



M-CAM & Michigan Works Agencies – Barriers, Challenges, and Opportunities

Collaborative efforts between and among M-CAM partners and Michigan Works agencies around the state are a pivotal component for the success of all of engaged stakeholders. M-CAM colleges need strong partners in workforce development to help identify, recruit, and serve students who are interested in jobs in advanced manufacturing; Michigan Works agencies need strong partners in training institutions to make sure those they serve have the right skills for good jobs in their local/regional service areas.

This document is intended to briefly highlight existing challenges that numerous partners are facing as they seek to jointly serve participants in hopes of illuminating tangible solutions that work for everyone involved.

Lack of Clarity About Partner Roles

Numerous partners have indicated they lack clarity about the specific roles, services, and processes that their counterparts provide in service of students and participants. What does a workforce development division in a community college provide for students? What does a workforce agency provide for job seekers? How do these services align so that individuals can efficiently navigate separate, yet complementary systems on their way to a job?

How are Individuals Counted for Reporting Purposes? By Who? And When?

Because M-CAM participants are part of the same federal funding agency as participants in WIOA, (under the U.S. Department of Labor), there is confusion about how participants are counted, when they are counted, and for what measures of success they are counted. Better understanding how M-CAM partners and Michigan Works agencies can both support participants as part of their mandatory reporting processes will mitigate existing barriers about what, and how, services are provided.

How do M-CAM Programs Align with Employer Needs?

Better information is needed for all partners involved about how M-CAM training programs support job seekers as they build careers in advanced manufacturing. Ensuring that the significant amount of work that has occurred within M-CAM is aligned with employer advisory boards that workforce agencies host will provide significant clarity. Further, ensuring that workforce agencies have the right information and material to talk about M-CAM with both employers and job seekers is an important component to be tackled.

Recruitment & Referrals

M-CAM partners will benefit greatly from recruitment and referral efforts on the part of workforce agencies, and vice versa. Helping each other recruit and providing referrals will not diminish each partner's efforts, but there is concern that doing so will limit the ability of each partner to accurately report on who they have served. Getting clarity about reporting from a recruitment and referral standpoint will benefit all partners.

This workforce solution was funded by a grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration. The solution was created by the grantee and does not necessarily reflect the official position of the U.S. Department of Labor. The U.S. Department of Labor makes no guarantees, warranties, or assurances of any kind, express or implied, with respect to such information, including any information on linked sites and including, but not limited to, accuracy of the information or its completeness, timeliness, usefulness, adequacy, continued availability, or ownership.

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