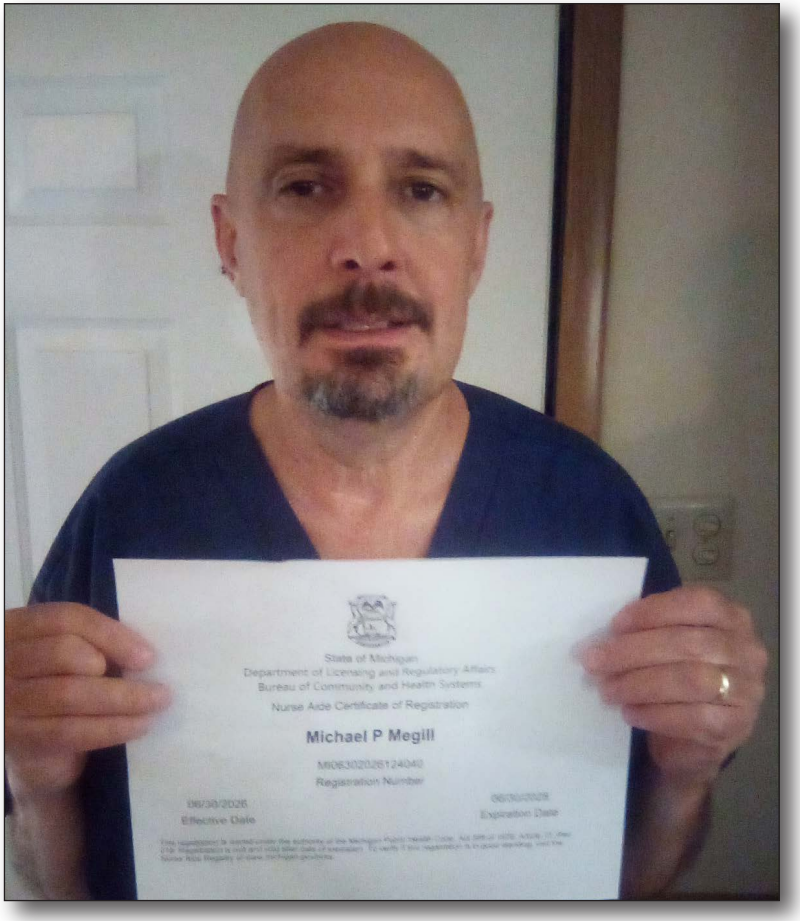
Success Stories

June 2026

MICHAEL — WIOA Adult

After spending many years working fulltime as a machinist, Michael began to feel the physical demands of the job taking a toll on his body. While he appreciated the work and the skills he had developed over the years, he knew he wanted a career that would be less physically demanding and allow him to make a more direct impact on the lives of others.

Outside of his full-time job, Michael worked weekends as a Behavior Technician supporting youth with autism. Through that experience, he discovered a passion for helping people and providing care to those in need. The rewarding nature of the work inspired him to pursue a new career path in healthcare, leading him to set a goal of becoming a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA).



With support from Michigan Works! West Central, Michael received assistance throughout the process, including resume development, career guidance, CNA training, certification support and supportive services that helped cover work clothing, shoes and mileage expenses. The step-by-step guidance provided by staff gave Michael the tools and confidence needed to successfully navigate a major career transition.

One of the biggest challenges Michael faced was preparing for and passing the CNA certification exam. Determined to achieve his goal, he dedicated himself to studying and remained focused even when the process felt difficult. His hard work and perseverance paid off when he successfully passed the exam and earned his CNA certification.

Michael has transitioned into a rewarding healthcare career where he can combine his strong work ethic with his passion for helping others. Reflecting on his experience, Michael shared the services he received through Michigan Works! West Central were invaluable, and the support and encouragement provided along the way played an important role in helping him reach his goals.