



No Worker Left Behind (NWLB) in Barry, Branch and Calhoun Counties

What is No Worker Left Behind (NWLB)?

NWLB is Governor Granholm's vision for accelerating the transition of thousands of workers into good-paying jobs by providing up to two years of free tuition at any community college, university or other approved training provider. The program expands on job training and education services currently available to job seekers through Michigan Works! Service Centers. Beginning August 1, 2007, eligible individuals have three years to sign up and participate in this one-time offer, which is available on a first come, first serve basis and dependent on funding availability.

Does everyone qualify for training and have a right to free tuition?

NWLB is not an entitlement program, however, many more people than ever before qualify for training under the existing Workforce Investment Act programs. All interested persons who meet the eligibility criteria will be given assessments to see if they have the aptitude to succeed in their desired training program. These assessments will play a role in a person's selection and enrollment in NWLB.

Personal accountability and compliance with program parameters will also be taken into account when determining whether or not an individual is selected for NWLB. Note that it will be necessary to provide Michigan Works! staff with certain types of documentation in order to help determine program eligibility during the registration process.

How much free tuition can I get and what programs qualify?

Tuition covers up to \$5,000 per year for two years, for a total of \$10,000 per person. It covers tuition or instructional costs, books, materials, fees and academic supportive services.

Participants may pursue an associate's degree, occupational certificate, bachelor's degree completion or master's programs as long as two years or less of training is needed and the education will lead to a job in a high demand sector, emerging sector or entrepreneurial endeavor. Local Michigan Works! Service Centers will be able to help participants identify high demand occupations in their region. Note that the most updated list of high demand occupations can be found at <http://michpartners.org/nwlb.htm>

Do I have to be a full-time student to be in No Worker Left Behind? No, the program guidelines require that participants complete their two year training program within four years of starting the program.

Do I qualify, and if so, how do I get training?

Review the following eligibility criteria and contact the Michigan Works! Service Center in the county in which you live. (The list of service centers in Barry, Branch & Calhoun counties follows.) Staff in that office will explain the process to follow to schedule assessments, determine if you're a good candidate for NWLB and, if so, discuss an individualized training plan for you.

- Any person who is currently unemployed, or
- Any person who has received a notice of termination or layoff from employment, or
- Any employed person whose family income is \$40,000 or less per year.
- Participants must be at least 18 years old, must not have graduated from high school in the last two years and must not be full-time college students. (Individuals who have graduated high school in the last two years may qualify for Michigan Promise. You may get more information on the Michigan Promise at www.michigan.gov/mistudentaid.)
- Participants will need to take a skills assessment test administered by the Michigan Works! Agencies (MWAs).

Where are the Michigan Works! Service Centers in Barry, Branch and Calhoun counties?

The Michigan Works! Service Centers in the Barry, Branch and Calhoun county area are listed in the following table.

<p>Barry Michigan Works! Service Center 535 West Woodlawn Hastings, MI 49058 Phone: 269-945-9545, Ext 144</p>	<p>Branch Michigan Works! Service Center 210 Vista Drive Coldwater, MI 49036 Phone: 517-278-0210</p>
<p>Calhoun Mich. Works! Service Center 135 Hamblin Avenue Battle Creek, MI 49017 Phone: 269-965-1048</p>	<p>Albion Michigan Works! Service Center 101 N. Albion Street Albion, MI 49224 Phone: 517-629-5413</p>

How can I get additional information about No Worker Left Behind?

For more information about No Worker Left Behind visit www.michigan.gov/nwlb, go to your local Michigan Works! Service Center or call 1-800-285-WORKS (9675).

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