



WEST MICHIGAN
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**LITERACY
TO WORK**



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Literacy to Work Fact Sheet

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Description: The West Michigan Literacy to Work Initiative will expand the Making College Accessible pilot underway in Kent County. The pilot was developed with funding from Michigan Department of Labor, Energy and Economic Growth, (DELEG), leadership from the Literacy Center of West Michigan (LCWM) and Grand Rapids Community College (GRCC) and Area Community Service Employment and Training Council (ACSET, the Michigan Works agency for Kent and Allegan counties).

Literacy to Work will expand the pilot to include first Ottawa and Muskegon counties and eventually include all eight West Michigan counties served by WMSA. This individualized, learner-centered approach to improving basic skills, is designed to lead to a General Equivalency Diploma (GED) and/or a Michigan National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC), and then on to additional occupational training opportunities. The program is intended to help individuals who lack these basic credentials to obtain a living wage job and access additional funding to further their education and skills under Michigan's mainstream No Worker Left Behind (NWLB) program.

Partners: West Michigan Strategic Alliance – www.wm-alliance.org
Grand Rapids Community College – www.grcc.edu
Literacy Center of West Michigan – www.literacywm.org

Goals: We anticipate serving 250 individuals by working with existing organizations throughout the region.

Progress: Funding was received in early March 2010. We anticipate enrolling participants in Ottawa County in September 2010. We are in the process of building a coalition of employers, Michigan Works! Agencies, community colleges and other educators to take Literacy to Work to full regional scale.



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Current information about our priorities, initiatives and progress can be found on our Web site: www.wm-alliance.org.