

COMMUNITY VENTURES

TOOLS AVAILABLE TO COMPANIES THROUGH COMMUNITY VENTURES:

• <i>Pre-Screened Talent</i>
• <i>Wage Reimbursement Grant of \$5,000 Per Employee</i>
• <i>Employment Retention Support</i>

Community Ventures is a special initiative led by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) to help structurally unemployed individuals pursue career opportunities at Michigan companies. Community Ventures is designed to ensure that employers and talent are well-matched. The ultimate goal of Community Ventures is to provide a talent match and supportive resources to employers and to ensure that participating job applicants are provided with a career pathway.

Community Ventures currently operates in Detroit (including Highland Park and Hamtramck), Pontiac, Flint and Saginaw.

WHO'S ELIGIBLE?

Companies

Any Michigan company can participate if it is willing to hire talent residing in the targeted urban communities, **and provide them with permanent, full-time employment.**

Talent (Structurally Unemployed)

Eligibility criteria include at least **one** of the following:

- Lack of education
- Lack of functional literacy
- Long-term disconnection from employment
- Low income
- Ex-offenders
- At-risk youth

After prospective applicants are pre-screened, employers will interview and select the best candidates for their company.

THE PROCESS

Step 1: Engage Companies: MEDC and partners identify companies with employment opportunities that are willing to hire structurally unemployed talent. The company's needs are assessed and a hiring commitment is secured by contract.

Step 2: Place Talent: MEDC works cooperatively with the local Michigan Works Agency (MWA) and other talent providers to identify job-ready, pre-screened talent. MEDC contracts with the company and provides wage reimbursement in monthly installments until the \$5,000/employee maximum is reached. A total of 10% of the payment is withheld until the employee has worked for one year.

Step 3: Talent Retention: MEDC works cooperatively with workforce development community partners to provide additional supportive services and assist participants with job retention based on the needs identified by the company. Additional resources are available for company-identified post-employment needs. Companies report monthly on talent hired and retained for a period of up to one year.

Step 4: Career Pathway: The ultimate goal of Community Ventures is to provide participants with a career pathway out of poverty. MEDC, MWAs, and other partners will work cooperatively to provide additional services that include workforce readiness training, adult education and literacy.

RESOURCES AVAILABLE

Companies interested in learning more about Community Ventures can contact the MEDC Customer Contact Center at 517.373.9808 or email at communityventures@michigan.org.