

MI Skills Fund

**High-demand jobs deserve
high-impact solutions**

The MI Skills Fund helps fund the cost of training for individuals pursuing industry-recognized credentials, certificates, and skills in high-demand fields.

Strong funding for this program will allow businesses, education providers, and Michigan Works! agencies to partner to provide short-term training and upskilling opportunities to Michigan residents, while focusing on immediate labor-market needs not currently addressed by existing programs.

Accessing this funding through local Michigan Works! agencies may also allow individuals to receive additional support for barrier removal services, career coaching, and job matching with employers.

These changes will generate incredible economic benefits to households, job providers, and families across Michigan. They are a powerful driver of change.

Powerful economic benefits

For households:

- Immediate job placement
- Higher earning potential
- Greater economic mobility
- Reduced reliance on social services

For employers:

- Reduced # of job vacancies
- Enhanced productivity
- Increased earnings

For the state:

- Reduced unemployment
- Management of short-term talent gaps
- Powerful momentum for the future

A focused investment.



A lifetime of opportunity.

Let's boost the Going PRO Talent Fund



Michigan's economic growth is closely tied to the quality of its skilled workforce. The Going PRO Talent Fund must grow to enhance employee training and retention. Why? Because our workforce is the cornerstone of the state's future prosperity.

Going PRO results to date:

6000+ MI businesses have benefited

175K+ MI workers have been trained

18% Average boost in post-training wages

The Issue

Demand for the Going PRO Talent Fund has consistently outstripped available funding, threatening our state's potential for broader economic benefits. Despite its success, the program's funding has not kept pace with its growing demand.

The Call to Action

It's time for our state's policy leaders to push much-needed funding into one of Michigan's most effective programs. Let's use this opportunity to add new funding to the Going PRO Talent Fund.

Investing in our workforce is investing in our future, and the time to act is now.

Return on Investment

- ✓ Higher wages
- ✓ Higher employment
- ✓ Increased productivity
- ✓ Business attraction
- ✓ Economic resilience
- ✓ Greater prosperity

Call us for
more info



(517) 371-1100

The Outcomes



Greater program access

More businesses would be able to connect and train successfully



Support training & development

A larger segment of the workforce would be able to achieve results



Employee satisfaction & retention

Higher wages and improved skills drive employee well-being and growth



Business competitiveness

Small- and medium-sized businesses can thrive and expand



Respond to economic changes

As the global economy evolves, MI workers will be ready



Upskilling and reskilling

Technological advancements are never a problem, no matter what the future brings



H.R. 5861, BRIDGE for Workers Act

Strengthens Reemployment Services for Unemployed Workers

- Introduced jointly by Rep. Darin LaHood (R-IL) and Rep. Danny Davis (D-IL), this bill makes a technical correction to the Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessments (RESEA) program to help more unemployed workers get back into the workforce more quickly.
- The *BRIDGE for Workers Act* clarifies that reemployment services can be provided to all unemployment insurance (UI) claimants, not just those most likely to exhaust their benefits. RESEAs are in-person interviews during which UI claimants may receive a variety of services including:
 - Personal engagement to examine their state's in-demand jobs and receive career information that addresses specific claimant needs;
 - Enrollment in employment services, such as job search assistance, employability assessments, or job matching services;
 - Development of an individual reemployment plan; and
 - Access to at least one additional career service (financial literacy services, information about supportive services, assistance with resume writing or interviewing, etc.).

Improves Program Integrity for Unemployment Benefits

- RESEA also strengthens program integrity by ensuring claimants are complying with eligibility rules – including the requirement that a UI claimant must be able to work, available to work, and actively seeking work.
- Reemployment services have been demonstrated to improve employment outcomes and reduce the number of weeks that participants receive unemployment benefits.

Background:

The *Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018* (P.L. 115-123) authorized RESEA to reduce benefit duration and improve program integrity in the UI program. The Department of Labor interpreted the law as limiting services to only those UI claimants who are profiled as most likely to exhaust their benefits. Appropriators have included a fix to ensure the program reaches all UI claimants (as intended) in appropriations language as a temporary measure. This bill formalizes the change by incorporating it into permanent statute.

The *BRIDGE for Workers Act* was introduced in the 117th Congress by Rep. Darin LaHood (R-IL) (H.R. 3154) and in the 116th Congress by Rep. Stephanie Murphy (R-FL) and Rep. Jackie Walorski (R-IN) (H.R. 1759). In the 116th Congress, the bill was [marked-up](#) by the Committee and subsequently passed the House under suspension (393-24).