

KODE — WIOA Adult

Kode first visited the Michigan Works! West Central Newaygo Service Center while working as a cook at Red Rocks Café in Kent City, earning just \$11 per hour. Driven by a desire to improve his financial situation and build a more sustainable future, Kode expressed strong interest in pursuing a career in trucking. He was particularly focused on obtaining his CDL Class A license and was open to long-haul, cross-country driving—broadening his potential in a thriving industry.

Recognizing Kode's determination, Michigan Works! West Central stepped in to support his journey. One of his first needs was reliable transportation, as he relied on his personal vehicle to commute to both work and training. Michigan Works! West Central helped by providing four brand new tires, ensuring he could continue getting to work and preparing for training without disruption.

In winter 2024, Kode received tuition assistance to attend West Michigan



CDL. His commitment and enthusiasm for the training paid off. He performed so well that he was able to test out of the program early. On top of tuition support, Michigan Works! West Central also provided mileage reimbursement to help cover his travel costs during training to earn his CDL.

On Feb. 24, 2025, Kode officially started his new job with Arrowwaste as a garbage-truck driver. While the position wasn't the long-haul role he originally envisioned, it came with a significant increase in pay—nearly \$13 more per hour than his previous job—along with improved job security and career

growth opportunities.

Kode's transition from the kitchen to the driver's seat highlights what's possible with the right support and a commitment to change. With a new career path and a brighter future ahead, Kode is well on his way to building the life he envisioned.