



STATE OF MICHIGAN
OFFICE OF SERVICES TO THE AGING
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

KARI SEDERBURG
DIRECTOR

Contact: Phil Lewis
517-862-8312 or lewis3@michigan.gov

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Personal and Home Care Aide State Training Program Aims to Boost Workforce, Improve Care

LANSING, Mich. – Michigan was one of six states in 2010 that received a federal grant to develop a state training program to boost Michigan’s personal and home care aide workforce, and give workers the skills and knowledge to provide better care to residents.

An estimated 70 to 80 percent of the hands-on assistance to individuals with long-term care and personal assistance needs is provided by direct care workers. Personal and home care aides are a part of the direct care workforce. This workforce is projected to be the fourth fastest growing direct care occupation from 2008 to 2018, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

“Michigan’s population of older adults and individuals with a disability is outpacing the number of workers with the skills to care for them,” said Kari Sederburg, director of the Michigan Office of Services to the Aging (OSA). “This is an issue Michigan’s aging network is well aware of and we’re taking action on to ensure residents have options for quality care at home as they age.”

The state training program, Building Training...Building Quality (BTBQ), recruited and trained residents as qualified personal and home care aides from 2010 to 2013.

Program accomplishments include:

- Developed a 77-hour core training program and certified 28 trainers from across the state of Michigan who can successfully train personal and home care aides.
- Trained 393 people using the core curriculum.
- Trained and evaluated 296 people to support persons with dementia.
- Trained and evaluated 193 people in home skills.
- Trained and evaluated 308 people in the prevention of adult abuse and neglect.

The BTBQ program was made possible by a partnership between OSA, Michigan State University, and the Paraprofessional Healthcare Institute (PHI). For a summary of the program’s full list of accomplishments visit the [OSA website](#).

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