

## Twelve Local Companies Receiving Award Money To Train Skilled Workers

Michigan's Talent Investment Agency (TIA) has awarded over \$335k in training funds to 12 Northeast Michigan employers.

TIA announced the recipients of its Going PRO Talent Fund (formerly the Skilled Trade Training Fund) awards for fiscal year 2019, and \$335,420 will go to employers in the Northeast Michigan region, which covers Alpena, Alcona, Cheboygan, Crawford, Montmorency, Oscoda, Otsego, and Presque Isle counties.

Michigan Works! Northeast Consortium, a regional workforce development agency, will notify the 12 employers this week that their applications are being funded in amounts ranging from \$1,375 to \$135,361.

Michigan Works! Northeast Consortium works with employers and job seekers to help develop and fill needs in the workforce. To learn more about Michigan Works! Northeast Consortium and the free services they provide for both employers and job seekers, visit [www.NEMCWorks.org](http://www.NEMCWorks.org).

The Going PRO Talent Fund provides competitive awards for training that enhances talent, productivity, and employee retention. These funds help ensure Michigan employers have the talent they need to compete and grow, and workers have the skills they need for in-demand jobs. This, in turn, increases the quality and competitiveness of Michigan businesses. This year, a total of \$29 million in Going PRO Talent Fund grants was awarded to 780 employers statewide. Since 2013, the training fund has injected millions of dollars into the Michigan economy for short-term training in high-demand occupations. The grants have helped Michigan businesses create more than 10,430 jobs and retain more than 37,000 jobs in the past five years.

"As Michigan works to close its talent gap, programs like the Going PRO Talent Fund provide resources for employers and their employees to keep up with an ever-changing, high-tech global economy," Talent and Economic Development Chief of Staff Jeremy Hendges said. "This fund is part of Michigan's comprehensive approach to ensuring it can compete in the global race for the most and best talent while ensuring our companies can continue to invest in homegrown talent."

The program is implemented locally by the Michigan Works! organizations, which conduct outreach to inform employers of the program. Employers with a need for skill enhancement, including apprenticeship programs and advance-technology training programs for current employees or individuals to be hired, may be eligible to apply for the grant.

"The Talent Fund has been highly successful, providing workers with the additional skills they need for in-demand jobs to help advance their careers," said Stephanie Beckhorn, director of

the Workforce Development Agency. "It also ensures Michigan's employers have the talent they need to compete and grow here in the Great Lakes State."

A professional trades shortage exists in Michigan and is expected to continue through 2024. Professional trades will account for more than 500,000 jobs in Michigan's economy, and approximately 15,000 new job openings are expected annually in the state during that time. The Talent Fund provides an opportunity to close that gap.

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