



# COMPLETE YOUR DEGREE PROGRAM

MAYBE 'SOMEDAY' CAN BECOME TODAY!



## Education for Adult Learners

The Community Foundation for Oceana County board began an in-depth look at our scholarship program's impact in 2019, including how to support adult learners. The Complete Your Degree (CYD) program, pioneered by St. Clair Community Foundation, is a way to redefine and reimagine how scholarship assets are used to support the continuing education of young adults.

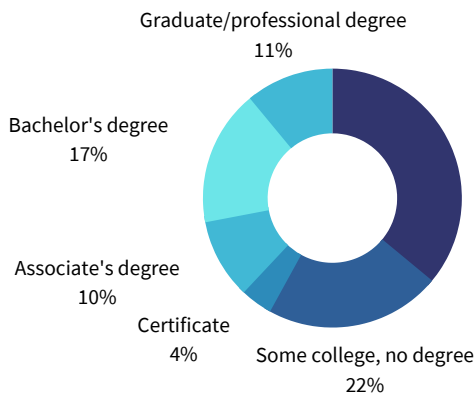
Recently, the State of Michigan launched grant programs to help adult learners. The Futures for Frontliners (F4F) and MI Reconnect programs award tuition to frontline workers and adults over 25, respectively. These programs provide free in-district tuition. This in-district stipulation leaves Oceana County students with a portion of the cost to pay out of pocket.

**Goal: To help local adults achieve degrees & credentials towards meeting the employment skill gap, thereby increasing household prosperity and fostering a more vibrant economy.**

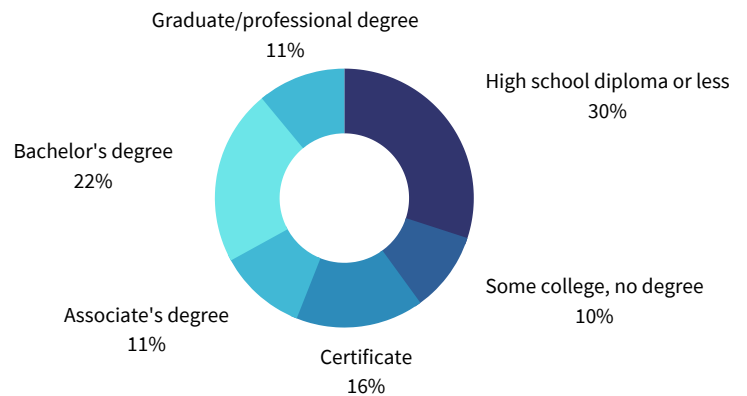
### OCEANA COUNTY ADULT LEARNER POPULATION

- 26% of Oceana county residents have some college credit & no degree (ages 25-64).
- 15% of Oceana households live in poverty, while 32% are ALICE ("Working Poor"), struggling to meet their basic needs.
- Oceana County had 341 applicants into the F4F & Reconnect Programs in February 2021.
- 14 adults submitted applications in our first pilot round in January 2021:
  - Age range: 20-37
  - 10 were F4F students
  - 10 were involved in healthcare, primarily nursing
  - 11 were first-generation students

## NATIONAL SKILL GAP



2018 Education Attainment



2020 Employer Need

Sources: A Stronger Nation Report, Lumina Foundation; UnitedforALICE.org



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**These students are primarily the “working poor” living paycheck to paycheck. Going back to school is a huge strain where extra expenses cause hardships.**

ADDITIONAL SUPPORTS CAN BE A MAKE-IT-OR-BREAK-IT SCENARIO:

*“I am a mother of 3 children, doing my best and my husband works as well. We live paycheck to paycheck and I would love to not have to struggle anymore. So I want to go back to school for a rewarding career.”*

*“I’m currently living paycheck to paycheck, so any additional costs means something has to be put off and or sacrificed.”*

*“I feel as though the only struggles would be covering costs of books, tuition, or courses. I do live on my own and work full time to provide for myself and have managed to save but I have recently had a few large bills pop up and has dug into my savings. Luckily I have a reliable car.”*

## Complete Your Degree Program Components

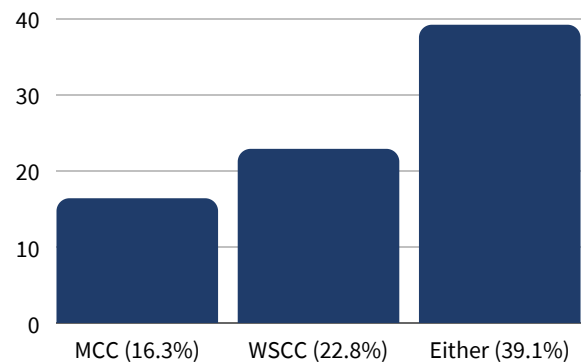
- A partnership between CFOC and one or two community colleges such as MCC or WSCC
- Once a senior or young adult is accepting into the program, they remain if they adhere to conditions, until they successfully graduate or transfer to another institution.
- Renewable Scholarship;
  - The amount to be determined can be up to a full ride. The scholarship is last-in dollars.
- Align with OCAN Goals prioritizing students of color, first-generation, or/and low income and “hot” jobs
- Success coach (CFOC Staff) to work with students, provide support, resource referral, etc.
- A dedicated portion of funds for “Life Needs”
  - "Life Needs" are handled on a case-by-case basis, can be used on barriers limiting success such as child care, food, medical care, transportation needs, housing, technology needs, etc.
- Life Needs Scholarships are paid directly to the vendor/college

### HIGH-DEMAND, HIGH-WAGE OCCUPATIONS IN WEST MICHIGAN

THROUGH 2026 AND REQUIRE AN ASSOCIATE DEGREE, LONG-TERM TRAINING, OR AN APPRENTICESHIP

- Automotive Body and Related Repairers
- Brickmasons and Blockmasons
- Carpenters
- Dental Hygienists
- Diagnostic Medical Sonographers
- Electrical and Electronics Engineering Technicians
- Electrical Power-Line Installers and Repairers
- Electricians
- HVAC and Refrigeration Mechanics and Installers
- Industrial Engineering Technicians
- Industrial Machinery Mechanics
- Machinists
- Nurses
- Occupational Therapy Assistants
- Paralegals and Legal Assistants
- Physical Therapist Assistants
- Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters
- Radiologic Technologists
- Respiratory Therapists
- Web Developers

### % Oceana Graduates Enrolled at MCC & WSCC



Source: MI Works Hot Jobs West Michigan; MI School Data