

SEPTEMBER 11, 2026

Path to Stability and Purpose

When Stephanie, a credentialed and experienced social services worker, returned to Michigan from Kentucky to care for her parents, she anticipated a smooth transition back into the workforce. With a strong passion for helping others, she was eager to reconnect with an agency where she could continue making a difference. However, after several months of searching without success, Stephanie turned to DHHS for additional support.

In September 2025, Stephanie enrolled in the PATH program, where she received critical financial assistance and employment services. With this support, she secured employment within just 45 days. The program not only helped her find a job but also provided the stability she needed during the early stages of reestablishing her career. She also benefited from assistance through GST Michigan Works! which helped cover essential vehicle maintenance and registration, removing key barriers to maintaining employment.

By October, Stephanie had secured a full-time position as a caseworker with the Valley Area Agency on Aging. While she was grateful for the opportunity, she recalled that catching up financially left little room for unexpected expenses. She shared, “I would definitely say all of the mileage reimbursements were so wonderful, but the biggest blessing was helping with the mechanic bills. They were unexpected and left me short on my other bills. This was such a blessing to be able to be reimbursed.“ Continued support during this time allowed her to remain focused, confident, and committed to both her professional goals and her family responsibilities.

Today, Stephanie continues her work with the Valley Area Agency on Aging, where she now supports others who are navigating challenges like those she once faced. Her journey is a powerful example of how the right resources and support can help individuals overcome obstacles, achieve self-sufficiency, and give back to their communities.