



The Economic Justice Alliance of Michigan is an outgrowth of the Center for Productive Leadership (CPL), a national organization that trained leaders working on a range of progressive issues. In 2013, CPL dissolved, but grant dollars remained for leadership development in Michigan. The local staff recognized low- and moderate-wage employees throughout the state were losing pensions and being adversely affected by right to work laws. Unions' clout was diminishing, and they had long shifted their focus to middle-class employees, leaving the working poor to fend for themselves. Given the environment, the former Michigan-based CPL staff invited Detroit People's Platform, Mothering Justice, Metropolitan Organizing Strategy Enabling Strength (MOSES), and the Restaurant Opportunities Center – Michigan, organizations led by African American women, to join forces to train low-wage workers as community leaders who champion and advocate for economic justice. Program participants are then plugged into roles at partner organizations as skilled individuals prepared to work on campaigns or other initiatives. In addition to the remaining CPL funds, the group secured dollars from the Ford Foundation for what eventually became the Economic Justice Alliance of Michigan or EJAM.

### We Are

EJAM is a group of grassroots organizations engaged in leadership development and advocacy to build working-class power. Current partners and the geographies they serve are Detroit People's Platform (Detroit), Restaurant Opportunities Center – Michigan (Southeast Michigan), The New Ezekiel Project (Saginaw), Mothering Justice (statewide), and Michigan Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Network (Southeast Michigan and Upper Peninsula). Together, they advance social and racial equity, improving economic conditions for all people in Michigan. EJAM leverages the content expertise and relationships of its network to bring attention to crucial issues. It provides collective space and time, additional skills and resources, and helps to coordinate overlapping work. By strategically focusing its joint attention, EJAM partners can make a more significant impact on public discourse and the policy landscape than individually. As the current environment is politically hostile, has little progressive infrastructure, and few power-wielding economic justice organizations, this is especially important. Collectivizing campaigns and developing leaders while remaining independent organizations allow EJAM partners to be agile but also have a louder voice on issues relative to their constituents.

### We Build Toward

- ✓ Higher quality jobs
- ✓ More secure families
- ✓ Promising futures for all Michiganders!



<https://mieconomicjustice.org/>