

DANIEL — Regional Innovation Project

As the primary financial provider for his household and a busy father of five, Daniel was focused on one goal: Ensuring long-term stability for his family while expanding opportunities for his small business. As a tree-removal and trimming business owner in Newaygo County, Daniel knew that earning a Class A commercial driver's license (CDL) would allow him to operate heavy equipment, take on larger jobs and grow his business, but the cost and time commitment made the goal feel out of reach.

In early September 2025, Daniel reached out to the Newaygo County Michigan Works! West Central service center to explore next steps. Unfortunately, his pursuit was initially delayed due to funding limitations and a high demand for CDL training, with classes booked well into the future. Despite the setback, Daniel remained persistent.

When funding became available, Daniel was enrolled in the WIOA Adult program and Michigan Works! West Central's Regional Innovation Project program by the end of October 2025. He received the financial support needed to begin Class A CDL training with West Michigan CDL, starting Jan. 12, 2026. To ensure he could participate while continuing to work and support his family, Michigan Works! West Central also provided mileage reimbursement to offset the cost of travel to and from training.

With guidance and encouragement from Michigan Works! West Central



Staff, Daniel was able to attend weekend classes that fit his demanding schedule. After completing five weekend sessions, Daniel achieved a goal he had worked toward for years and earned his CDL.

Today, Daniel is a proud commercial driver's license holder, better positioned to expand his business and pursue bigger opportunities. He credits Michigan Works! West Central for helping turn an impossible goal

into a reality and encourages others to reach out if they want to advance their careers.

"Thanks to Michigan Works! West Central I am now able to further my business and have bigger and better goals. I am grateful for the help and opportunity they were able to give me and would recommend reaching out if you have ever wanted to get your CDL but have not been able to do it on your own," he said.