

SEPTEMBER 11, 2026

Serving Those Who Served

After being unemployed since August 2025, Joseph, a veteran and older worker, found himself facing growing financial stress. As the months passed without a paycheck, everyday expenses became harder to manage, and the barriers to finding work continued to grow.

Joseph had been working closely with his Veterans' Career Advisor (VCA), who supported him throughout his job search and recognized that he could benefit from additional local resources. In April 2026, the VCA connected with a Career Coach at GST Michigan Works! in Owosso. Because Joseph lives in nearby Corunna, he was able to quickly begin working with the local team.

When Joseph met with his Career Coach, they discussed his career goals, the obstacles standing in his way, and enrolled him in the WIOA program. One of the biggest challenges was transportation. Without reliable transportation, expanding his job search was difficult. GST Michigan Works! stepped in to help Joseph purchase car insurance and later assisted with needed vehicle repairs, ensuring he could safely travel to interviews and work. After Joseph secured employment, the organization also provided mileage reimbursement during his first five weeks on the job, helping ease the financial burden as he transitioned back into the workforce.

Throughout the process, Joseph remained committed to his job search. He consistently followed the guidance and encouragement provided by his Veterans' Employment Services team and GST Michigan Works! staff. His determination, combined with the support he received, ultimately led to success.

On May 5, 2026, Joseph accepted a full-time position with AgroLiquid. Two months later, he is still thriving in his role.

Reflecting on his journey, Joseph shared, *"Thank you for all you and the staff did for me and my family throughout this tough time."*

Joseph's story is a reminder that even during life's most difficult seasons, the right support, determination, and persistence can open the door to new opportunities. By working together, Veterans' Employment Services and GST Michigan Works! helped Joseph overcome significant barriers, regain financial stability, and move forward with confidence.