

Michigan Works! West Central

Request for Proposals

Region 4 OS Reentry Services

Reentry United 2026 Presenter

Michigan Works! West Central and Reentry United invites dynamic speakers, individuals with lived experience and professionals to submit proposals to present at our Reentry United 2026 Conference. This premier event, dedicated to reentry practices and fostering successful reintegration, will bring together experts, justice-involved individuals, and advocates from across the state of Michigan and Nationwide. The conference will take place on August 14, 2026, at Grand Valley State University – Allendale Campus.

INQUIRIES AND PROPOSALS SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:

Name: Chelsea Augustson

Title: OS Reentry Program Manager

Entity: Michigan Works! West Central

Address: 240 E. Church Ave. Reed City, MI 49304

Phone: (231) 679-8767

Email: caugustson@mwwc.org

Proposal Deadline:

All proposals must be submitted by 3:30 PM on Friday, February 20, 2026. Late submissions will not be considered.

A. Theme for Reentry United 2026 – Breaking Barriers

Returning to the basics to spark real, lasting change

We are seeking programs, powerful stories, and proven solutions that break down barriers for justice-impacted individuals and families. If your work creates access, restores opportunity, or builds bridges, we want to hear from you.

We encourage proposals that include:

- **Justice-Impacted Expertise** – Programs or knowledge grounded in direct work with justice-impacted individuals
- **Housing Solutions** – Proven housing programs that create stability and long-term success post-incarceration
- **Innovative Support Programs** – Unique or creative approaches that assist justice-impacted individuals in reentry and recovery
- **Lived Experience Voices** – Individuals willing to share firsthand stories of overcoming barriers after incarceration and leading a successful life.
- **System Partnerships** – Successful collaboration with law enforcement, parole boards, or related justice agencies
- **Family Reunification** – Programs that repair, rebuild, and strengthen family connections
- **Workforce Pathways** – Successful job placement or training programs focused on skilled trades and sustainable careers

B. Proposal Submission Guidelines

1. Submissions Deadline

All prospective presenters **MUST** electronically submit their proposal no later than 3:30 pm on Friday, February 20, 2026, to Chelsea Augustson at caugustson@mwwc.org. Late submissions will not be considered.

2. Submissions Guidelines

To submit a proposal please provide the following information:

1. **Presenter Information:** Name, title, organization, and contact information.
2. **Session Title:** A clear, concise title
3. **Session Description:** Provide a summary of your presentation between 150 and 250 words, highlighting how it connects to the conference theme and

why it's valuable for attendees. If you are proposing a program that you lead, please include supporting data demonstrating its effectiveness and success.

4. **Learning Objectives:** 2 – 3 takeaways for attendees.
5. **Format Preference:** Workshop, panel, breakout session, or another format

C. Selection Criteria:

Evaluation of each proposal will be based on the following criteria:

Factors	Point Range
Relevance to Conference	1-25
Originality and Innovation	1-25
Clarity and Quality	1-25
Potential Impact and Applicability	1-25
Maximum Points	100

D. Important Dates

- **Proposal Deadline:** February 20, 2026
- **Notification of Acceptance:** March 13, 2026
- **Final Presentation Due:** June 17, 2026
- **Conference Date:** August 14, 2026

E. Presenter Benefits

- Complimentary Conference Registration for two panelists
- Networking opportunities with state- and nation-wide professionals and advocates
- Recognition in conference materials.

F. Accessibility & Inclusion

Michigan Works! West Central and Reentry United are committed to diversity and inclusion. Please indicate any accommodation needed. We encourage proposals from individuals with lived experience and underrepresented communities.

G. Disclaimer

Michigan Works! West Central and Reentry United reserves the right to select proposals that best align with conference objectives.

We look forward to receiving your proposal and partnering with you to make Reentry United 2026 a success.