



For Immediate Release
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Skilled trades work available for Michigan unemployed

Unemployed men and women in Michigan can find entry level and skilled trades jobs such as carpentry, roofing and construction labor thanks to a recent partnership between Michigan Community Action (MCA) and Skilled to Build Michigan Foundation.

“We hear from builders on a daily basis they can’t keep up with demand due to a lack of available labor,” says **Dawn Crandall**, executive director of the Skilled to Build Michigan Foundation. “In just the 17 trades we are focused on, we could hire more than 5,000 employees today in the industry.”

Applicants can visit the Skilled to Build website (skilledtobuildmichigan.com) for a full list of available trades and to submit an application to connect with employers in their area. In addition to open jobs, applicants have training opportunities to help them start careers in building trades.

Workers who have left the state over the past decade and cutbacks in career tech programs have led to a labor shortage that is hindering the growth of Michigan’s residential construction industry. The jobs that Skilled to Build has to offer, most of which require a high school degree or less, will stimulate the construction industry and lower unemployment rates.

“Good paying jobs are a key road out of poverty,” says **Kate White**, MCA executive director. “Community Action Agencies support community members who are looking for jobs and encourage them to use Skilled to Build. There are jobs for women, men and veterans at all levels of skill and experience.”

Founded in 1975, MCA serves its 29 member agencies throughout Michigan to strengthen their capacity to alleviate the causes and circumstances of poverty.

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