

GEMS

Gain
Employment,
Maintain
Support

GEMS Talking Points

GEMS Eligibility and Recruitment

- We want to recruit those who are most likely to be successful, so we are targeting payers who have shown they want to pay their child support but are unable to due to a lack of employment or the skills necessary to maintain steady employment.
- Participation can be voluntary or court-ordered.
- Participants will live in and have a case in a participating GEMS county. A participant's cases in other counties will be considered for GEMS only if the cases are in a participating county.
- Participants must be medically able to work.
- Many employers will require participants to pass drug screening.

GEMS Services

- Traditional employment services
 - Job referrals
 - Training opportunities
 - GED completion
 - Community service (assist with hard and soft skills for employment)
 - Employability skills workshops (resume writing, interview skills, etc.)
 - Supportive services (transportation, supplies needed for employment, court fees, etc.)
 - Retention services (checking in with participants to ensure they retain employment)
- Transitional jobs
 - Short-term subsidized employment opportunities
 - Designed to increase participants' income while helping them "learn to work by working"

GEMS Design and Process

- GEMS services are offered to unemployed or underemployed child support payers and can be voluntary or court-ordered.
 - The Friend of the Court (FOC) finds child support payers on their caseload who are currently unemployed or underemployed and who also live in one of the participating counties.
 - The FOC worker talks to potential participants about GEMS responsibilities and the consequences of non-participation.
 - The FOC worker makes a referral to Michigan Works!.
 - Michigan Works! contacts the participant and provides orientation details.
 - Michigan Works! staff complete orientation with participants.
 - Frequent communication is needed between the FOC worker and the Michigan Works! career coach.
 - Upon completion, the payer will be willing and able to make regular child support payments in full.