



jobs education & training

increasing economic opportunity and reducing poverty through jobs, education, and training



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Governor Jennifer M. Granholm gave a tough, serious but hopeful assessment of the state of Michigan’s economy in her State of the State address on February 6, as she laid out a plan to ensure that Michigan can grow and compete. By diversifying the economy and investing in our citizens, the governor said, Michigan will become an even better place to live, learn and earn. She stressed the vital importance of increased educational opportunities and job skills enhancement to improve the state’s economy. We won’t attract new businesses, the governor warned, without having a pool of talented people ready to make positive, creative contributions to those businesses.

In the context of the economy and the governor’s plan for revitalization, the importance of JET becomes clear; by training or educating low-wage or unemployed men and women, our workers will be better positioned for lifelong employability in sustainable businesses. Each JET education and training referral is an opportunity to improve an individual’s life; taken

together, thousands of such referrals across Michigan, each year, present an incomparable opportunity to improve the economic future of the state.

For more on the Governor’s State of the State address and her 2008 budget proposal, go to:www.michigan.gov/gov



“By diversifying the economy and investing in our citizens, Michigan will become an even better place to live, learn and earn.”

– Governor Jennifer M. Granholm

Testimony to the State Senate Makes Case for JET

The Jobs, Education and Training initiative will put more of Michigan's poor people on the path to self-sufficiency and enable the state to meet federal work participation requirements.



The Jobs, Education and Training initiative will put more of Michigan's poor people on the path to self-sufficiency and enable the state to meet federal work participation requirements. That was the message presented to the state Senate at a hearing on TANF and JET. Donald Mussen, Department of Human Services acting Deputy Director for Adult and Family Services, explained the federal requirements and which activities are acceptable in meeting them.

The state of Michigan presented an interim Work Verification Plan to the Department of Health and Human Services for FY 2007 and is currently operating under that verification plan. The plan reflects new federal regulations that significantly increase the monitoring and documentation required to count hours of participation for each use.

Michigan enters FY 2007 12 percent under the adjusted target participation rate of 27.7 percent, and 34.4 percent under the unadjusted federal target of 50 percent. The aim, Mussen explained, is to achieve a monthly participation rate of no less than 50 percent by September 2007.

"The gap between the baseline and the targeted performance levels

is being closed by a combination of funding and policy changes, JET expansion, increased case management capacity across the state and specific case management tools that enhance the ability of staff at all levels to monitor performance and target any needed activity or correction," Mussen said.

Senators heard that significant progress toward work participation targets in both JET and non-JET sites has been achieved, illustrated by sample data for October and November. "From our baseline of 15.7 percent we increased to 20.7 percent in October 2006 and to 27.5 percent in November 2006," according to Mussen. "This makes for a statewide FY 2007 year-to-date participation rate of 24.2 percent. In the four original JET sites, the FY 2007 year-to-date rate is 30.8 percent."

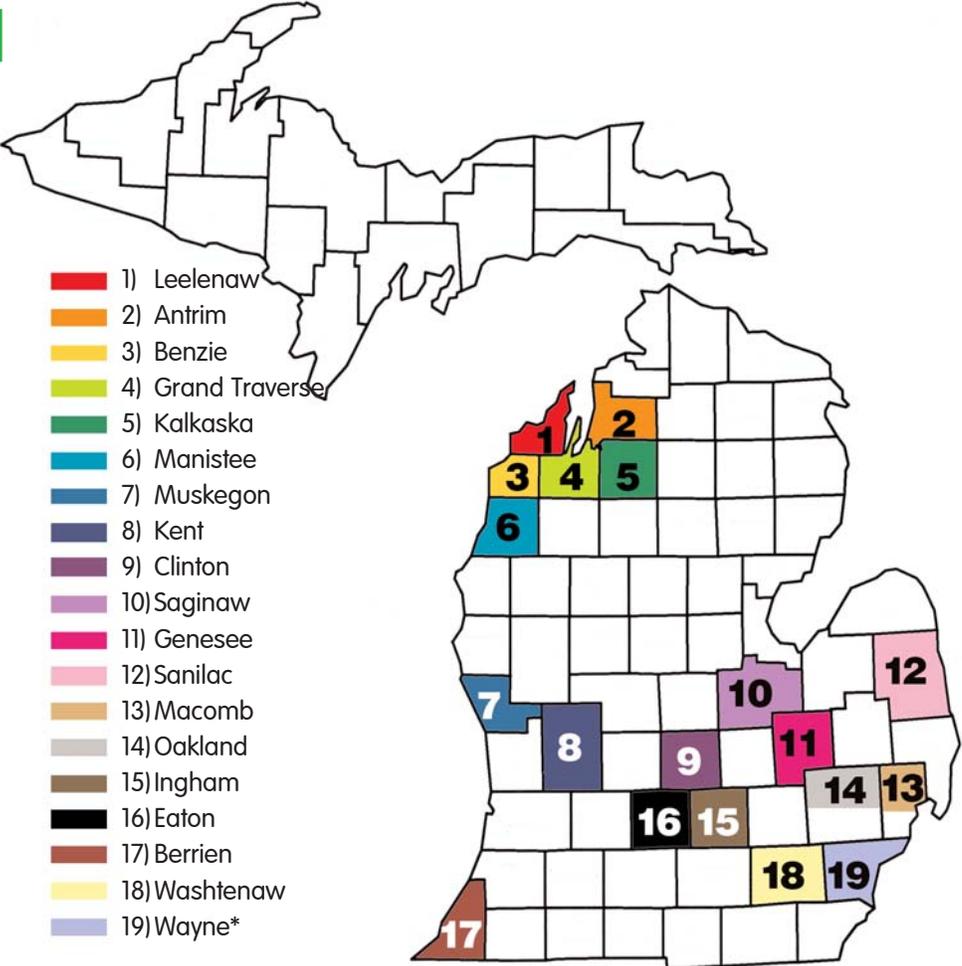
One important change in JET management, which is likely to have a positive impact on the program's success, is the reorganization of family independence specialist caseloads to focus on case management activities with families receiving Family Independence Program (FIP) benefits. This will enable DHS to step up current efforts to review cases that appear to be unengaged

or disconnected from required work activities, to review FIP recipients who are claiming inability to participate in Work First due to incapacity, and to improve work participation requirements. As the elements continue to take effect, Mussen predicts a continuing decline in the FIP caseload.

Performance management reports that track federal work participation rates by caseload will be introduced in the coming months. This will provide the needed data to manage effectively this important issue and to improve performance. Under the JET model, increased participation should translate into more clients involved in education and training activities, more closures to employment, more sanctions due to consistent and fair application of sanction policies, and less recidivism.

Specialized caseloads, stronger sanctions for non-compliant FIP clients, statewide JET implementation and performance management reports comprise a strong package of measures that should lessen the FIP caseload for the remainder of FY 2007 and throughout FY 2008.

JET Pilot Sites



* Detroit East and Detroit West Districts are the only pilot sites in Wayne County.

For More Information:

JET is a partnership between the Departments of Human Services (DHS) and Labor & Economic Growth (DLEG), the Michigan Works! agencies and local workforce boards. These organizations will not discriminate against any individual or group because of race, sex, religion, age, national origin, color, marital status, disability or political beliefs. If you need assistance with reading, writing, hearing, etc., under Americans with Disabilities Act, you may make your needs known to DLEG.

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