



AGAIN IN 2021, MCO OFFERS MEMBERS SEVERAL OPTIONS TO PAY FOR COLLEGE

Again this year, MCO is proud to offer four programs to reduce the cost of college for members and their families.

- Our **MCO Scholarship Program** will award 20 scholarships of \$750 each to children of MCO members who will be enrolled in college this fall. **Deadline: April 1.**

- The **Academy Assistance Program** will disperse 20 awards of \$500 each to current MCO members who paid out of pocket or took on debt to get their corrections training at a community college in 2014 or 2015.

Switching to community colleges for training was a failed experiment, and MDOC returned to the paid academies in 2015. **Deadline: April 1.**

- The **Student Debt Assistance Program** will award 20 grants of \$500 each to current MCO members who have student loans from earning an undergraduate degree. **Deadline: April 1.**

- **Free Online Community College** for any dues-paying member or family of dues-paying members. It's offered through Eastern Gateway Community College in Ohio. The program is free online and includes all fees

and e-books. Get the credits you need for the training academy, earn your associate degree, or get a leg up on your bachelor's degree. **Deadline: Rolling, classes start every few months.**

We aren't offering a "one-size-fits-all" approach; instead, we are providing members and their families the reassurance of knowing there is assistance available from MCO, no matter what path they decide to take toward higher education.

Read complete details on all programs at mco-seiu.org/college-affordability. Good luck!

COVID-19 UPDATES: VARIANT FOUND AT IBC

- The new **COVID-19 variant** known as B.1.1.7 has been found at Bellamy Creek. Staff and inmates at IBC will now be tested daily for the virus, in accordance with a new [Executive Order](#) issued by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

- In light of this new variant, we'd like to remind members that if you test positive, you are entitled to file for **workers' compensation**. Here is how it works:

If you are off 7 days or less, you are not eligible to receive disability benefits. If you are off more than 7 days but less than 14, you are eligible for benefits only for any of the days past 7. For example, if you are off 10 days, you are eligible for benefits for the 8th, 9th and 10th day only. If you are off 14 days or more, then you are covered all the way back to day 1 and are eligible for restoration of 2/3 of your pay and leave.

Please contact The Law Offices of Charters, Tyler, Zack & Shearer, P. C. at (248) 321-4474 for assistance in filing for workers' comp.

- You can still **email the governor** to ask her to restore leave time used for COVID-19 quarantines or illness.

[Take one minute to email Gov. Whitmer now.](#) If you're not a member but would like to support COs and FSAs by emailing the governor, please [use this form to send an email.](#)

We earned our leave time and it's wrong to take it from us due to exposure to the virus at work. MCO leaders are exploring every option available to restore leave time used for COVID-19 absences.

Read more about this campaign in the [Jan. 29 KYI](#).

- There have been 3,540 cases of COVID-19 among MDOC staff and 24,919 among inmates. [MDOC posts the latest numbers \(broken down by facility\) here.](#)

BARAGA COs RECOVERING AFTER VICIOUS ASSAULT

Two Baraga officers were assaulted Wednesday by an inmate with a razor blade.

An officer was opening the laundry room door when a prisoner ambushed him from behind and deliberately tried to expose the officer's neck before slashing him multiple times. The second officer responded and was also slashed and punched in the face. Both of the assaulted officers were able to fight back and take control of the prisoner themselves.

They are recovering well.

Thank you, officers, for doing this important and dangerous job every day. Stay safe.