

# moka



## **Applauding Advocacy**

After months of non-stop advocacy for the Direct Support Professionals in Michigan we have seen enormous change in Michigan legislators. This changes could not have happened without your unyielding support and the cacophony of sound your voices have made. We are thrilled to say that the hard work has won us the first of what we hope will be many victories.

The Michigan Fiscal Budget for 2022 now includes \$414.5 million to permanently increase wages for Direct Support Professionals. While this is not the last stop on our advocacy train, we certainly should take a moment to celebrate what an accomplishment it is.

*Thank you* to everyone who reached out to their representatives, wrote letters/emails/social media posts, and used their voice when it felt like we weren't going to get anywhere. We could not have done this without YOU!

[READ MORE ABOUT THE APPROVED 2022 FISCAL BUDGET HERE](#)



### **The MOKA Minute: Blog**

Just when you thought you couldn't stay any more connected, we started a blog!

*The MOKA Minute is here to keep you updated on all the mission moments you may have missed.*

Our first highlight - MOKA's incredible community partner, [SCHERDEL Sales & Technology](#) received one of six Employer Appreciation Awards from the Muskegon County's Intellectual and Developmental Disability System of Care Consortium. We are so proud of the work they have done to support individuals in our community and at MOKA. To read the full blog post about their impact and our deep appreciation click the button below!

[READ THE FULL BLOG HERE](#)



### **Investing In Our Direct Care Workers**

*Landmark Study Shows \$52 Million+ Return on Investment in Michigan's Direct Care Workers. Higher Tax Revenues, Lower Turnover Costs and Reduced Reliance on Public Assistance All Are Wins for State.*

A new study commissioned by the Michigan Direct Care Worker Wage Coalition demonstrates—for the first time—the true return on Michigan's investment in the Direct Care Workers that specialize in behavioral health issues.

For an additional \$1 per hour investment, ROI totals \$52.6 million. For a \$5 increase, that number grows to \$261 million. Cost savings are generated by increased tax revenues, lower turnover costs, and a reduction in public assistance.

[READ THE COMPLETE ARTICLE HERE](#)



— “ —  
 I have worked for MOKA for 10 years; the most important and meaningful part is simply what I do. I love every aspect of what I do -- caring for individuals and ensuring their needs are met. I genuinely enjoy the way it makes me feel to see someone's day brighten up because of something I did.  
 — ” —  
 - Mary Simon



### MOKA IN THE MEDIA

We want to give a huge thank you to [Beer City Dog Biscuits](#) for inviting MOKA to be a part of your community spotlight! We appreciate all you have done to empower people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and your commitment to building an inclusive community.

Check out the full video by clicking the button below.

[WATCH HERE](#)

[COME WORK WITH US](#)

### What makes working at MOKA meaningful?

Hear from Mary-she's been with MOKA for 10 years as a Residential Support Staff. She provides essential, daily support for people living in our residential homes.

Thanks for your dedication and the life-changing contributions you make in the lives of the people you support, Mary!

## Mark Your Calendar!



October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month

[DONATE TODAY](#)

Follow us on our social media channels to keep up on the latest MOKA news!



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715 Terrace STE 201 Muskegon, MI 49440