LABOR AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

2021 SUCCESS REPORT

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF
LABOR & ECONOMIC
OPPORTUNITY

LABOR AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

2021 SUCCESS REPORT

The Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity (LEO) provides the connections, expertise and innovative solutions to drive continued business growth, build vibrant communities, create affordable housing, generate tourism and attract and retain key talent to fill Michigan's vast pipeline of opportunities.

OUR MISSION

Expand economic opportunity and prosperity for all.

OUR VISION

Make Michigan a place where all people, businesses and communities have the educational and economic means to reach their full potential.

A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Throughout 2021, all Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity employees – nearly 3,000 team members in our 21 offices, bureaus, agencies and commissions – were laser-focused on the important work of rebuilding our economy and helping Michigan families and businesses succeed.

Through the Michigan Reconnect program, we continued to put Michiganders on a path to attain the education and skills they need to get better jobs and earn bigger paychecks. We handled an unprecedented demand for unemployment benefits for millions of Michiganders and worked to prepare residents for successful employment through programs that remove barriers and support self-sufficiency. We once again rose to the challenge to ensure that working people have the protections they are entitled to. We confronted the housing crisis head-on to expand access to safe and affordable housing for all Michiganders. We continued to invest in Michigan's economy by providing an environment where businesses can grow and thrive.

We also met with state and local partners across the state to highlight our strong commitment to carrying out Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's economic vision of growing Michigan's economy, creating good-paying jobs and building industries of the future through the $2.1 billion MI New Economy plan. This will utilize American Rescue Plan funds to grow Michigan's middle class, support small businesses and invest in our communities.

As we come to a close on 2021, I am feeling energized to continue this momentum in 2022 as we provide exceptional services to Michigan's communities, employers and all 10 million residents.

Susan Corbin, Director
Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity

MI NEW ECONOMY

LEO launched a statewide tour designed to bring stakeholders together to discuss Gov. Whitmer's **MI New Economy** plan and a **comprehensive strategy to utilize American Rescue Plan funds to support small businesses, grow the middle class and invest in our communities.**

- The goal of these events is to share the governor's vision with key stakeholders and thought leaders and highlight local projects that demonstrate how the MI New Economy plan can move the state's economy forward.
- The ongoing tour has already included stops in 10 cities across the state and generated feedback from hundreds of participants.

2021 LEO ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Though 2020 was a tough year for everyone due to the COVID-19 pandemic, LEO bounced back in impressive fashion in 2021. We began returning to a state of normalcy and helped bring the people we serve back to that same state as well. Our agencies and bureaus reached new heights over the past 12 months, attacking the challenges they faced during these difficult times head-on. LEO persevered and even expanded, and as a result emerged from the pandemic stronger than ever.

PROSPERITY

Kim Trent, Deputy Director

"Despite the many challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Prosperity division has worked tirelessly to create and execute short- and long-term strategies to build prosperity for Michiganders. From the Michigan Women's Commission's stellar management of the MI Tri-Share Child Care Pilot Program to the Michigan Community Service Commission's effective deployment of volunteers and donations to help communities respond to the COVID-19 crisis to the Office of Global Michigan's round-the-clock efforts to help agencies prepare to receive Afghan refugees, the MiSTEM Council's innovative programs to make science, technology, engineering and math learning more equitable and accessible for Michigan students and the Michigan Poverty Task Force's comprehensive efforts to make state government more responsive to the needs of struggling Michiganders, the Prosperity team produces high-quality programming and policy initiatives to power prosperity by empowering people."

DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION TEAM

Our goal is to normalize Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) and promote the representation and participation of people with diverse backgrounds, including people of different ages, races, ethnicities, abilities, disabilities, genders, religions, cultures and sexual orientations.

This year, the DEI team:

- Implemented the first full year of monthly **Lunch & Learns**, with hundreds of LEO employees attending each event.
- Conducted **Implicit Bias Training** for all LEO employees.
- Organized a **21-Day Race Equity Challenge** that was designed to cultivate self-awareness about social issues that plague our society due to racism. Employees learned strategies to recognize racism, work toward a better community for fair treatment and learn how to become allies in the fight against racism.
- Created voluntary **Employee Resource Groups** to help create an inclusive and innovative work environment.

SIXTY BY 30

- **Michigan Reconnect** launched in February offering eligible adults a tuition-free path to an associate degree or skills certificate at their in-district community college. More than 85,000 residents have already been accepted into the program. Of those, 4,400 recipients enrolled in the summer semester (fall enrollment numbers not finalized).
- To date, **170,000 Michiganders have been accepted for Futures for Frontliners and Michigan Reconnect scholarships.** Together, over 22,000 first-time students are actively enrolled in classes.
- Ten **Reconnect Navigators** were hired to provide additional support and are now working with over 13,000 Reconnectors.
- In coordination with the **Michigan College Access Network** (MCAN), the **Michigan Equity, Courage, Hope and Opportunity Scholarship (MI ECHO)** was established as a tuition-free pathway for students who are ineligible for federal financial aid to pursue an associate degree or certificate. MI ECHO is designed to serve Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals recipients, temporary protected status immigrants, special immigrant juveniles and others excluded from most traditional financial aid opportunities.

MISTEM ADVISORY COUNCIL & NETWORK

- While navigating education during COVID-19, MiSTEM collaborated with curriculum-facing Advisory Council Grant Consortium STEM leaders to **provide access to resources** for pre-K-12 students, families, teachers and professional learning facilitators so that individual schools or teachers wouldn't have to make these adjustments alone.
- MiSTEM grantees reported an **increase of 238 services** compared to FY 2020.
- MiSTEM more than doubled its annual state allocation by bringing in over **$8 million in leveraged resources and funding** over the past year.
- MiSTEM **expanded STEM employer and educator partnerships** to implement $3.05 million in state grants to support K-12 STEM programs serving 189,855 students and 3,857 teachers.

BLACK LEADERSHIP ADVISORY COUNCIL

- In July, Gov. Whitmer **signed the largest School Aid budget in state history** to eliminate funding gaps between school districts. An education virtual town hall was held on Aug. 18 and featured State Superintendent Dr. Michael Rice. Educators, parents and students had a robust meeting and discussed ways to **support the educational needs of Black students** in Michigan.
- A financial wellness town hall was held in November and featured state Rep. Sarah Anthony of Lansing and Omari Hall of GreenPath Financial Wellness. The discussion addressed the **disparate impact of payday loan companies and other predatory lenders** and lending practices in Black communities. The policy to ensure Black businesses in Michigan benefit from the federal infrastructure bill and support for House Bill 4597 to include people of color was also discussed.
- Two statements were provided by the council on **COVID-19 and voter suppression**.

MICHIGAN WOMEN'S COMMISSION

- With a $1 million appropriation in the FY 2021 budget, the Michigan Women's Commission (MWC) this spring launched the **MI Tri-Share Child Care Pilot Program** in three regions and began expanding it this fall to additional regions with private foundation support and an additional $2.5 million in the FY 2022 budget. Through Tri-Share, the cost of child care is shared equally by a participating employer, an eligible employee and the state of Michigan. Program coordination is provided regionally by a facilitator hub.
- This fall, the U.S. Department of Labor Women's Bureau awarded LEO a $350,000 **Fostering Access, Rights and Equity (FARE) Grant** to be administered by the Michigan Women's Commission **to help low-wage women workers understand and access their workplace rights and benefits**. MWC is using the FARE grant to connect Michigan women to eligible American Rescue Plan benefits. In particular, MWC is emphasizing access to the newly expanded child care subsidy, free tuition opportunities through Michigan Reconnect and resources for exercising workplace rights, such as protections against employment discrimination or enforcement of paid medical leave laws.
- To commemorate the March 24 **Equal Pay Day**, the commission hosted **The Future Is Female: From a SHE-cession to a SHE-surge** seminar. At the virtual event, the Michigan Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives unveiled **Women in the Michigan Workforce**, a report detailing the impacts of the pay gap and pandemic on Michigan women's employment. Following the report, MWC facilitated a conversation with Gov. Whitmer and Julie Chávez Rodriguez, director of the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, about state and federal initiatives to address pay equity and women's economic recovery.

OFFICE OF GLOBAL MICHIGAN

The Office of Global Michigan remains committed to lowering barriers for immigrants, refugees and new American communities in every corner of the state and investing in the Michigan International Talent Solutions (MITS) program, which is working directly with state service providers to create better policies and programs that meet the unique needs of this community.

- We have been working closely with the federal government to determine the **arrival of Afghan allies and nationals**. As of Dec. 7, 768 Afghan nationals have arrived in Michigan and travel has been scheduled for another 846 people.
- State and local leaders met with Jack Markell, White House coordinator for **Operation Allies Welcome**, to learn more about the best practices to step forward, support and welcome Afghan allies and other immigrants.
- We launched a **new resource website** where volunteers can find opportunities to support Afghans arriving in Michigan.
- Ethnic Commissions participated in several stakeholder engagement opportunities (Protect Michigan Commission and the Racial Disparities Task Force) to ensure **equity and inclusion in the state's COVID response** efforts.

MICHIGAN ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION

- On March 29, 4,000 registrants attended the **Anti-Asian Sentiment & Racism – What We Can Do About It Now** webinar.
- The Michigan Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission (MAPAAC) celebrated Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month with a **Legislative Day at the state Capitol** with Gov. Whitmer, U.S. Rep. Grace Meng, state Sen. Stephanie Chang and state Rep. Padma Kuppa.
- The COVID-19 pandemic has been a strain on many families and communities, and many Asian Pacific American (APA) organizations have been challenged to provide programming in support of their communities. Under these extraordinary circumstances, **MAPAAC awarded one-time-only special sponsorship funding to 13 APA organizations** between March and September in support of valuable projects and events.

HISPANIC/LATINO COMMISSION

- Commissioner Sonya Hernandez collaborated with the Michigan College Access Network to **advocate for the MI ECHO scholarship**, a tuition-free resource for frontline workers during the COVID-19 pandemic and individuals who do not have access to financial aid.
- Our COVID-19 Ad Hoc Task Force advised on executive and public health orders that **prioritized the health and safety of Latinx Michiganders** through mandates for testing, isolation, housing and other essentials in rural and urban communities.
- Commissioner Juan Marinez and the advocacy committee successfully advocated **blocking the sale of a former state prison proposed as the site of a privately operated ICE detention center**.

COMMISSION ON MIDDLE EASTERN AMERICAN AFFAIRS

- The Commission on Middle Eastern American Affairs (CMEAA) hosted a **mental health webinar** attended by dozens of Middle Eastern American community members with questions on accessing mental health services. Other information sessions included a suicide webinar on July 30 and a domestic violence webinar on June 10.
- CMEAA also continued its support for the **University Musical Society's Digital Artist Residencies**. Lebanese composer and pianist Tarek Yamani premiered his work with the Grammy-nominated Spektral Quartet exploring the juncture between Arab and Western music.
- The commission also supported the University of Michigan Dearborn's **Environmental Health Research-To-Action** program, which monitors **PFAS and their effects on the Dearborn community** and recommends policy programs to protect the environment.

MICHIGAN POVERTY TASK FORCE

The Michigan Poverty Task Force issued **35 recommendations** to improve the lives of Michiganders in the ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) population.

We also received over **$220 million in funding** to implement some of those recommendations. Three of the 35 Poverty Task Force recommendations were included in the governor's FY 2022 budget:

- **Children's Savings Accounts ($2 million)** allowing Michiganders to save money and build wealth, Children's Savings Accounts offer an exciting platform to help low-income families build wealth and pay for educational expenses – including extracurricular activities lost to budget cuts in struggling districts.
- **Child Care Facilitator Pilot Project ($2.5 million)** creating affordable child care for low-income families. This expands on the MI Tri-Share Child Care pilot program that splits the cost of child care among an employer, employee and the state of Michigan.
- **Research and Planning ($1 million)** to implement the recommendations made by the Michigan Poverty Task Force, including conducting research and planning related to the effectiveness of state benefit programs.

MICHIGAN COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMISSION

- Launched the **Michigan Heroes Campaign** virtual recognition website to celebrate individuals and organizations in Michigan that have made a difference during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.
- Received $25 million in federal investment to support **AmeriCorps service and volunteerism** in COVID-19 response and recovery and strengthening Michigan communities.
- Managed and organized volunteers to support the **Ford Field Vaccination Clinic, Benton Harbor water crisis and the arrival of Afghan allies and nationals**.

EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Stephanie Beckhorn, Deputy Director

"The past year presented unique challenges, but Employment and Training continued to make strides in sharing or creating solutions that supported individuals and employers to address their specific needs. Through our programs, services and partners, we pivoted to support a constantly changing and dynamic workforce system in Michigan. I'm proud of the efforts of the Bureau of Services for Blind Persons, Michigan Rehabilitation Services and Workforce Development in maintaining our momentum to promote a demand-driven workforce, provide worker training, support career-based education, focus on job preparedness, connect people to employment services and continue to navigate throughout a global pandemic.

Our nearly 800 staff members consistently go above and beyond to develop customized workforce solutions for businesses and individuals, including those with disabilities. We look forward to continued success in 2022 and doing our part to meet LEO's goals established in the FY 2022 Operational Plan."

BUREAU OF SERVICES FOR BLIND PERSONS

- The Bureau of Services for Blind Persons (BSBP) recognized **Braille Literacy Month** in January by highlighting the BSBP Training Center's focus on Braille instruction, the Braille and Talking Book Library's Braille literacy programs and Braille books for school-age students, as well as collaborative efforts to emphasize the importance of Braille literacy and the correlation with career paths and critical thinking skills.
- The **BSBP Training Center reopened safely** thanks to its Smart & Safe Return Plan and successfully provided virtual services to customers who did not attend in person. The center also hosted virtual meet-and-greet sessions for those interested in learning more about the facility. This coincided with the return of Field Services Division teachers and counselors for in-person services in July.
- BSBP recognized 15 people and organizations at its **Excellence Awards** to showcase those who have achieved their goals for employment or independent living after vision loss, as well as organizations that represent the value of inclusion and diversity.

MICHIGAN REHABILITATION SERVICES

- Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS), in partnership with Michigan State University, Louisiana Rehabilitation Services and Southern University in Baton Rouge, was awarded a **$15.8 million federal grant**. The funds will be used over a five-year period to develop and use career pathways in science, technology, engineering, mathematics and medicine that benefit racial, ethnic and other marginalized individuals with disabilities. The grant will serve 850 people between the efforts of Michigan and Louisiana. The Disability Innovation Fund – Career Advancement Initiative Model grant funds were awarded by the U.S. Department of Education's Rehabilitation Services Administration.
- The Michigan Bridge Academy, which works in partnership with MRS, recruited students for its first and second **IT training cohorts** to give people with disabilities the opportunity to pursue these in-demand careers.
- The **Michigan Career and Technical Institute** held a graduation/student recognition event to celebrate the 207 students who graduated during their 2020-21 school year.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- Workforce Development received or awarded approximately **$350 million to support over 23 programs and initiatives**, including rural health care workforce needs, registered apprenticeship expansion, adult education services, reemployment services, credential attainment and employer-led collaboratives.
- Work was done to support **statewide apprenticeship expansion**, including the launch of the Michigan Registered Apprenticeship Data Dashboard and the announcement of the Michigan Apprenticeship Advisory Board. The dashboard tracks and shares statewide and regional apprenticeship opportunities, while the Advisory Board provides guidance regarding expansion work. Thanks to several U.S. Department of Labor grants, Workforce Development is looking to create more than 8,600 new registered apprenticeships in the next few years in a variety of industries.
- The **Clean Slate Pilot Program** was announced to help returning citizens expunge eligible convictions from their criminal records to assist them in obtaining full-time, self-sufficient employment. All 16 Michigan Works! agencies received funds ($4 million in total) to support this work. A University of Michigan study shows job seekers with expunged records secured employment at an increase of 11% and saw their income rise by 25% in two years.

LABOR

Sean Egan, Deputy Director

"Throughout another challenging year, our labor agencies once again rose to the challenge to ensure that working people have the protections they are entitled to. This included continuing to expand outreach and education efforts, compliance and enforcement, as well as building stakeholder engagement opportunities and relationships. Using creative strategies to accomplish this work, the stats are clear that we continue to see successes in meeting the overall goals of the department."

BUREAU OF EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS

- Successfully assisted union and employer representatives in **reaching settlement agreements on various labor contract grievances** that provided nearly $2 million to aggrieved workers.
- Implemented a **voluntary mediation** preliminary step to fast-track early resolution of newly filed unfair labor practice claims and avoid the much longer adjudication process.
- **Eliminated the backlog of case decisions** pending in commission review.

WAGE & HOUR

- Collected **$2,382,803 in wages** – an increase of 21.6% from FY 2020.
- Conducted **webinars and outreach events totaling 3,903 attendees**, an increase of 120% from last year.
- Completed **290 youth employment investigations**, an increase of 29% from FY 2020.

WORKERS' DISABILITY COMPENSATION

- Continued agency operations with **85% of staff working remotely or in hybrid** remote work situations without interruption in agency functionality. Continued our expansion of electronic filing of documents with agency and adjudication process.
- Continued developing the **replacement for the agency's outdated data system**, including arranging funding to complete a project known as WORCS2.
- Implemented the **annual update of health care services rules**; created and implemented new **rule sets for the Board of Magistrates and Appellate Commission; updated and revamped agency rules**.
- **Reopened all sites for in-person hearings of workers' compensation cases and relocated the Appeals Commission** to the agency's Okemos office.

MICHIGAN OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY & HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

COVID-19

- Since its launch, 5,500 businesses have benefited from continued education and consultations through MIOSHA's no-cost **Ambassador Program**, which assists at-risk establishments open to the public with COVID-19 workplace safety requirements.
- Utilizing over $8 million in CARES Act funds, MIOSHA awarded more than **1,500 small employers up to $10,000 in matching grants** to purchase equipment and materials to protect employees from COVID-19. With employer matches, this resulted in a total investment of over $18 million in COVID-19 worker protections.
- MIOSHA continued to operate its **COVID-19 hotline** to address employer and employee coronavirus concerns. Since its inception, the hotline has handled more than 17,000 calls.
- MIOSHA continued to devote significant enforcement resources to **mitigate the spread of COVID-19**, including responding to nearly 17,000 complaints and referrals regarding COVID-19 workplace hazards, a 250% increase from pre-pandemic years.

GRANT FUNDING

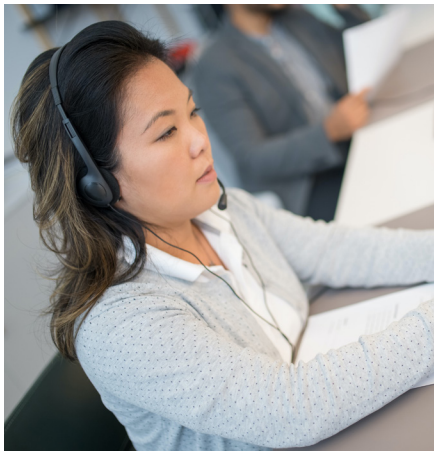
- MIOSHA continued to offer the **MIWISH matching grants** to employers to purchase safety and health-related equipment and corresponding training with the goal of creating safer, healthier work environments and reducing workers' risk of injury and illness. Including the employers' matching funds, a total of $345,735 was invested in the protection of Michigan workers.
- MIOSHA annually awards **Consultation Education and Training grants to nonprofit groups** to enhance safety and health training and support worker safety and health across the state. In FY 2021, 19 grants were awarded, totaling $811,023.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE AGENCY

Julia Dale, Director

"In 2021, the Unemployment Insurance Agency (UIA) continued its essential work of handling the unprecedented demand for unemployment benefits for millions of Michiganders who were struggling financially due to the pandemic. UIA staff have processed benefits for nearly 1.2 million claimants and serviced more than 215,000 employers. We increased capacity, improved workflow and internal systems, and reduced red tape to meet the historic level of claims filed since the pandemic began. Our work provides a critical lifeline for families across Michigan and plays a crucial role in the economic recovery of our state."

- Since the pandemic began, UIA has paid out more than **$39 billion in jobless benefits to nearly 3.5 million Michiganders**, with **99.7% of claimants** receiving at least one payment. Approximately $31 billion of that funding was paid out to nearly 2 million residents through the federal Pandemic Unemployment Assistance programs.
- In just one weekend in April, the UIA **prevented over 100,000 potential fraudulent claims** – one example of the continuous, sophisticated fraud attacks on the agency.



- In addition to the **25,000 phone calls per day**, we handled roughly 900 in-person appointments and nearly 1,000 phone appointments daily.
- We continued to provide **improvements to the customer experience** and more opportunities for claimants and employers to connect with us:
  - **Virtual appointment options** for customers needing claims assistance. This includes a dedicated voice-to-text closed-captioning link for customers who are deaf or hard of hearing.
  - **After-hours artificial intelligence capability** to help claimants get answers to general questions.
  - Customer survey option for callers or claimants using our chat capability. The surveys showed **88% of respondents said UIA staff is professional and courteous**. Almost half rated the agency a 4 or 5 (out of 5) for overall customer service.
- In September, UIA began the **search process to upgrade** its decade-old unemployment benefits and employer tax operating systems. The request is intended to get an understanding of systems capable of handling the complexity of the unemployment insurance program and that are robust and secure and protect sensitive claimant and employer information.
- On Oct. 25, Gov. Whitmer named **Julia Dale as the new UIA director**, replacing Acting Director Liza Estlund Olson.
- Civilla, a nonprofit organization, was brought on board in October to **improve the UIA customer experience** with enhanced communication and outreach. Civilla will recommend changes to the content in our correspondence, forms and website.

MICHIGAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Quentin L. Messer, Jr., CEO

"The Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) has remained committed to taking a holistic, people-first approach to economic development this year while securing Michigan's leadership in the industries that will drive our economy into the future. We have proven Team Michigan works together when it comes to securing the economic future of the state. From the projects and initiatives we have supported, to the passage of historic legislation to advance future job growth in the state and to ensuring that risk-taking entrepreneurs have programming and resources to grow and thrive here, this past year demonstrates our commitment to Michigan's economic recovery being real for all 10 million friends and neighbors, while remaining a global home for opportunity for businesses of all sizes. We will keep building upon our economic wins in 2022. Let's get it!"

In FY 2021, business expansion and community revitalization projects supported by the Michigan Strategic Fund generated a total private investment of more than $3.7 billion and created 13,906 jobs across the state.

NOTEWORTHY BUSINESS EXPANSION PROJECTS INCLUDE:

- **Magna Electric Vehicle Structures-Michigan Inc**. is constructing and operating a new facility in **St. Clair** that will result in a total private investment of $70.1 million and create more than 300 jobs over the next five years.
- **Mayville Engineering** is establishing a flagship manufacturing facility in **Hazel Park**, resulting in a total private investment of $51.5 million and creation of 387 jobs.
- **Sartorius BioAnalytical Instruments Inc.** is constructing a Center of Excellence facility in **Ann Arbor**, resulting in a total capital investment of $57 million and creation of 160 high-wage jobs.

TRANSFORMATIONAL COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION PROJECTS INCLUDE:

- **North Flint Food Market** is redeveloping a vacant building on the north side of **Flint** into a new co-op urban grocery store that will include a full-service grocery with reliable access to fresh foods for local residents.
- **Whirlpool Corp.** is constructing Harbor Shores Apartments, a multifamily development with 80 apartments and 120 parking spaces. The project is expected to result in $20.9 million in total capital investment in the city of **Benton Harbor**.

OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- MEDC-supported **community revitalization projects** in **Cadillac and Lansing** received recognition from the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) for the positive impact on their communities.
- MEDC's **international trade program** surpassed the $4 billion mark in support of export sales from Michigan businesses. The Great Lakes State has the fourth-highest percent of trade as a portion of its GDP in the nation, with inbound-outbound trade accounting for 37% of the state's GDP.
- Michigan was recognized with six top 10 spots on **Business Facilities' 17th annual Rankings Report for 2021**, including a repeat performance with a No. 1 ranking in the Automotive Manufacturing Strength category.
- More than **11,500 instances of support for diversity businesses** in the state through MEDC programs including Pure Michigan Business Connect, International Trade and in collaboration with the Michigan Small Business Development Center.

MICHIGAN STATE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Gary Heidel, Acting Executive Director

"As we emerge from the pandemic and look toward a healthy future for Michigan, we will continue to provide the housing stability that has been a cornerstone of the Michigan State Housing Development Authority's (MSHDA) work for more than five decades. Through the deployment of vital services and resources to low- and moderate-income homeowners, renters, landlords, developers, grantees and communities, we will move closer to making Michigan a place where all people have quality, affordable housing as a foundation to reach their full potential."

RENTAL ASSISTANCE AND EVICTION PREVENTION

Continuing Gov. Whitmer's priority of keeping Michiganders in their homes during the pandemic and building on the momentum of 2020's Eviction Diversion Program, MSHDA launched the **COVID Emergency Rental Assistance (CERA) program** in March. Since then, CERA has:

- **Helped 127,248 vulnerable renters** prevent eviction and catch up on rent and utilities, while allowing landlords to recoup back payments.
- Served renter households that have incomes less than 80% of the area median. The program has processed nearly 144,000 applications and provided about **$440 million in assistance for rent and utilities**.

HOMEOWNERSHIP

Homebuying continued at a significant pace in 2021 despite a highly competitive sellers' real estate market and historically low inventory. MSHDA's Down Payment Assistance (DPA) program continued to break barriers and pave the way for new homeowners:

- Down payment assistance usage was on the rise, with **99.6% of the 2,493 homebuyers choosing a MSHDA mortgage and collectively taking advantage of more than $19 million in assistance** to make their homeownership dreams possible (through Nov. 30, 2021).

MULTIFAMILY RENTAL DEVELOPMENT

MSHDA loans and tax credits play an essential role in increasing and improving Michigan's affordable housing stock – a top priority for Gov. Whitmer. This summer, the governor announced the proposed historic investment of **$100 million in federal relief dollars** from President Biden's American Rescue Plan into the Michigan Housing and Community Development Fund (HCDF). This move would give MSHDA a powerful tool to foster innovation and creativity in affordable and attainable housing creation.

In her MI New Economy plan, Gov. Whitmer also established the ambitious goal of creating or **rehabilitating 75,000 affordable housing units** within the next five years. Here are some of the strides MSHDA's Direct Lending Program made this year toward achieving these goals (through Nov. 17, 2021):

- Closing on 15 developments representing 1,913 total units, $360 million in total investment and $300 million in MSHDA investment (bond loans and gap financing).
- MSHDA Board commitment to 11 developments (not yet closed) representing 1,118 total units, $235 million in total investments and $200 million in MSHDA investment (bond loans and gap financing).

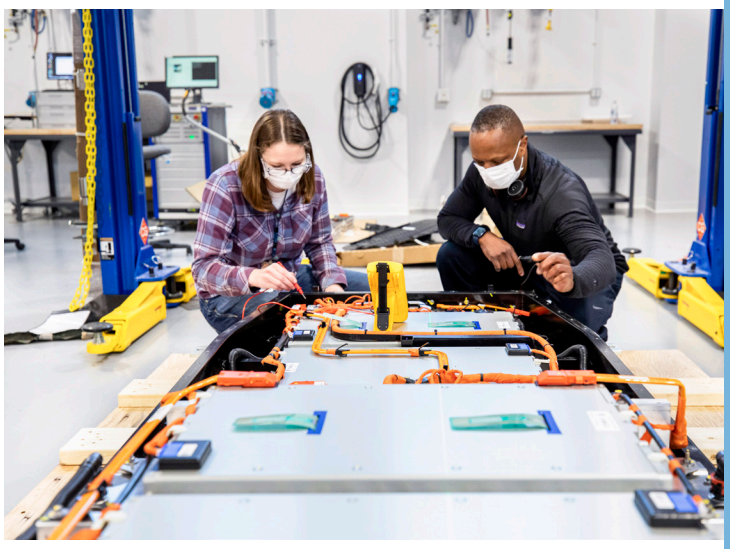
STATE LAND BANK AUTHORITY

- In 2021, the State Land Bank Authority successfully allocated $800,000 in blight elimination funds to the state Treasury Department, benefiting six communities across the state.
- Multiple projects were approved for **Brownfield Tax Increment Financing** to subsidize housing development through partnerships with land banks. Those projects are in **Newaygo, Grand Haven, Holland, Flint and Commerce Township**.
- Resolution with Southfield-based developer REDICO on a sale price for approximately 120 acres at the former Detroit House of Corrections in **Plymouth and Northville townships**. The area is slated for commercial redevelopment as part of the **Michigan International Technology Corridor**.

OFFICE OF FUTURE MOBILITY AND ELECTRIFICATION

The Michigan Economic Development Corporation's $3 million investment in the Office of Future Mobility and Electrification to fund its operating budget generated $12.1 million in mobility projects in FY21 – ***a 300% return.***

- Helped initiate the nation's first **autonomous vehicle corridor** from Detroit to Ann Arbor, and a **wireless charging corridor** with MEDC, EGLE, MDOT, EOG and LEO and **initiated first EV-focused route** along Lake Michigan with EOG, EGLE, MDOT, LEO, DNR and MEDC.
- Co-led the creation of a **five-state MOU** to build out regional EV charging infrastructure alongside EOG, EGLE and LEO.
- Initiated with LEO and EOG **Michigan's First Electric Vehicle Jobs Academy** to transition the state's workforce to the next generation of the auto industry.
- Launched a new grant platform, the **Michigan Mobility Funding Platform**, with EOG, MEDC and MDOT to promote equitable and accessible transportation solutions in local communities.
- Built out the EV Friendliness portion of Gov. Whitmer's **MI New Economy** plan with EOG, LEO, MEDC and EGLE.
- The relaunched Council on Future Mobility and Electrification published two **annual policy reports** in one year with LEO, EGLE, MDOT, MEDC and EOG guidance.



MICHIGAN HIGH-SPEED INTERNET OFFICE

Gov. Whitmer signed an executive directive June 2 establishing the Michigan High-Speed Internet (MIHI) Office within LEO. Its creation marks the first time Michigan has had a state government office dedicated to addressing the digital divide.

- LEO made a formal request to the State Budget Office for eight full-time employees to staff the new MIHI office and provide it the capacity needed to **implement the broadband and digital equity components** of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021.
- LEO staff worked with other state agencies and dozens of external stakeholders to update and streamline the **Michigan Broadband Roadmap** to 1) provide greater direction to the newly established MIHI Office and 2) develop strategies and objectives to leverage newly created federal broadband programs.
- Michigan was allocated $250 million from the **federal Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund**. LEO filed the state's application for these funds to expand broadband service to unserved areas of the state.
- **The Connecting Michigan Communities** grant program announced a third round of broadband grants that will connect 6,700 unserved locations with a state investment of $15.3 million. A fourth round of awards is expected in early 2022.
- **Connected Nation Michigan**, a nonprofit organization that addresses state broadband issues, launched an updated version of the state's broadband coverage map on Oct. 1. Its purpose is to provide state and local communities, internet service providers and decision-makers with more detailed information on broadband service than what is available from the Federal Communications Commission.