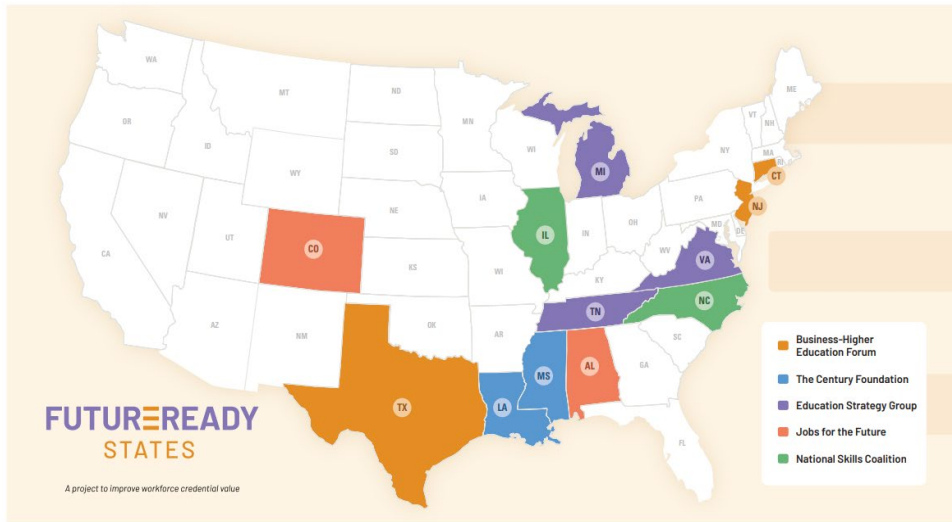




FutureReady States: IL and MI

Midwest Higher Education Compact
College Affordability Summit
June 11, 2026

FutureReady States



States have invested \$4.5B in short-term credentials, including more than \$500m in new programs in 2025 alone. However, funding is outstripping current governance and data infrastructure.

FRS seeks to address this by providing participating states with framework for modernizing policies around these investments

2025 Key activities – states selected; state landscape analyses conducted

2026 Key activities – publication of FRS “meta” analysis, state plan development

2027 Key activities: implementation grants to first cohort, possible second cohort

FutureReady States

Key policy elements across most states include:

- Formal credential of value definitions/lists
- Governance structure for COV definitions
- Funding (tuition, institutional support)
- Data and outcomes

<https://www.luminafoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/Lessons-from-Future-Ready-States-2026-03-05.pdf>



State of Michigan – Measuring Stackable Pathways

- What do we know about Michigan's current context for pathways?
- Where does MiLEAP already intersect?
- Which credential issuers and credentials are most commonly articulated for credit in Michigan?
- What pathways begin with a short-term credential and end in a degree?
- [Michigan Transfer Network](#)
- Pathways:
 - Information Technology
 - Healthcare: Certification to bachelors
 - Healthcare: Licensure to bachelors
 - Construction, Manufacturing, Energy
 - General/Arts/Education

Key Research Question for Select Institutions

How many students at the college received credit for the certification, license, or apprenticeship in the last two years?

How many credits are awarded to students for the certification, license, or apprenticeship?

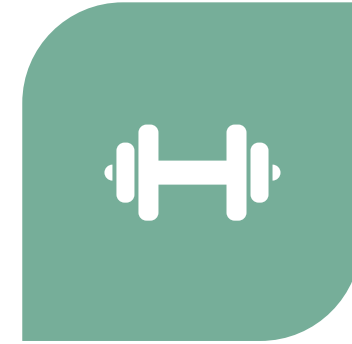
How many students who received credit for a certification went on to complete a degree program?

Of those who completed a degree, what percentage finished their degree in a field directly related to the certification (e.g., IT certification leading to a Computer Science degree)?

How many students transferred from a two-year to a four-year institution have earning certification credit?



IDENTIFYING
CREDENTIALS OF VALUE



DEFINITIONS OF HIGH-
SKILL, HIGH-WAGE AND
IN-DEMAND



ALIGNING POLICIES WITH
WORKFORCE PELL

Illinois' FutureReady States Initiative

Our North Star:

What would it take to help more
Illinoisans earn
credentials of value?

The Collaboration



The Work Strands



**WORKFORCE EMPOWERMENT
INITIATIVE LINKED TO IL SNAP
TO SUCCESS**



**GUARANTEED INCOME/DIRECT
CASH ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
THAT SUPPORTS STUDENTS**



**ENHANCING SUPPORTS
PROVIDED BY BENEFITS
NAVIGATORS**