated the training, Tiana obtained employment at Ross Parkway, an assisted living facility in nearby Big Rapids.

After obtaining her CNA license, Tiana was again determined to be more successful and to gain employment at Grand Oaks in Baldwin and avoid having to travel so far for work. She also knew her wage and hours would increase.

In April 2020, Tiana was able to obtain employment at Grand Oaks Nursing Center, working an average of 32 hours per week, earning \$16.45 per hour.

Tiana has expressed her appreciation and has been very grateful for all the help Michigan Works! West Central was able to provide.

* Eligibility requirements may apply. Must be between ages 16-24, and have qualifying barrier. Some services have virtual options that may apply.