

REX — Dislocated Worker/RESEA

When Rex walked into the Newaygo Michigan Works! West Central Service Center in early December 2024, the weight of uncertainty rested heavily on his shoulders.

After years working as a pipefitter and electrician at GWI Engineering, he had been laid off — just days before the holidays. The job had been physically demanding, but it had also been steady. Now, he was looking for a new direction.

At his first meeting with Michigan Works! West Central, Rex explored his options.

Among the services discussed that day—job search support, resume building, training opportunities—one path stood out: CDL training. It was a career shift that would allow him to stay in full-time, year-round work without the intense physical strain of his former trade. With encouragement and guidance



from the Michigan Works! West Central team, Rex decided to move forward.

Just days after attending an orientation, Rex was already gathering the paperwork needed for enrollment in the WIOA Dislocated Worker Program. With only 20 weeks of unemployment benefits to lean on, time was critical.

Michigan Works! provided funding assistance for training through 160 Driving Academy and helped Rex navigate the necessary steps, including a RESEA appointment to confirm his eligibility and progress. By March 13, 2025, his hard work paid off—Rex officially earned his CDL Class A Certification.

Over the next few months, Rex put his all into the RESEA program. He also participated in resume and cover letter workshops at the service center, sharpening his tools for the job hunt ahead. Now, Rex is actively interviewing with several local companies, confident in his new skill set and the road ahead.