



# Region 7

**Applicant:** Kalamazoo-St. Joseph Michigan Works!

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**Partners:** Kalamazoo-St. Joseph Michigan Works!  
Calhoun ISD Michigan Works

**Counties** Barry, Branch, Calhoun,  
**Included:** Kalamazoo and St. Joseph

## Regional Highlights:

### One-Knock

Region 7 will select a neutral facilitator to coordinate existing regional efforts to ensure a unified approach to working with area employers. The facilitator will conduct structured, focused, and innovative workshops to achieve team building and communication that is both creative and practical for a "one-knock" program to connect with employers.

### Resource Mapping

The planning process will include the creation of a common database and Web-based resource mapping that all regional agencies can use to assess and update the status of the local workforce and economy. These assessments will contain a skills-gap analysis for selected employment sectors to determine training needs of local employers. This knowledge will be utilized in serving employers in emerging industries such as advanced manufacturing, alternative energy, and life sciences. It will also be useful in responding to mass lay-offs and plant closings and the subsequent transition of the impacted workforce.

The Kalamazoo-St. Joseph and Calhoun ISD Michigan Works agencies will bring together representatives from their respective Workforce Development Boards, county and city governments, intermediate school districts, Kellogg Community College, Kalamazoo Valley Community College, Western Michigan University, MEDC and MRS area staff, chambers or commerce, local employers, staffing services, and many other organizations from the participating communities.

### Community Summits

One important goal for Region 7 is to hold two community summits — one at the beginning of the planning process and one at the end — that will market the new cohesive 21<sup>st</sup> Century Workforce Strategy for targeted participating audiences and general public awareness.