

GEMS

Gain
Employment,
Maintain
Support

Participant Handout

We all want to take the best care of our children. But sometimes it is tough to find decent work and make enough money to support them. Here is a chance to get on a new track for you and your family.

How Can GEMS Help Me?

As a GEMS participant, you will be able to receive the following services:

- **Career Coach**
Receive one-on-one attention and referrals to needed services. You can meet with your career coach in-person, on the phone, and online at least once a week to support your progress.
- **Job Leads and Career Planning**
Get help finding job leads that fit your skills. Hear ideas and strategies that job seekers use to get hired. Learn about ways to earn better wages and advance your career.
- **Support Services**
You **may** receive help with things like work-related expenses, transportation, licensing fees, job training, and GED or English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, if available. You also **may** be able to get job retention and career advancement services for up to six months after entering employment.
- **Incentives**
The Friend of the Court **may** reinstate suspended licenses, review your child support order to see if it can be lowered, lift bench warrants, and reconsider other enforcement actions that are in effect. Michigan Works! **may** provide financial incentives when you reach specific milestones in the program.
- **On-the-Job Training**
On-the-job training can help job seekers re-enter the workforce. GEMS offers a wage reimbursement to employers to train you on new skills.

Get Involved with GEMS

To receive GEMS services, **you may voluntarily enroll, or a judge may refer you to the program as part of a court order.** You can speak with your IV-D caseworker to learn more.

To be eligible for GEMS, you must:

- Be unable to meet or have difficulty meeting your monthly child support payments due to a lack of employment or limited employment.
- Live in a county where GEMS is available.

GEMS is made possible through a collaboration between the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and its Michigan Office of Child Support, the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity, and Michigan Works!.