

# Partnership. Accountability. Training. Hope. (PATH)



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DEVELOPMENT

The Partnership. Accountability. Training. Hope. (PATH) program helps participants transition off public assistance to obtain and maintain employment, earn wages and develop self-sustainability. PATH is a partnership between Workforce Development (WD), the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), and Michigan Works! Agencies (MWAs).

## What does PATH provide?

The primary focus of PATH is to assist participants with reducing their dependence on public assistance and movement toward increasing self-sufficiency. This is accomplished through participation in a variety of activities, including:

- Paid work activities
- Job Search and Job Readiness assistance
- Unpaid work activities
- Educational activities
- Training
- Life skills instruction
- Employability skills

## What are PATH's goals?

There are two desired outcomes of PATH:

- To identify barriers and connect participants to resources needed to obtain employment, with a goal to eliminate the need for public assistance.
- To help Michigan reach the federally-mandated 50 percent work participation rate, which is defined as the number of participants who secure employment or are engaged in job-preparedness and search activities.

## What is the application process?

The PATH program features a 21-day application eligibility period (AEP) during which MWAs assess, evaluate and more effectively prepare applicants to obtain employment, meet federal work participation requirements and work toward self-sufficiency. Michigan requires FIP applicants to successfully complete a 21-day AEP at an MWA as a condition of eligibility for FIP benefits. Upon successful completion of the 21-day AEP, applicants continue with PATH participation.

The 21-day AEP consists of assignments individualized for each applicant's needs. Week One begins the day the applicant attends PATH orientation at the MWA. Assignments during Weeks One and Two are for barrier identification and resolution activities, work readiness instruction, and core and non-core allowable activities appropriate to the applicant's circumstances. Week Three assignments are for core and non-core allowable activities plus any further barrier resolution activities and work readiness instruction applicants may still need.

## Who is eligible to participate in PATH?

Participants must receive Family Independence Program (FIP) cash assistance – Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) – and are assigned to PATH through MWAs.

## Who is funding this program?

Federal funds are allocated annually in October to local MWAs with operational oversight and guidance provided by WD and the MDHHS.

## Where can you find more information about PATH?

More information about the PATH program, including a link to the PATH Program Manual, is available at [Michigan.gov/PATH](https://Michigan.gov/PATH).

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