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Jeff Williams, M.A., M.B.A., is the director of the Community Data and Research Lab (CDRL) at the Dorothy A. Johnson Center for Philanthropy at Grand Valley State University. In this role, he oversees a staff of researchers, database experts, and web developers who promote access to data and provide insights into nonprofit and philanthropic organizations and activities. He oversees the lab's annual research agenda, supervises staff, and is a member of the Johnson Center's leadership team.

Prior to joining the Johnson Center in 2020, Williams served as the CEO of Public Sector Consultants. In addition to executive management responsibilities at the private, nonpartisan firm, he directed research studies in the areas of large-scale program implementation, data analysis, strategy and stakeholder communications, special education policy, and public finance. Williams currently serves on the boards of directors for Michigan Virtual as well as the Capital Region Community Foundation.

Williams holds a B.A. in International Relations from Michigan State University, an M.A. in Public Policy from the University of Minnesota, and an M.B.A. from the University of Michigan. He holds professional certifications in project management (PMP) and information systems security (CISSP).