

# BSBP Training Center Overview & Services

**May 11, 2023**

Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Opportunity  
Bureau of Services for Blind Persons  
Training Center

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# Agenda

- **Welcome & agenda overview**
  - **TC Overview & Services**
  - **Counseling & Career Planning**
  - **Employment Lab & Outreach**
  - **Support Services- Student Services**
  - **Technology**
  - **Low Vision**
  - **Finance**
  - **Mobility**
  - **Q & A**
  - **Tour**
- Juan F. Ortiz**  
**Scott Lacey**  
**Karen DeVera**  
**Melissa Miller**  
**Anita Taylor & Michele Jimenez**  
**Victor Marques & Hisun Yun**  
**Alex Sanborn**  
**Laura Schmelzer**  
**Pam Crooks & Amber Willard**



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# BSBPTC Overview

- 26 acres | 27 dorm rooms | 2 apartments
- Workplace Readiness | Independent Living | Technology Training
- Few weeks to multiple months
- Customers must meet the definition of legal blindness
- Units within the TC:
  - Teaching | Dietary | Maintenance | Support Services
  - Domestic Services | Administration
- Summer Programming:
  - PSRP | Intro to WR | WR | STEM Camp
- Community Partner Days | Mini Adjustment Program | Business Outreach

# Counseling & Career Planning

## Counseling

**Offer guidance and support to maximize the independence and employability of the participant coping with loss of vision.**

## Career Planning

**The process of assessing personal strengths, values, and aspiration, establishing goals and objectives, identifying the steps needed to achieve them, and putting the information into a written career plan.**

# Counseling & Career Planning

## Self Knowledge: Understanding Ourselves

Who am I?

What do I like and  
dislike?



What am I good at?

What is important to  
me?

# Counseling & Career Planning

## Exploration

- Job Description
- Salary
- Outlook
- Required Education and training
- Informational Interviews
- Job Shadows
- Volunteer/Work Experience

# Counseling & Career Planning

## Career Action Plan

**Goal Statement**

**Action Steps**

**Challenges and Barriers/Plan to Overcome Challenges and Barriers**

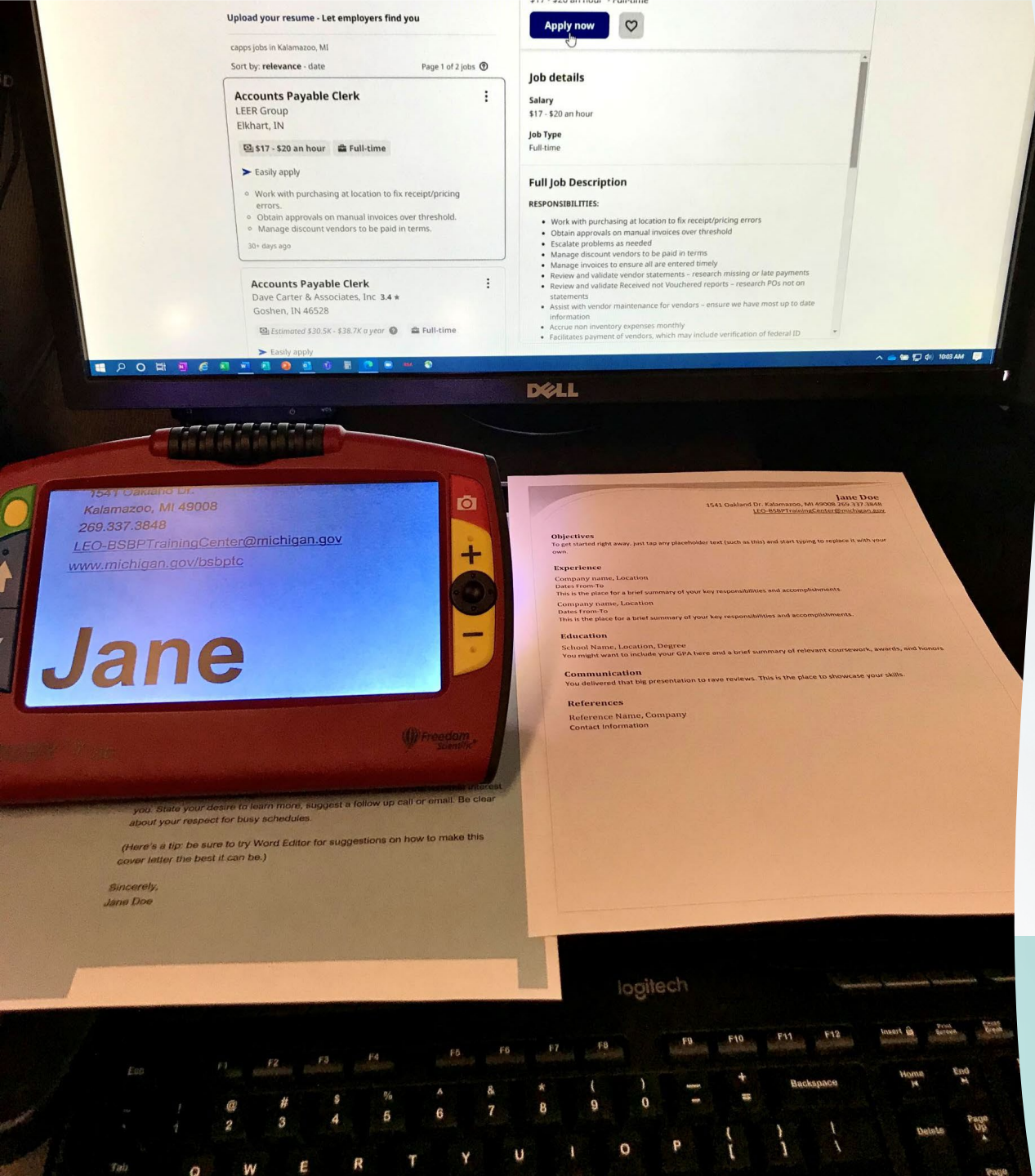
**Identify your Support Team**

**Ways to keep Motivated and Moving Forward**

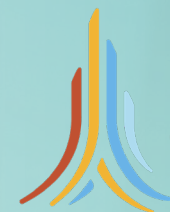
**Monitor the Plan**

# Counseling & Career Planning

“A dream becomes a goal when action is taken toward its achievement.” Bo Bennett



# Employment & Outreach



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# Employment & Outreach

## Job Seeking Skills Training

- Develop and present an elevator pitch.
- Develop and implement job search strategies.
- Advocate for rights under the Americans with Disability Act
- Use appropriate skills to complete a job interview.

# Employment & Outreach

## Essential Fundamentals for Employment

- Importance of Soft Skills
- Communication
- Active Listening
- Understanding what Essential Functions are of a job

# Employment & Outreach

## Community Outreach

- Locating businesses and organizations
- Importance of volunteer work in the community
- Participants receiving the opportunity to explore employment.
- Understanding the requirements for specific employment fields

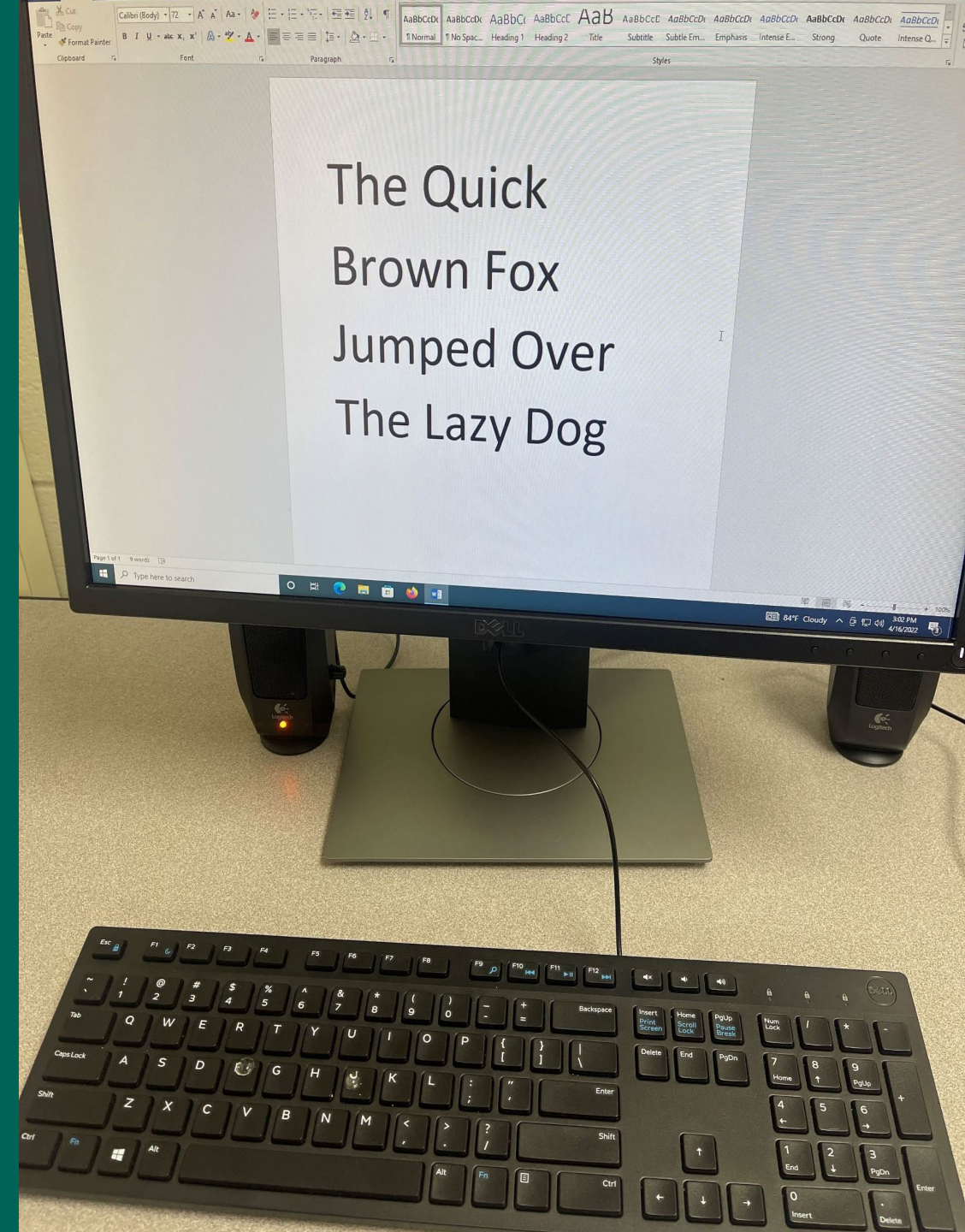
# Support Services

- 24/7
- Referrals
- Participant Arrivals
- Participant Support
- Instructor Support
- Schedules
- Other: Daily announcements, room inspections, inventory control, documentation.

# Technology

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- How do visually impaired people use computers?
  - Typing training software
    - Talking typer | TypeAbility
  - Three types of Assistive Software
    - Magnification | Screen reader
    - Magnification & Screen reader
  - Built-in accessibility settings (Windows 11)
  - Assistive Technology Training
- 



# Technology

## Devices

iPhones

iPads

Android phones

Android tablets

Labeling systems

Personal book players

Personal recording devices

# Technology

## iPhones & iPads

Voiceover

Magnification

Voiceover/magnification

Apps:

Siri | Mail | Messages

Phone | Calendar | Clock

Notes | Safari | Social Media

Finance | Entertainment | other

## Android

Talkback

Magnification

Apps:

Google Assistant | Bixby

Google Lookout | Calendar

Mail | Browser | Social Media

Finance | Entertainment | other

# Technology

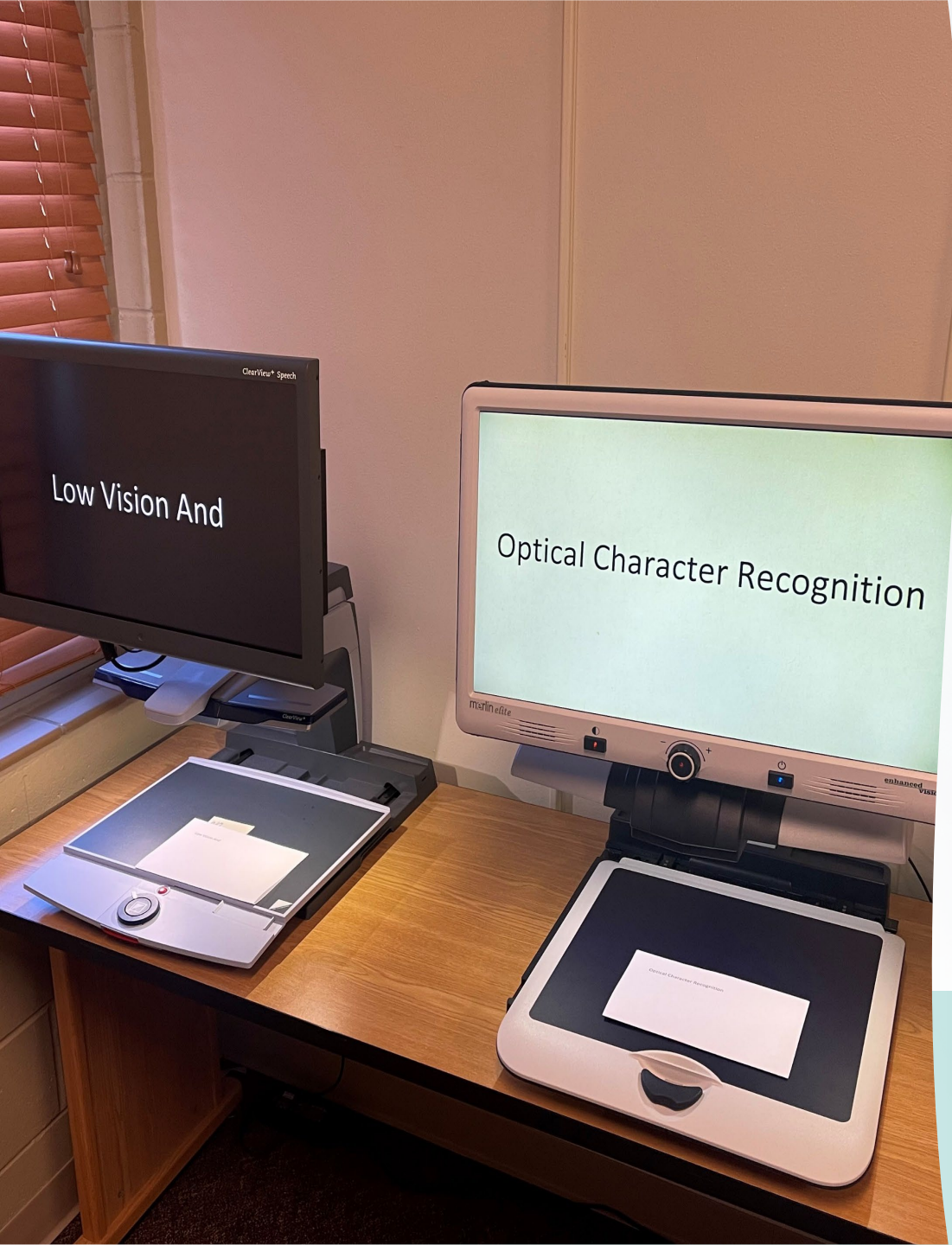
## Personal Devices

Digital voice recorders

Foxy Reader | PenFriend

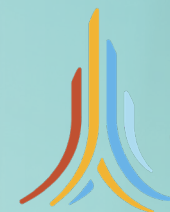
Victor Reader Stream

Book Players



# Low Vision & OCR

- OCR = Optical Character Recognition
- Facts
  - Central visual acuity must be 20/200 or worse in the better eye with best possible correction or a visual field of < 20 degrees
  - What is 20/20 vision?
  - Being legally blind does not mean...



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# Low Vision & OCR

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## Near Vision

- Handheld magnifier
- Video magnifier
- Phone magnifier
- CCTV

## Distance Vision

- Monocular device
- Bi-optics

# Low Vision & OCR

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## Glare Reduction

- Shades
- Types and colors

## Lighting

- Commercial lighting
- Head lamps
- Task lighting

# Low Vision & OCR

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## Optical Character Recognition

- Google lookout
- Seeing AI
- One step reader
- Stand alone devices

# Finance

## Divided into two sections

- Part I:
  - How money relates to blindness
- Part II:
  - General financial topics anyone could benefit from



# Finance

## How money relates to blindness



- Identify money
- Access banking
- Talking calculators/phone calculators
- Social Security information



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# Finance

## General Financial Information

- Budgeting
- Banking
- Credit
- Taxes
- Investing
- Income
- Insurance
- Estate Planning

# Orientation and Mobility (Travel)



Image of person with white cane on sidewalk

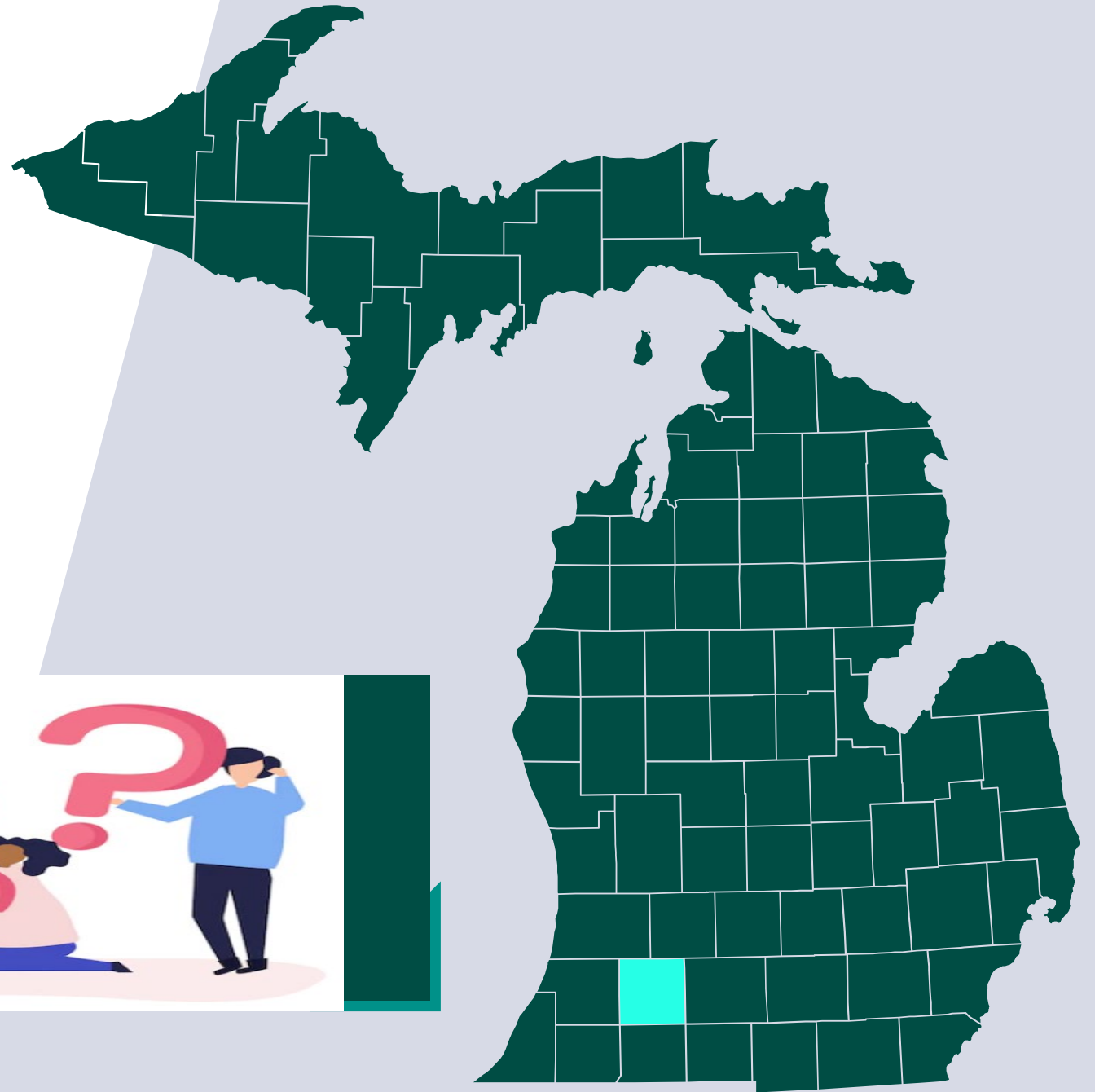
**ORIENTATION**

WHERE YOU ARE

**MOBILITY**

HOW YOU GET THERE

# Questions?





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