

Locating, training and retaining talent remains a top business challenge for manufacturers and the Going PRO Talent Fund has been a critical tool since 2014. Michigan businesses can apply for a share of the \$55 million available for Fiscal Year 2026, which extends from 10/1/25 to 9/30/26.

Since its launch in 2014, the Talent Fund has awarded more than \$309 million in grants to nearly 8,500 businesses, creating training opportunities for more than 230,000 Michigan workers. These grants give employers the resources to deliver employer-driven training that leads to industry-recognized credentials and opens doors to higher-paying, more secure careers for Michiganders.

Due to the 42% reduction in program funding for Fiscal Year 2026, LEO projects about 300 fewer employers will receive awards and 10,000 fewer Michigan workers will receive training support over the two award cycles.

▶▶ WHAT IS THE GOING PRO TALENT FUND?

The Going PRO Talent Fund awards funds to employers for training, developing and retaining current and newly hired employees. Training funded by the Talent Fund must be short-term and fill a demonstrated talent need experienced by the employer. Training must lead to a credential for a skill that is transferable and recognized by industry.

MMA has fought hard since 2014 to secure an increasing pool of funding available through the Michigan's vital Going PRO Talent Fund, a crucial resource of employer grants for talent solutions.

▶▶ ELIGIBLE TRAINING

Training programs funded by the Going PRO Talent Fund must be short-term and fill a demonstrated talent need experienced by the employer. Training must lead to a credential for a skill that is transferable and recognized by Industry.

- Classroom or Customized training
- On-the-job Training for new employees
- Apprenticeships for first-year US Department of Labor (USDOL) Registered Apprentices.

▶▶ REIMBURSEMENT FOR TRAINING

- Up to \$2,000 per person for classroom or customized training
- Up to \$2,000 per person for on-the-job training for new employees
- Up to \$3,500 per person for USDOL Registered Apprenticeships

▶▶ HOW TO APPLY

The Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity awards funds to employers through Michigan's workforce system, commonly known as the Michigan Works! network. Michigan Works! Business Services (WBLOMS) staff conduct fact-finding sessions with employers to assess their talent and skill gaps, suitable training providers and availability of federal funding sources. Business Services staff then help employers to access the state's online application system known as WBLOMS.

Independent Application	Cycle 1 (Jan-Dec)
Application Period	Oct 14, 2025 – Oct 30, 2025
Deadline for employers to submit applications	Oct 18, 2025
Training period	Jan 1, 2026 – Dec 31, 2026

▶▶ EMPLOYER-LED COLLABORATIVES (ELCS)

An Employer-Led Collaborative (ELC) brings together multiple employers (a minimum of two), education and training institutions, workforce development organizations, and other applicable partners to formulate training and education solutions to fill identified talent gaps. Successful ELCs solve a common or shared workforce problem.

- True formal collaboration through which a strategic effort determined that an issue shared by all the participating companies will be solved or positively addressed by the agreed upon classroom training
 - Formal organization or demonstrated history of partnership
 - Companies must include in their rationales how they will effectively collaborate with the other companies participating in the ELC after the training to solve the shared issue
- Limited funds set aside
- Classroom training only
 - Exception for employers holding shared OJT USDOL Registered Apprenticeship training standards
- 4+ separate companies; minimum request \$1,000 total
- Entirely separate application and scoring criteria
 - One independent award and one ELC award per location
 - ELC application opening Spring 2026

Employer-Led Collaborative

Applications Open	Spring 2026
Training Period	Based on award date

CHECK OUT ELIGIBLE TRAINING FROM MMA PARTNERS



Leadership Training

Support professionals at all levels with training from the world-famous Dale Carnegie Course.

World-Class Training & Mentoring System

A comprehensive system from The Luminous Group on how to effectively train operators.

Forklift Training & Certificate Solutions

Quality, memorable and effective forklift and aerial lift operator training, safety and certification from TrainMOR.

Technical Training Solutions

Talent development for mid-to-high level skilled shop floor occupations from Praeco Skills.

▶▶ GET MORE!

See MMA's Going PRO page for the latest updates and resources at mimfg.org.



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