National Dislocated Worker Grant

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY | WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

The Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity's Office of Employment and Training (LEO-E&T) received a United States Department of Labor National Health Emergency (NHE) Dislocated Worker Grant (DWG) in the amount of $3,075,661 to provide services to communities in the 24-county region of Northern Lower Michigan that have been significantly affected by the health and economic effects of widespread opioid use, addiction, and overdose. During the grant period (January 1, 2021 - December 31, 2023), federal funds will increase workforce participation opportunities for job seekers negatively impacted by the opioid crisis by providing career and supportive services in addition to employment and training services.

How will funds be used to address impacts of the opioid crisis?

Michigan Works! Northeast Consortium, Michigan Works! Region 7B, Northwest Michigan Works!, local community colleges, healthcare organizations, non-profit organizations, municipalities, and workforce professionals, have partnered to form the Northern Michigan Opioid Workforce Alliance (NMOWA). Employment and training services as well as personal and family supportive services for critical needs will be provided to an additional 150 eligible participants to aid in preparation to enter the local workforce. Local employers identify the need to sustain a consistent and stable labor force across the region. Regional in-demand industries include:

- Healthcare
- Construction
- Trade, Transportation, and Utilities
- Manufacturing

What role will the Life Coaches play?

The DWG offers a unique opportunity to create Life Coach positions. The Life Coaches will serve other unemployed individuals impacted by opioid use. The three Michigan Works! Agencies (MWAs) will create 20 Life Coach positions to address local workforce impacts of the opioid crisis. The Life Coach positions will receive training in conducting and evaluating assessments, case management, and community engagement from an accredited coach training program and obtain an industry-recognized credential upon completion.

NMOWA focuses on local rural communities with the highest rates of unemployment and lowest workforce participation rates. Life Coaches will provide eligible job seekers with assistance in assessing and overcoming barriers, identifying resources, and providing guidance and support. Participants will receive competency-based assessments, individual employment plans, and customized training that include skills assessments, remote learning opportunities, and industry-recognized credential attainment.

Dislocated Worker Grant: Training and Workforce Participation Success

- Establishment and utilization of Life Coach positions to ensure participants' continuous engagement and progress.
- Participation of long-term unemployed populations and distressed rural regions of northern lower Michigan negatively impacted by opioid use.
- Career and supportive services designed to mitigate barriers.
- Training opportunities that result in industry-recognized credentials and accelerated career pathways.
- Classroom-based and work-based opportunities including On-The-Job training.
- Opportunities for regional employers to collaborate in industry-sector training initiatives.
- Credential transparency to job seekers, education and training providers, and employers.

Where can you learn more about the program?

To learn more about the National Dislocated Worker Grant, please visit ***Michigan.gov/Workforce***.

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