

Labor and Economic Growth

General Overview

The Department of Labor and Economic Growth was created by Executive Order 2003-18 and is a consolidation of the job training and adult education programs with the licensing and regulatory functions through the consolidation of the former Departments of Consumer and Industry Services and Career Development. The Department is the primary regulatory agency and administers most of the adult job training and job search programs.

Major Divisions and Programs

Regulatory Programs. The Department provides for the licensure and regulation of commercial occupations, corporations, insurance companies and agents, financial institutions including auto finance companies; liquor sales and distribution; utilities, workplace safety. The Department also administers the State's Worker's Disability Compensation program and the Unemployment Insurance agency.

Tax Tribunal. This Tribunal resolves disputes regarding property, sales, withholding, use, personal income, and single business taxes.

Employment Relations. The bureau resolves labor disputes between public and private sector employers and employees through mediation and the enforcement of statutes.

Fire Service. The Bureau assists with fire safety planning, education of fire personnel, and review and inspection services for communities, industry and government.

Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA). The Authority provides grants, loans, and technical assistance for housing needs to low- and moderate-income families, as well as the homeless. This Authority also has programs that focus on community economic development including the Cool Cities Program. The MSHDA will administer the Michigan Housing and Community Development Fund which was funded for the first time in the FY 2007-08 budget at \$2,163,400.

Boards, Authorities, and Commissions. The Department houses the Michigan Employment Service Board of Review which hears contested unemployment cases; the Metropolitan Rights-of-Way Oversight Authority which oversees access to public rights-of-way sites for telecommunication companies; the Land Bank Fast Track Authority which works to prepare blighted parcels of land for resale; the Commission on Spanish Speaking Affairs, the Commission for the Blind, and the Commission on Disability Concerns.

Welfare-to-work. The Department administers the funding that is used to assist recipients of cash assistance, food assistance, or day care subsidies from the Department of Human Services to meet work requirements. The Department distributes this funding to the 25 local Michigan Works! Agencies who provide job search, job readiness, placement and other support services to qualified recipients.

Job Training. The Department administers Federal Workforce Investment Act funds which provide assistance for adult workers who need retraining or have been displaced, and some youth programs. The Department also administers job training and placement services for individuals with disabilities and operates the Michigan Career and Technical Institute (MCTI), a residential postsecondary training facility in Plainwell, Michigan.

Career Education. The Department administers the Federal adult education programs. It also licenses private post-secondary educational institutions and proprietary schools, manages the King-Chavez-Parks Initiatives to assist educationally disadvantaged citizens to participate in higher education, and administers the Gear-Up Michigan! Program to increase low-income students' access to higher education.

The Employment Service Agency. This agency receives Federal funds to administer the State's Labor Market Information System and the Employment Service Program, which provides services to recently unemployed and underemployed individuals. This program also provides employment services to specialized populations such as veterans and seasonal or migrant farm workers. This agency also administers the Michigan Talent Bank, which is a labor exchange database of resumes and jobs for Michigan employers and employees.

Michigan Nursing Corps. The Department, in conjunction with the Department of Community Health, administers the Michigan Nursing Corps, a new program funded at \$1,500,000 in FY 2007-08 to increase the number of nurses and nurse faculty.