



# HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES

## STATE OF MICHIGAN

### Appropriations Requests for Legislatively Directed Spending Items

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1. The sponsoring representative's first name:  
Jasper
2. The sponsoring representative's last name:  
Martus
3. The cosponsoring representatives' names. All cosponsors must be listed. If none, please type 'n/a.' A signed letter from the sponsor approving the co-sponsorship and a signed letter from the member wishing to co-sponsor are required. Attach letters at question #9 below.  
To be added
4. Name of the entity that the spending item is intended for:  
Youth Solutions
5. Physical address of the entity that the spending item is intended for:  
Youth Solution's headquarters are located at 330 W. Main Suite 110, Benton Harbor, MI 49022
6. If there is not a specific recipient, the intended location of the project or activity:  
The programing for these funds takes place in every prosperity region in the state in schools, out of school/drop out centers, MI Works agencies, and in before/after school programs across the state.
7. Name of the representative and the district number where the legislatively directed spending item is located:  
The programing for these funds takes place in every prosperity region in the state in schools, out of school/drop out centers, MI Works agencies, and in before/after school programs across the state.
8. Purpose of the legislatively directed spending item. Please include how it provides a public benefit and why it is an appropriate use of taxpayer funding. Please also demonstrate that the item does not violate Article IV, S 30 of the Michigan Constitution.  
The public purpose of this legislative directed spending is to continue programing for at-risk youth in the state of Michigan. This funding has been included in the annual budget

going back several years. The Jobs for Michigan's Graduates program uses the programming and curriculum from the Jobs for America's Graduates program that has been operational in the US for over 40 years. The program aims to help at-risk young people graduate or earn a GED while also working on 21st century job skills and career exploration. We seek to place every JMG student (after high school graduation or earning a GED), in either a post-secondary program, meaningful employment, or in the military. Youth Solutions already receives funding annually through the LEO budget as part of the At-Risk Youth Line item. Youth Solutions is a non-profit organization, and this item does not violate Article IV, S 30 of the Michigan Constitution.

9. Attach documents here if needed:

Attachments added to the end of this file.

10. The amount of state funding requested for the legislatively directed spending item.

8000000

11. Has the legislatively directed spending item previously received any of the following types of funding? Check all that apply.

["State"]

12. Please select one of the following groups that describes the entity requesting the legislatively directed spending item:

Non-profit organization

13. For a non-profit organization, has the organization been operating within Michigan for the preceding 36 months?

Yes

14. For a non-profit organization, has the entity had a physical office within Michigan for the preceding 12 months?

Yes

15. For a non-profit organization, does the organization have a board of directors?

Yes

16. For a non-profit organization, list all the active members on the organization's board of directors and any other officers. If this question is not applicable, please type 'n/a.'

Kevin Stotts - Board Chair, Karen Aldridge, Barbara Anderson, Ken Fettig, Jenny Geno, Jarrad Grandy, Todd Gustafson, Joya Harris, Vail Harding, Nolan Henson, Vicky Kruslemsky

17. "I certify that neither the sponsoring representative nor the sponsoring representative's staff or immediate family has a direct or indirect pecuniary interest in the legislatively directed spending item."

Yes, this is correct

18. Anticipated start and end dates for the legislatively directed spending item:

This funding is annual and is intended to be utilized within the fiscal year.

19. "I hereby certify that all information provided in this request is true and accurate."

Yes

# OUR IMPACT



Outcome Focused  
and Data Driven

## What is Jobs for Michigan's Graduates?

Jobs for Michigan's Graduates (JMG) is a comprehensive program for youth in and out of schools, helping them identify a pathway for post-secondary success while overcoming individual barriers. JMG is the premier program of Youth Solutions, a non-profit organization committed to ensuring Michigan youth have access to career-focused education. JMG equips young people with the tools and confidence they need to succeed in life after graduation.

**5,041**

YOUTH SERVED IN 2023-2024

**126**

PROGRAMS

**80**

CITIES

## About Our Youth

Average Age: 18

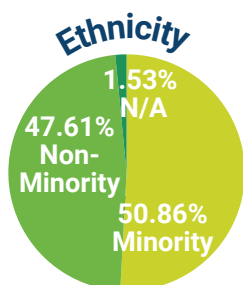
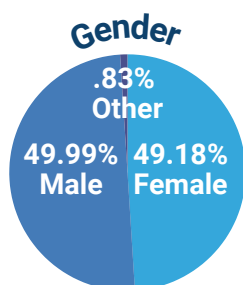
Age Range: 10-29

Average Number of Barriers: 8.18

Economically Disadvantaged: 79.21%

Potential First Generation College

Students: 72.60%



	RATE	
	In-School	Out-of-School Time
GRADUATION	98%	85%
EMPLOYMENT	66%	77%
FULL-TIME POSITIVE OUTCOMES	86%	77%
FULL -TIME EMPLOYMENT	85%	79%
FURTHER EDUCATION	58%	49%



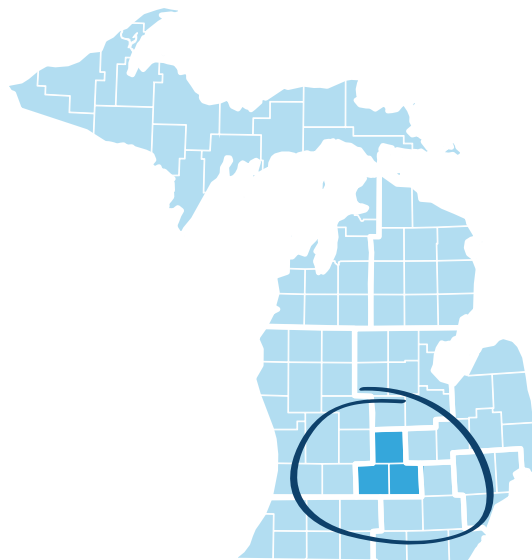
## What makes JMG Special?

- The support of a dedicated adult mentor, providing youth with individualized guidance
- Opportunities to explore college, multiple industries and careers
- Youth-centered, demand-informed approach to career development
- 12-months of follow-up services after graduation or GED attainment

## 24-25 PROGRAM LOCATIONS CAPITAL AREA

SERVING  
**159**  
YOUTH

THROUGH  
**6**  
PROGRAMS



### Current Program Locations

- Waverly High School
- Sexton High School
- Lansing School District Out-of-School
- Clinton County
- Eaton County
- Ingham Youth Career Academy



*"At first, I didn't realize how crucial JMG was to my development as a person but my JMG specialist changed that pretty quick. Ms. Basey and JMG have provided me with opportunities I never thought I would had. I am eternally grateful for the uplifting support this program has given me."*

August

Lansing School  
District

### CONTACT:

**Roger Curtis, Executive Director**

(517) 442-2118, [curtisr@ouryouthsolutions.org](mailto:curtisr@ouryouthsolutions.org)

JOBS for MICHIGAN'S  
GRADUATES  
powered by youth solutions

**X youth solutions**

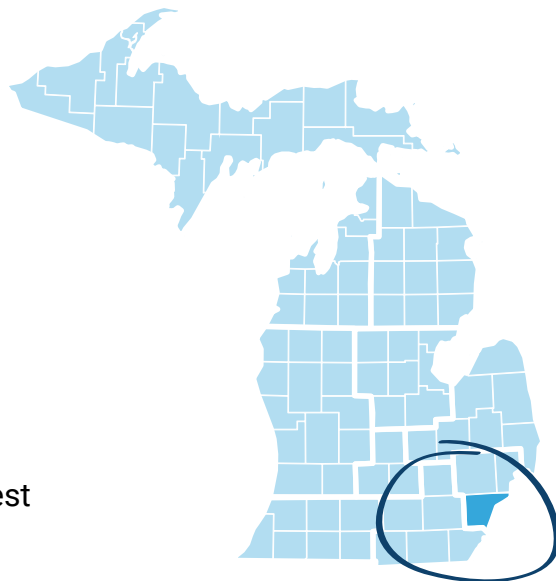
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## 24-25 PROGRAM LOCATIONS DETROIT EMPLOYMENT SOLUTIONS CORPORATION

SERVING  
**590**  
YOUTH

THROUGH  
**7**  
PROGRAMS



### Current Program Locations

- Osborn High School
- Pershing High School
- Cody High School
- Covenant House Academy East, Central, & Southwest
- Chandler Park Academy High School



*"Steven has stepped up to embrace all things JMG and presents himself as a positive role model in all situations." - Carolyn Miller, JMG Specialist*

Steven

Pershing High School

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## 24-25 PROGRAM LOCATIONS GREAT LAKES BAY MICHIGAN WORKS!

SERVING  
**113**  
YOUTH

THROUGH  
**9**  
PROGRAMS



### Current Program Locations

- Bay-Arenac Community High School
- Gratiot County
- Bay County
- Midland County (2 programs)
- Isabella County
- Saginaw County (3 programs)



*"JMG has helped me prepare for life after high school by giving me the skills to apply in life."*

**Mani**

Windover High School Alumni and  
Youth Advisory Council Member

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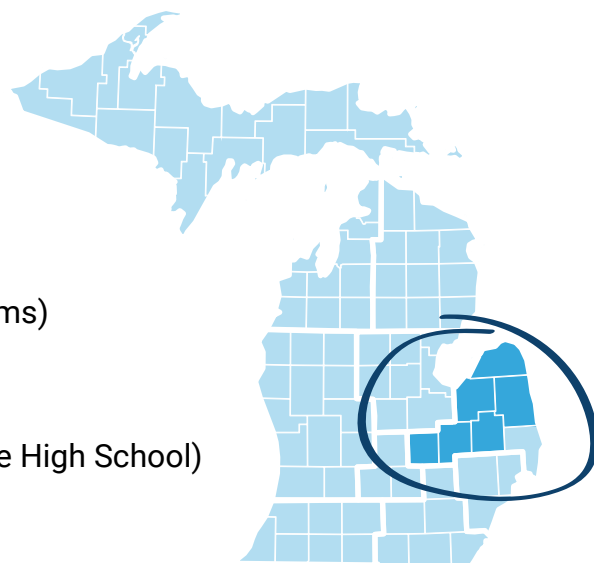
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## 24-25 PROGRAM LOCATIONS GENESEE, SHIAWASSEE, & THUMB AREA

SERVING  
**635**  
YOUTH

THROUGH  
**12**  
PROGRAMS



### Current Program Locations

- GST Michigan Works! Flint Service Center (3 programs)
- Genesee ISD
- Vassar High School
- Family Literacy Center (Quest High School & Venture High School)
- Hamady High School
- Southwestern Classical Academy
- Mott Community College Workforce Development
- Michigan Works! Owosso County Service Center
- Flint Youth Career Academy



*"JMG didn't just help me academically—they also provided me with a sense of community and belonging. Their mentors became more than just advisors; they became friends and confidants, cheering me on every step of the way. And when I finally received my GED, it wasn't just a piece of paper—it was a symbol of hope, resilience, and the power of never giving up on your dreams."*

RJ

Family Literacy  
Center

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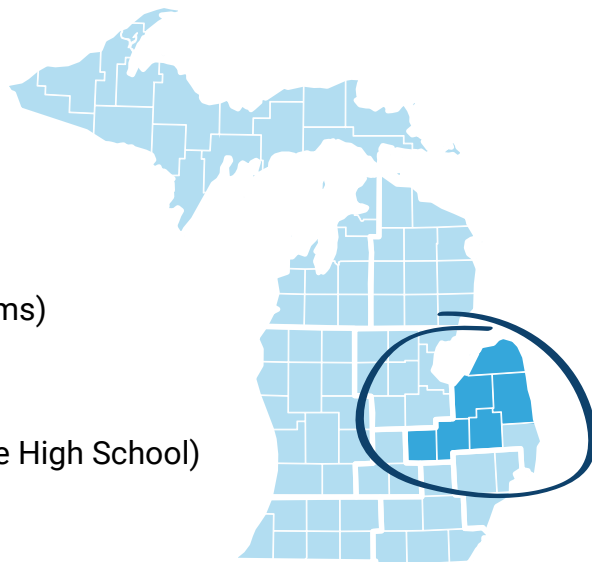
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**635**  
YOUTH

THROUGH  
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PROGRAMS



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- Mott Community College Workforce Development
- Michigan Works! Owosso County Service Center
- Flint Youth Career Academy



*"JMG has shown me how important programs like JMG are for giving youth a chance to use their voice. Being part of JMG has had a huge impact on me, with having a mentor and other supporting peers, and has given me the confidence needed to know I am capable of doing anything I put my mind to."*

**Victoria** GST Michigan Works!  
Flint Service Center

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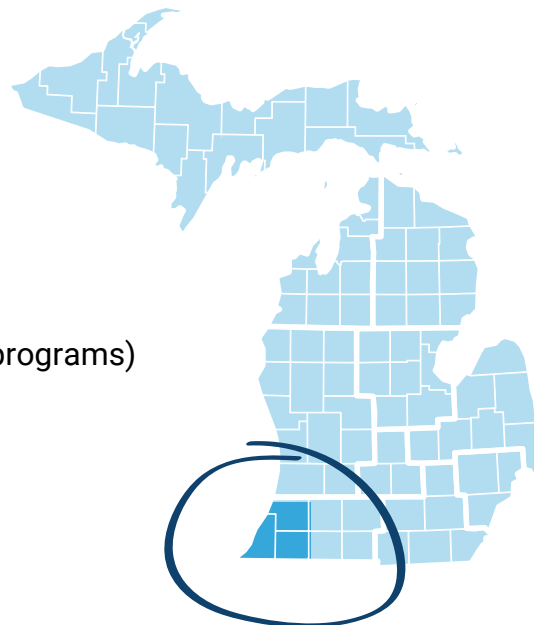
## 24-25 PROGRAM LOCATIONS BERRIEN, CASS, VAN BUREN

SERVING  
**655**  
YOUTH

THROUGH  
**10**  
PROGRAMS

### Current Program Locations

- Bangor High School
- Benton Harbor High School
- Benton Harbor Michigan Works! Service Center (3 programs)
- Boys & Girls Club of Greater Southwest Michigan
- Bridge Academy of Southwest Michigan
- Covert High School
- Eau Claire High School
- Hartford High School



*"JMG is a positive program for me because it helps students who are motivated to graduate with goals and purpose. JMG has opened up future opportunities, including summer internships with our local hospital. My JMG specialist helps me with job applications, arranging work experiences, and learning lots of employability skills."*

**Za'India**

Bridge Academy of  
Southwest Michigan

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## 24-25 PROGRAM LOCATIONS SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

SERVING  
**205**  
YOUTH

THROUGH  
**7**  
PROGRAMS



### Current Program Locations

- Hillsdale Michigan Works! Service Center
- Jackson Michigan Works! Service Center
- Lenawee Michigan Works! Service Center
- Livingston Michigan Works! Service Center
- Washtenaw Michigan Works! Service Center
- Bridge Alternative High School
- Ann Arbor Youth Career Academy



*"I am thankful that I found Michigan Works and the JMG program. I did not think I would be able to get my GED and have an opportunity to get help with my career. My advisor Michael was a great help, and he encouraged me that it's not how you start but how you finish."*

Emily

Michigan Works! Southeast,  
Jackson Service Center

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## 24-25 PROGRAM LOCATIONS MICHIGAN WORKS! SOUTHWEST

SERVING  
**200**  
YOUTH

THROUGH  
**4**  
PROGRAMS



### Current Program Locations

- Branch County
- Calhoun County
- Kalamazoo County
- St. Joseph County



*"JMG has helped me connect better with people in my entrepreneur career, and has given me many different resources in order to help my future."*

**Michael**

Michigan Works!  
Southwest - Calhoun

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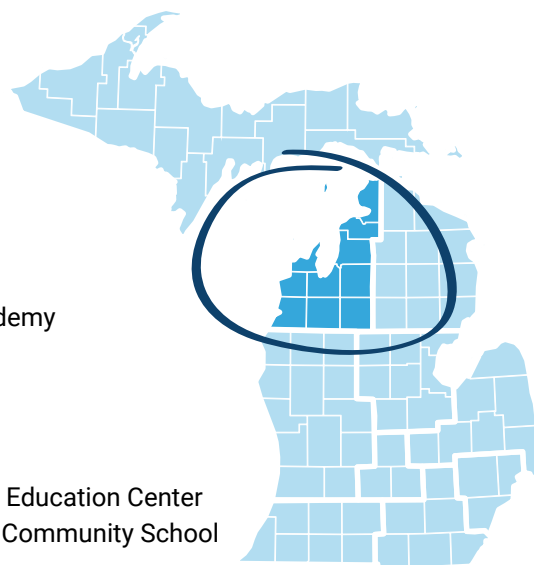
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## 24-25 PROGRAM LOCATIONS NETWORKS NORTHWEST

SERVING  
**730**  
YOUTH

THROUGH  
**16**  
PROGRAMS



### Current Program Locations

- Boyne City Middle School
- Boyne City High School, Crooked Tree High School, & Lakeview Academy
- Boyne Falls Public School
- Cadillac High School
- Cadillac Innovation High School
- CASMAN Academy
- Charlevoix High School, Ellsworth Community School, & Round Lake Education Center
- East Jordan High School, Central Lake High School, & Beaver Island Community School
- Mackinaw Trail Middle School
- Northwest Education Services Career Tech Center
- Northwestern Michigan College
- Pellston High School, Harbor Springs High School, & Alanson High School
- Petoskey High School
- Petoskey Middle School
- Wexford-Missaukee Career Tech Center (2 Programs)



*"This is what I believe JMG is all about; handing as many young people experiences to help them build the life skills and knowledge needed for their education and beyond.*

*Shout out to my friends and family, Laura Quist and Cheryl Miller (JMG specialists), and everyone else at JMG. It wouldn't be possible for me to be here without these amazing people. Long live Jobs for Michigan's Graduates!"*

**Sawyer** Cadillac High School

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## 24-25 PROGRAM LOCATIONS MICHIGAN WORKS! NORTHEAST CONSORTIUM

SERVING  
**138**  
YOUTH

THROUGH  
**5**  
PROGRAMS



### Current Program Locations

- Alpena & Alcona Counties
- Cheboygan & Presque Isle Counties
- Crawford County
- Oscoda County
- Otsego & Montmorency Counties



*"Cameron is hardworking and is always looking to share his story with others to help them see that even during hard times there is a path to the future you want." -Erin O'Rourke, JMG Specialist*

**Cameron**

Michigan Works!  
Crawford County

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## 24-25 PROGRAM LOCATIONS MICHIGAN WORKS! OAKLAND COUNTY

SERVING  
**120**  
YOUTH

THROUGH  
**1**  
PROGRAM



### Current Service Locations

- Waterford Service Center
- Durant High School



*"My favorite part of JMG is all the opportunities that they give you. Everyone here is so supportive and they make you feel comfortable enough to try whatever you want to do!"*

*Lani*

Michigan Works!  
Oakland County

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## 24-25 PROGRAM LOCATIONS MICHIGAN WORKS! REGION 7B

SERVING  
**325**  
YOUTH

THROUGH  
**10**  
PROGRAMS



### Current Program Locations

- Arenac, Iosco, & Ogemaw Counties
- Beaverton Junior/Senior High School
- Ogemaw Alternative Education Academy: Gladwin Support Campus
- Gladwin High School
- Gladwin, Clare, & Roscommon Counties
- Ogemaw Heights High School
- Ogemaw & Iosco Alternative Education Academies
- Oscoda Area High School
- Roscommon High School
- Standish-Sterling High School



*"Michigan Works and JMG helped me get the motivation to keep pushing forward and accomplish more than I could by myself."*

**Nicholas** Farwell High School

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## 24-25 PROGRAM LOCATIONS SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

SERVING  
**400**  
YOUTH

THROUGH  
**9**  
PROGRAMS



### Current Program Locations

- Downriver Community Conference
- Educational Data Systems, Inc.
- Employment and Training Designs, Inc. II
- Monroe County ISD Youth Opportunity Program
- Orchard Center High School
- Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services
- Hamtramck High School
- River Rouge High School
- Ecorse High School



*'She works hard every day to reflect the standards and expectations of what a JMG student should be. She is a leader in and out of the classroom, coming up with and leading different projects and seeing them through. No matter what she is facing outside of school, she is always a positive and strong light in the program.'* - Amanda Althouse, JMG Specialist

ices

Orchard Center  
High School

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## 24-25 PROGRAM LOCATIONS UPPER PENINSULA

SERVING  
**360**  
YOUTH

THROUGH  
**10**  
PROGRAMS



### Current Program Locations

- Delta County
- Delta County Correctional Facility New Chance Program
- Dickinson County
- Houghton County
- Luce County
- Marquette County
- Menominee County
- Schoolcraft County
- Marquette-Alger Technical Middle College
- Marquette-Alger RESA Work-Based Learning



*"Nate's journey in JMG has been incredible. His determination and hard work has led to increased confidence and new responsibilities. He is proof of what can be accomplished with hard work and a positive attitude."* - Shaun Peterson, JMG Specialist

Nate

Upper Peninsula Michigan  
Works! Schoolcraft

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## 24-25 PROGRAM LOCATIONS MICHIGAN WORKS! WEST CENTRAL

SERVING  
**100**  
YOUTH

THROUGH  
**6**  
PROGRAMS



### Current Program Locations

- Lake County
- Mason County
- Mecosta County
- Newaygo County
- Oceana County
- Osceola County



*"JMG has helped me in many ways for life after high school by enhancing my resume, connecting me with a healthcare facility to volunteer at, and providing extra support with financial knowledge."*

*"One of my favorite memories is participating in the Career Development Conference with my other JMG group members and seeing how much support there is for youth in Michigan!"*

**Ayanna** Michigan Works!  
West Central

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## 24-25 PROGRAM LOCATIONS WEST MICHIGAN

SERVING  
**635**  
YOUTH

THROUGH  
**13**  
PROGRAMS



### Current Program Locations

- Allegan County West Michigan Works! Service Center
- Barry County West Michigan Works! Service Center
- Ionia County West Michigan Works! Service Center
- Kent County West Michigan Works! Service Center
- Montcalm County West Michigan Works! Service Center
- Muskegon County West Michigan Works! Service Center
- Ottawa County West Michigan Works! Service Center
- Escape Ministries
- Lighthouse Academy
- Hope Academy
- Muskegon High School
- Muskegon Community Education Center
- Northview Next Career Center



*"Without the caring effort of my Career Coach and JMG, I don't know if I would have exceeded this far in life. It is always good to have a support system outside of friends and family. The resources that I have received have all been stepping stones toward my goals!"*

**Davion**

West Michigan Works!  
Muskegon High School

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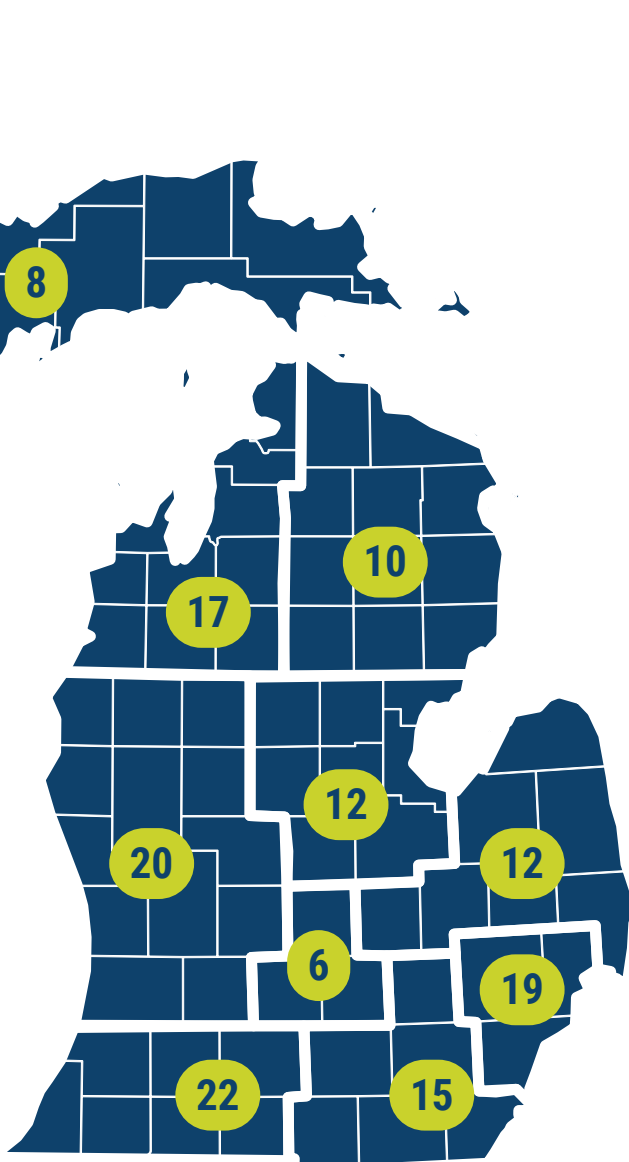
**30,000+**  
YOUTH SERVED SINCE 2008



Kamryn

*"To me, JMG is life changing. JMG helps students like myself prepare for their future, career choice, education, and even adulthood! Seeing students have motivation and persistence in their career choice creates a positive change in not only themselves, but the world and environment around them."*

Hartford  
High School



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At the intersection of education and  
workforce development.

April 21, 2025

The Honorable Jasper Martus  
State Representative  
N-S1088 House Office Building  
P.O. Box 30014  
Lansing, MI 48909

**Dear Representative Martus,**

I am writing as the Executive Director of Youth Solutions, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit at the intersection of education and workforce development. We are committed to ensuring every young person in Michigan has access to career-focused education—equipping them with the support, experiences, and guidance they need to confidently navigate life after graduation. Whether their path leads to college, a credential, the military, an apprenticeship, or directly into the workforce, our goal is to help youth make informed, empowered decisions about their future.

Youth Solutions partners with the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity, Michigan Works! agencies, school districts, and other stakeholders to deliver career-focused education through a variety of services—including our flagship program, Jobs for Michigan's Graduates (JMG). Built on the nationally recognized Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) model, JMG provides classroom instruction, competency-based curriculum, mentoring, academic and career advising, work experiences, leadership development, and postsecondary planning. Today, JMG operates in 84 communities across Michigan, offering essential skills training and career exploration to more than 5,000 youth annually through 130 programs.

I respectfully request your support in securing funding for the continued growth of JMG and our broader career-focused education services statewide. Specifically, we are seeking your sponsorship and advocacy with the Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor and Economic Opportunity to include an **\$8 million appropriation** in the upcoming state budget.

With your support, this appropriation will strengthen Michigan's talent pipeline by expanding access to meaningful career development opportunities—both through JMG and a range of supports that help youth build the skills, confidence, and direction they need to succeed beyond high school.

Thank you for your leadership and dedication to preparing Michigan's next generation for success.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:  
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Roger Curtis'.  
A5AB1EBE0DF2487...

**Roger Curtis**  
Executive Director, Youth Solutions



*Supporting educational excellence through  
advocacy, collaboration and innovation.*

**Dr. Gregory Nyen**  
**Superintendent**  
**Marquette-Alger Regional Educational Service Agency (MARESA)**  
**906-226-5102**

**April 16, 2025**

**Subject: Letter of Support for Youth Solutions and the Jobs for Michigan's Graduates Program**

**Dear Members of the Michigan Legislature,**

On behalf of Marquette-Alger Regional Educational Service Agency (MARESA), I write to express our enthusiastic support for Youth Solutions, Inc., and its flagship initiative, Jobs for Michigan's Graduates (JMG). We urge your full consideration of their request for an \$8 million investment in the FY 2025–2026 State Budget. This funding will critically expand their ability to implement career development programming statewide and help Michigan meet its educational, economic, and workforce goals.

Youth Solutions is a nationally recognized organization dedicated to equipping young people with the tools, experiences, and support they need to succeed in education, employment, and life. Through its JMG initiative, Youth Solutions empowers youth—particularly those facing barriers—with access to intensive mentoring, employability training, real-world career exposure, and opportunities to earn credentials that lead to high-demand careers. The evidence is clear: JMG participants consistently outperform their peers in graduation rates, employment, and post-secondary enrollment.

At Marquette-Alger RESA, we have witnessed firsthand the transformative impact of Youth Solutions' work. Through our partnership, students in our region have gained critical career competencies and developed personal agency to pursue meaningful pathways beyond high school. These programs directly support the Michigan Career Development Model (MCDM) and align with our agency's mission to prepare students for success in a rapidly changing world.

The proposed \$8 million appropriation will allow Youth Solutions to:

- Strengthen K-12 partnerships across Michigan, allowing for the integration of high-quality career readiness programs that support the MCDM;
- Serve over 7,200 youth annually through JMG, with evidence-based mentoring, employability skills training, and direct engagement with employers;
- Reach an additional 8,500 youth through complementary programming, impacting nearly 16,000 young people across the state;





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advocacy, collaboration and innovation.

- Expand employer partnerships to create work-based learning opportunities, deepen career exposure, and build a stronger Michigan talent pipeline.

This investment will not only empower our youth but also support Michigan's broader goals for talent development, economic vitality, and educational equity. It aligns with the Governor's vision to increase postsecondary attainment and ensure all students graduate career- and college-ready.

We respectfully urge the Michigan Legislature to support the full funding request by Youth Solutions, Inc. Together, we can ensure that all Michigan youth—regardless of background—can achieve their full potential and contribute meaningfully to our state's future.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to Michigan's students.

Sincerely,

Gregory Nyen, EdD

Superintendent

Marquette-Alger RESA

[gnyen@maresa.org](mailto:gnyen@maresa.org)

April 17, 2025

**Subject: Support for Youth Solutions and Jobs for Michigan's Graduates Program**

Dear Michigan Legislature,

On behalf of Muskegon Area ISD, we wish to express our support for Youth Solutions and the Jobs for Michigan's Graduates program's request for \$8 million in the 2025-2026 State budget. These funds will provide schools with the additional tools and resources required to implement the Michigan Career Development Model, thereby expanding career development in Michigan's K-12 education system and strengthening the workforce development system.

At Muskegon Area Intermediate School District, we recognize the urgency of expanding career readiness programming within K-12 education to ensure students not only graduate but also transition successfully into high-demand careers. Our College and Career Readiness Team supports all of our local districts and charter schools and is deepening our relationship with Youth Solutions to further elevate career exposure and experience across Muskegon County. The full \$8M budget appropriation for Youth Solutions will:

- Strengthen partnerships with us and our Regional partners as well as K-12 schools across the state to implement career development programming aligned with the Michigan Career Development Model (MCDM),
- Enhance support for over 7,200 JMG youth statewide, providing career exploration, employability skills, and direct employer connections,
- Reach an additional 8,500 youth through our complementary career-focused services for a total of 15,700 youth impacted statewide, and
- Expand engagement with local employers and industries to create real-world learning experiences, strengthening Michigan's future talent pipeline and workforce development programming.

As a long-standing partner of Districts in Muskegon County who have worked with Youth Solutions and the Jobs for Michigan's Graduates program, the MAISD supports these efforts to increase outcomes for Michigan's youth by aligning education with workforce needs, driving economic growth, and ensuring students are prepared for lifelong success.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Deanna Holman  
Implementation Facilitator  
[dholman@muskegonisd.org](mailto:dholman@muskegonisd.org)  
231.557.1483

April 15, 2025

**Subject: Support for Youth Solutions' and Jobs For Michigan's Graduates Program**

Dear Michigan Legislature,

On behalf of Michigan Works! system, I am pleased to express our support for Youth Solutions' and the Jobs For Michigan's Graduates program and their request for \$8 million in the 2025-2026 State budget to support expanding career development in Michigan's K-12 education system while strengthening connections to and support of the workforce development system.

Michigan faces a critical talent shortage, low graduation rates, below-average postsecondary credential attainment, and increasing youth disconnection. Addressing these challenges requires stronger alignment between education and workforce development, yet gaps remain in early career exposure, work-based learning opportunities, and direct connections to Michigan's workforce system.

As a leader in workforce development, Michigan Works! recognizes the urgency of expanding career readiness programming to ensure students not only graduate but also transition successfully into high-demand careers. The full \$8M budget appropriation will:

- Strengthen partnerships with K-12 schools across the state to implement career development programming aligned with the Michigan Career Development Model (MCDM) and strengthen connections to the workforce development system.
- Enhance support for over 7,200 JMG youth statewide, providing career exploration, employability skills, and direct employer connections.
- Reach an additional 8,500 youth through our complementary career focused services for a total of 15,700 youth impacted statewide
- Expand engagement with local employers and industries to create real-world learning experiences, strengthening Michigan's future talent pipeline.

As a long-standing partner of Youth Solutions, the Michigan Works! system fully supports these efforts to increase outcomes for Michigan's youth by aligning education with workforce needs, driving economic growth, and ensuring students are prepared for lifelong success.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Ryan Hundt  
Chief Executive Officer  
Michigan Works! Association

April 17, 2025

**Subject: Support for Youth Solutions and Jobs for Michigan's Graduates Program**

Dear Michigan Legislature,

On behalf of Muskegon Public Schools, I wish to express our support for Youth Solutions and the Jobs for Michigan's Graduates program's request for \$8 million in the 2025-2026 State budget. These funds will provide schools with the additional tools and resources required to implement the Michigan Career Development Model, thereby expanding career development in Michigan's K-12 education system and strengthening the workforce development system.

At Muskegon Public Schools, we recognize the urgency of expanding career readiness programming within K-12 education to ensure students not only graduate but also transition successfully into high-demand careers. Just yesterday, we celebrated our designation as the fourth district in Michigan to join the Ford Next Generation Learning Family in transforming to a community connected career focused PK-12 learning culture where every student will graduate with a Diploma AND a plan for the Monday after graduation. The full \$8M budget appropriation for Youth Solutions will:

- Strengthen partnerships with us and K-12 schools across the state to implement career development programming aligned with the Michigan Career Development Model (MCDM),
- Enhance support for over 7,200 JMG youth statewide, providing career exploration, employability skills, and direct employer connections,
- Reach an additional 8,500 youth through our complementary career-focused services for a total of 15,700 youth impacted statewide, and
- Expand engagement with local employers and industries to create real-world learning experiences, strengthening Michigan's future talent pipeline and workforce development programming.

As a long-standing partner of Youth Solutions and the Jobs for Michigan's Graduates program, Muskegon Public Schools fully supports these efforts to increase outcomes for Michigan's youth by aligning education with workforce needs, driving economic growth, and ensuring students are prepared for lifelong success.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Matthew Cortez  
Superintendent