

Region 4 Adult Education and West Michigan Works!

Creating Connections and
Removing Barriers



A proud partner of the American Job Center network

Who's
Here?



Session Outcomes:

- ✓ Identify strategies to remove barriers to collaborations
- ✓ Identify Adult Education and MI Works! collaborations
- ✓ Provide resources for next steps
- ✓ Network with others

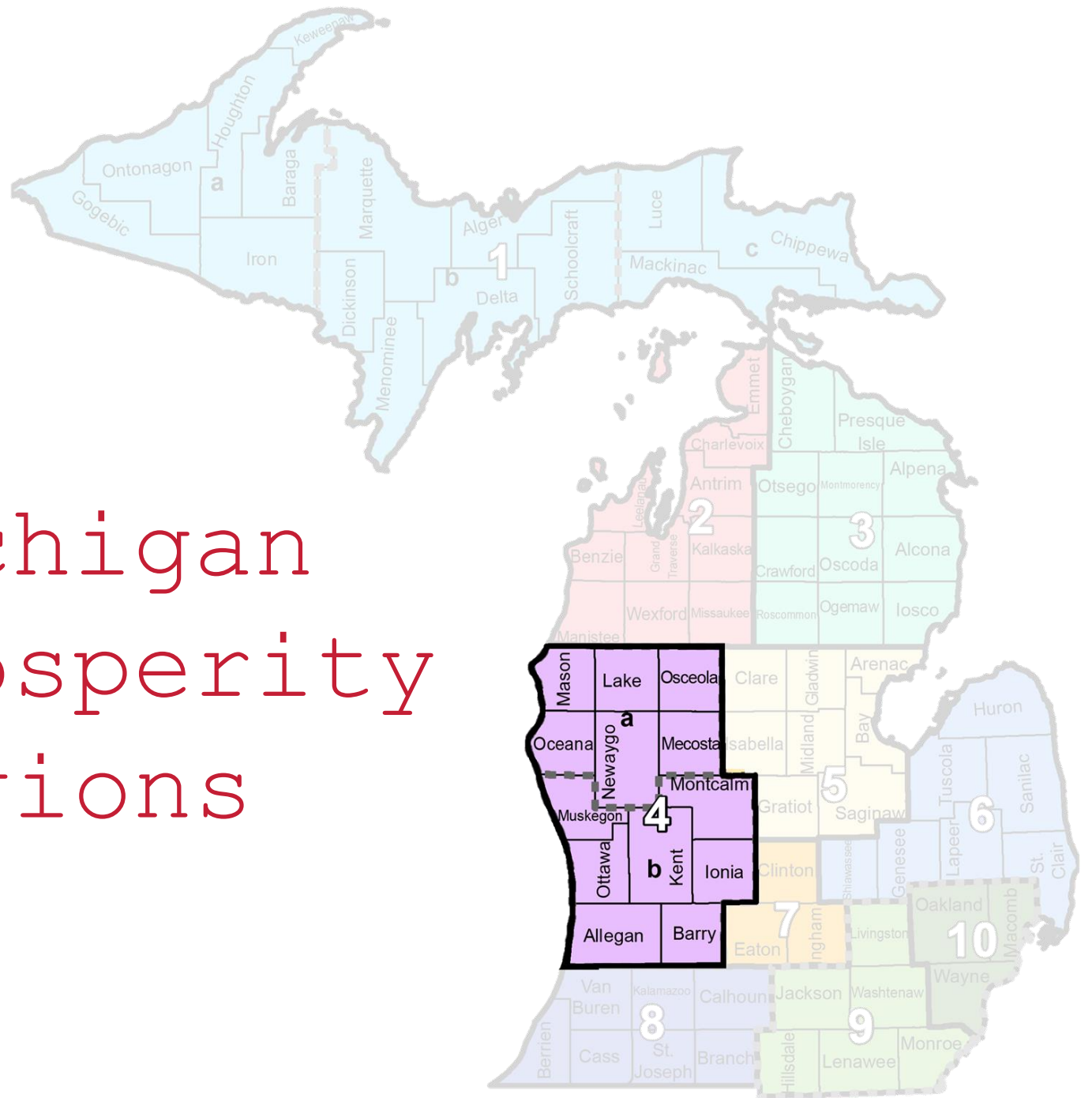
Why Partner?

Michigan depends on its skilled workers.

Employers prefer to hire skilled workers with a credential such as a HS diploma, postsecondary degree, certificate or license.

Adults need basic education skills necessary for college and/or career readiness to gain secure, family-supporting employment and/or improve their quality of life

Michigan Prosperity Regions



Region 4 Adult Education/ Michigan Works!

Region 4(a) – MI Works! West Central

- 6 Counties – **Lake, Mason, Mecosta, Newaygo, Oceana, Osceola**
- 5 Adult Education Programs
- 6 MI Works! Service Centers

Region 4(b) – West MI Works!

- 7 Counties – **Allegan, Barry, Ionia, Kent, Ottawa, Montcalm, Muskegon**
- 14 Adult Education Programs
- 10 MI Works! Service Centers

The People We Serve

Michigan Unemployment Rate: **3.8**

Statewide Unemployment-no HSD: **9.3**

West Michigan Works! customers without a diploma: **13%**

2015-16 Michigan League for Public Policy Data:

Michigan Residents without a HS diploma or GED
(25-44): **210,368**

Adults age 18 – 64 Who Speak English "less than
Very Well": **234,253**

Approximately **60%** of community college students per year
need to take remedial education

Educational Attainment 25 years and older

	Total	Male	Female
Less than 8 th Grade	3.2%	3.3%	3.1%
9 th to 12 th Grade, No Diploma	7.2%	7.8%	6.7%
High School Graduate (includes GED)	29.9%	30.4%	29.4%
Some college, no degree	23.8%	23.7%	23.9%
Associate's Degree	8.9%	7.7%	10.1%
Bachelor's Degree	16.5%	16.4%	16.6%
Graduate or Professional Degree	10.5%	10.6%	10.3%

Median Earnings by Educational Level

Less than High School Graduate	\$18,714	\$22,227	\$13,971
High School Graduate	\$26,347	\$32,067	\$20,588
Some College or Associate's Degree	\$31,460	\$40,754	\$25,426
Bachelor's Degree	\$48,622	\$61,377	\$39,162
Graduate or Professional Degree	\$66,721	\$81,446	\$56,663

Adult Education Student Characteristics

- More self-directed, rather than relying on others for help
- Mature and therefore experienced, providing a rich source for learning
- An Adult's readiness to learn is linked to what one needs to know
- Adult orientation to learn is problem centered rather than subject centered
- Adult motivation to learn is internal.[9]
- Adults want information that will help them improve their situation or that of their children.[18]

Student/Job Seeker Barriers

- lack of time balancing career and family demands
- finances
- child care
- transportation
- confidence (fear, shyness, ego, and stigma) or interest
- program accessibility
- lack of information about opportunities to learn, scheduling problems, entrance requirements



System
Barriers

Partner Solutions

Partnering can strengthen your program support system and assist in removing some of the barriers preventing adults from participating in career and training opportunities.



Community-Wide Partnerships

Create partnerships between MI Works!, local adult education providers, career technical centers, community colleges to remove barriers

Examples:

- ALPWM – Adult Learning Partners of West Michigan (ALPWM)
“Adult Learning Partners Directory”
- Networking Session with MI Works! and Adult Education Providers
- TDCC – Adult Education Representation
- Program Partnerships: ‘Linked’ Muskegon, Allegan

Community-Wide Partnerships

Intensive services to address specific needs

- PATH – Partnership, Accountability, Training, Hope Project
- Out of School Youth – One Stop Shop

Expanding Adult Education Services

Co-Located in Michigan

Works! Service Centers

Muskegon (Muskegon Adult Education)

Ionia (Belding Adult Education)

Hastings (Plainwell Adult Education)

Greenville (Plainwell and Central Montcalm)

Reed City (Fremont)

Baldwin (Mason-Lake)

Big Rapids (Fremont)

Shelby (Whitelake)

MI Works! Outreach Services

- Youth career coaches
- Job searching workshops at adult education center
- Speakers for Workshops
- Assist with job fairs
- Hot Jobs
- Workplace Excellence Curriculum



System Strategies- Audience participation

Resources

ALPWM Snapshot
Hot Jobs Flyer

www.Michigan.gov/wda education and training

www.maisd.org – Linked Muskegon

www.westmiworks.org

www.michworkswc.org

www.MLPP.org

Brittany Lenertz, West MI
Works! Regional Service Center
Director
(231) 724-6813
blenertz@westmiworks.org

Pat Walstra, Kent ISD
Region 4 Adult Education
Consultant
(231) 740-1893
patriciawalstra@kentisd.org