



For Immediate Release
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Non-skilled workers sought for construction industry

As work requirements for able bodied Michigan adults to receive food assistance go back into effect Jan. 1, 2017, Michigan Community Action (MCA) encourages job seekers to consider applying for one of the thousands of construction jobs that are currently unfilled in the state.

MCA has partnered with the **Skilled to Build Foundation** to help pair jobs with potential workers. The foundation estimates that approximately 5,000 jobs are available today in 17 construction trades. Local Community Action Agencies (CAAs) stand ready to help people apply for and succeed in the jobs.

For example, recently a residential contractor in Ingham County was searching for siding installers and a builder in Novi wanted general laborers for its construction sites. A nonprofit agency in Oakland County was seeking a driver and mover to pick up donated items from households in the area.

“The construction industry wants people who are willing to learn and are able to be reliable employees,” explains **Kate White**, MCA executive director. “It’s an opportunity for women and men to go to work right away. There are opportunities to work in interior finishing (painting, wallpapering, etc) and office work, along with more traditional construction jobs. CAAs may be able assist with transportation and filling out job applications in order to connect income eligible job seekers with employers. If someone gets hired, CAAs can sometimes provide work boots, tools and other essentials to help people succeed.”

"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."

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services work requirements affect adults without dependents. Applicants can visit the Skilled to Build website (skilledtobuildmichigan.com) for a list of openings and to submit an application to connect with employers in their area. To find a local Community Action Agency, visit www.micommunityaction.org.

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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