

JUNE 12, 2026

Valley Area Agency OJT Success Story

Valley Area Agency on Aging was hiring Maliah as a Social Services Paraprofessional and reached out to GST Michigan Works! to inquire about utilizing the On-the-Job Training program to offset the costs of her training. Funds were available, and Maliah began her four-week training program in order to learn how the company maintained case history records and how to prepare reports correctly. She also learned how to use and care for company equipment and oversee the day-to-day activities of residents. Maliah's journey to employment is a great example of how strong partnerships and targeted training can lead to long-term success. The OJT allowed her to gain hands-on experience while developing the skills needed to succeed in her new role.

GST Michigan Works! partnership with Valley Area Agency on Aging, with our On-the-Job Training program, Maliah received structured, paid training that helped her learn the responsibilities of her position while contributing meaningfully to the organization. In addition to the OJT support, Maliah completed VAAA's internal training and onboarding process, where she learned agency policies, procedures, and best practices to effectively serve the community.

The combination of employer-led training and GST Michigan Works! support allowed Maliah to build confidence, strengthen her skill set, and transition smoothly into her new role. Her success highlights the impact of collaborative workforce solutions in meeting employer needs while supporting job seekers in achieving sustainable employment.

Maliah's story reflects the commitment of Valley Area Agency on Aging and GST Michigan Works! to invest in talent, develop skills, and create pathways to meaningful careers. VAAA was able to recoup a total of $1,520.00 in OJT funds to offset the cost of Maliah's training, and she remains employed at VAAA.