

Ask the Jobs Specialists

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Asked: Finding Jobs

Q. What are some sources that I can use to look for work in the medical field in the Gratiot and Isabella area?

A. *Michigan Talent Bank is always a good place to start – www.michworks.org. Most medical jobs are posted on the medical facilities web sites and applications are also on-line. Long term care facilities have had the most openings in recent years. Medical school placement services also usually have lists of available openings.*

Q. Electrical engineering masters program information.

A. *The Career Portal at www.mycareereducation.org will give you information on this career area. The internet is also available for customers that do not have access at home at the Michigan Works Service Center. A GOOGLE search of four year schools would also be helpful.*

Q. What incentives are there to open a renewable sources company?

A. *Check out the Green Jobs web page at www.michigan.gov/greenjobs. Also check out the Michigan Business One Stop at www.michigan.gov/business for resource to start a new business. Check with your local community college – there may be additional resources available.*

Q. Do you think it would be wise to continue my education with my Masters degree by increasing my debt or should I just continue looking for work?

A. *The old adage goes (if the economy is good get a job-If it is bad stay in school). The answer is not that simple. Every occupation must be evaluated based upon that industry. Do some research by talking to people in your field as well as employers that would hire someone with your training. You may not have to increase your debt – contact Michigan Works! about the No Worker Left Behind training opportunities. You can find a local Michigan Works! at www.michiganworks.org or 1-800-285-WORK.*

Q. Are more and more employers requiring a media resume, like a video on you tube?
A. *No, but they are using electronic resumes, applications and pre-employment test on line.*

Q. What are the top 3 states for employment?

A. *You can find Michigan labor market information at www.michigan.gov/lmi. You can use the Department of Labor website to find information about other states www.doleta.gov.*

Q. People feel that the longer they go without work, the lower their chance of finding a new permanent job. This has an emotional impact which fights against their motivation – at a time when motivation and aggressive job-seeking is key. What can you say that will help them keep going? What should we focus on?

A. *It could be said that we are all in the same unemployed boat in this state. Low skilled, highly skill, young and old are all becoming part of long term unemployed. The Michigan Works Centers have free workshops on a regular basis for the general public that can address these issues. It is important to network and let people know you are looking for employment, the type of employment and what skill set you have. Consider starting a networking job club.*

Q. One major concern is unemployment insurance, and getting your unemployment checks when you're unemployed. This is handled through the State Unemployment Insurance Agency. While we are not able to take questions about unemployment problems tonight, we can give out basic information. Can you tell us the basics?

A. *Many of the most frequently asked questions are posted at Michigan.gov/uia.*

Q. Talk about the kinds of assistance people can receive while they're hunting for a new job. (Should include job search training, interview skills training, cold call training, help with child care, help finding transportation to get to an interview, and social services.)

A. *Michigan Works provides many free job seeking services i.e.; Talent Bank www.michworks.org, , resume help, job seeking workshops, access to the internet, fax machines, interviewing techniques and training programs for eligible people.*

Q. Are there a lot of displaced older workers seeking new jobs? And is this a change from a few years ago

A. *The economic downturn has hit both older and younger workers. The difference between the last significant economic downturn of the "80s and now is that companies are closing, vanishing. Many individuals will need training to prepare for the jobs of the future.*

Q. Are most available jobs being advertised? (Should include cold calling as a technique to find jobs in an economy where many jobs are not being advertised.)

A. In this difficult economy, all job seeking methods should be tried. A cold call strategy will work if used appropriately and is not a nuisance or abusing an employer's time. Many manufacturing firms no longer have a receptionist at the entrance and it is impossible to do cold calls. Networking with friends and other contacts is the most productive method of finding out who is hiring-- who and where the hidden job market is.

Q. What about social services? How does someone decide when to seek more help?

A. The Michigan DHS web site provides answers to many questions people have about these services. www.michigan.gov/dhs.

Q. What is the national career readiness certificate?

A. The National Career Readiness Certificate verifies to employers anywhere in the United States an individual has essential core employability skills in Reading, Math, and Locating Information. ACT has researched over 16,000 occupations and these three skills are highly important to the majority of jobs in the workplace. The Certificate is an easily understood and nationally valued credential that certifies the attainment of these workplace skills. When employers ask for the National Career Readiness Certificate for jobs in their workplace, they tap into the most qualified labor pool in the area. Applicants with a National Career Readiness Certificate provide solid insight into their foundational skills in the core areas of Reading for Information, Applied Mathematics, and Locating Information.

Q. No work left behind program – What are the income requirements to be able to still receive assistance?

A. Any person unemployed, or any person who has received a notice of termination or lay off from employment, or any employed person with a family income of \$40,000 or less. Participants must be at least 18 years of age, must not have graduated from high school in the last two years, and must not be a full time college student.

Q. What kind of training is available through Michigan Works if you don't have a high school diploma?

A. Most programs require either a high school diploma or GED. Michigan Works offers GED prep as well as remediation courses prior to starting training. Many customers need computer training before starting a training program.

Q. Retiree – I am having difficulty finding a part-time job in Northern, MI. Do people discriminate against older applicants?

A. Current labor laws prohibit age discrimination. The Michigan Works Service Center may have special information for the older worker. Some older individuals feel they are discriminated against and may unknowing give "vibes" during their job search that they think their age is a negative rather than considering all of the experience they bring to an employer. Michigan Works! can help you review your image and the message you are sending a prospective employer.

Q. Please point me in the right direction in starting my own business. How do I get started?

A. Mid Michigan Community College has a Small Business Center. They can provide you with a variety of information. The economic development office MMDC may have Fast Track Training for business start up classes. Michigan Works also has written material that are free to customers. And you should visit the Business One Stop at www.michigan.gov/business.

Q. I have a teenage son. Can he get a job?

A. The ARRP stimulus monies have increased the funding for summer employment for youth 14 to 24 years of age. The program has an eligibility requirement. Call any Michigan works Center in your area to find out if your youth could be a part of this program.