



Legislative Priorities

Michigan Works! Association 2020



About the Michigan Works! Association

- Professional organization representing the Michigan Works! network of 16 regional agencies.
- Association has three roles:
 - Training
 - Advocacy
 - Networking

Advocacy Role

- Association's legislative committee submits priorities to the Board of Directors for approval.
- Legislative committee meets monthly to review progress and discuss strategy and tactics.
- Peter Ruddell, of Honigman, LLP is the Association's state lobbyist
- Chris Andresen, of Dutko Government Relations is the Association's Washington Lobbyist



State Legislative Priorities

- Secure Funding for the Going Pro Talent Fund in the FY 2021 Budget
- Secure Funding and secure a vital role for the Michigan Works! system in MI Reconnect and Future for Frontliners
- Continue funding at current levels for the PATH Program

Approach

- Association arranges meeting with key legislators throughout the year, but especially during budget time
- Local Director, board members are invited to attend, along with Association leadership and lobbyist
- Local boards and directors are expected to develop relationships with their state legislators

Federal Priorities

- Include significant Workforce System funding in COVID Stimulus packages
- Amend Pell Grant program so more short-term training programs are eligible
- Insure Infrastructure bills include funding for training
- Increase workforce program funding to authorized levels



Approach

- Michigan Works! Association partners with other state workforce associations to hire a federal lobbyist
- Lobbyist connects with key lawmakers on workforce system priorities
- Lobbyist arranges meetings between key lawmakers and relevant local workforce leaders from their district
- Lobbyist also works with other interest groups, (e.g. National Skills Coalition, National Association of Counties, etc.), to influence legislation and appropriations

What have we done

- Over the last few months we have meet with nearly all members of our state legislative delegation to discuss priorities
- We've also had virtual meetings with Congresswoman Dingell and Sen. Peters
- We routinely communicate with legislators and staff in a variety of ways

What can you do?

- Board members should play a critical role in advocacy efforts
 - Mention MWSE! and your role when you meet with legislators
 - Call or write on critical issues, like Going Pro Talent Fund
 - Join staff when we meet with legislators
- MWSE Region will be influential in next legislative session
 - Senate Majority leader and potentially the Speaker of the House will be from our region.