



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY
LANSING

SUSAN CORBIN
ACTING DIRECTOR

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 28, 2021

TO: Ken Horn, Chair, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor and Economic Opportunity/MEDC
Greg VanWoerkom, Chair, House Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government

FROM: Fayrouz Saad, Executive Director
Office of Global Michigan
Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity

SUBJECT: Pursuant to Section 1092 of PA 166 of 2020
Office of Global Michigan Activities FY 2020 Report to the Legislature

Attached is the Office of Global Michigan Activities FY20 Report to the Legislature pursuant to Pursuant to Section 1092 of PA 166 of 2020.

Should you have any questions regarding this report or need additional information please contact Andrew Beardslee, LEO Legislative Analyst, at (517) 388-6101.

cc: Members – Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor and Economic Opportunity/MEDC
Members – House Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government
Dave Massaron, State Budget Director
Christopher Harkins, Senate Fiscal Agency
Mary Ann Cleary, House Fiscal Agency

**Office of Global Michigan Activities
FY 2020 Report to the Legislature**

(Pursuant to Section 1092 of PA 166 of 2020)

January 31, 2021

Prepared by

Office of Global Michigan

Reporting Period: October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2020



GLOBAL
MICHIGAN

Public Act 166 of 2020 section 1092 requires the following from the Office of Global Michigan:

Sec. 1090. The Office of Global Michigan must produce a report by January 31 and transmit the report to the subcommittees, the senate and house fiscal agencies, and the state budget director. The report may include other information, but it must include all of the following:

- (a) A description of the major programs and activities of the Office of Global Michigan and the number of individuals served through those programs*
- (b) The number of jobseekers and the number of employers that the office has served through the Michigan International Talent Solutions program*
- (c) A description of the activities that the office has conducted to attract and retain international, advanced degree, and entrepreneurial talent.*

****NOTE: Due to the pandemic, the Office of Global Michigan had to make significant changes to programming from in-person to virtual. The pandemic also impacted some of the program performance metrics because of the limitations of not being able to hold in-person meetings and events.***

(a) *A description of the major programs and activities of the Office of Global Michigan and the number of individuals served through those programs.*

As background, the Office of Global Michigan was created to help grow Michigan's economy by retaining and attracting global talent; to promote the skills, energy, and entrepreneurial spirit of our immigrant and refugee communities; and strives to make Michigan a more welcoming state. Consistent with that vision, the office supports immigrant and refugee integration policies and programs for the state. It works with state agencies that provide services to immigrants and refugees and strives to eliminate barriers to accessing those state services. Global Michigan analyzes and makes recommendations to the Governor on state and federal policies and programs. It also leads a comprehensive stakeholder initiative. Global Michigan partners closely with refugee resettlement agencies, economic development organizations, ethnic service providers, universities, non-profits, our state Ethnic Commissions, and many other organizations around the state. Additionally, it strives to make Michigan a more welcoming state. Global Michigan's work touches the areas of licensing, workforce training, education, housing, healthcare and quality of life.

The Office of Global Michigan oversees the Michigan International Talent Solutions (MITS) program, the state Office of Refugee Services (ORS), and the state's three ethnic commissions. Additionally, Global Michigan typically holds 3-4 stakeholder meetings per year, and approximately 20 refugee community consultations per year. In FY20, Global Michigan was critical for COVID response for immigrant and refugee communities. The office developed and lead the process to coordinate and disseminate translations of state COVID material including, but not limited to, Executive Orders and Directives, press releases, infographics and fact sheets. Global Michigan had ongoing communications and engagements with partners, community stakeholders, and the general public, which included COVID response and recovery townhalls and information sessions.

Additionally, Global Michigan created a partnership between the Unemployment Insurance Agency (UIA) and refugee service agencies so that appropriate interpretation was available when applying for UI benefits. Finally, Global Michigan participated both on the state's 2020 Census Complete Count committee and the Michigan Nonprofit Association's 2020 Census Complete Count committee, and disseminated Census information on a weekly basis to our partners.

FY20 major programs and activities and number of individuals served

MITS program: Approximately 90 individuals

ORS: 3,665 individuals

COVID response (including translations and Town Halls): Approximately 175 organizations (who then disseminated information to their networks)

2020 Census efforts: Approximately 115 organizations (who then disseminated information to their networks)

(b) *The number of jobseekers and the number of employers that the office has served through the Michigan International Talent Solutions program.*

MITS metrics for FY20

- *Number of new applications: 86*
- *Number of training complete: 45*
- *Number of program completion: 23*
- *Active Job Seeker Pipeline: 89*
- *Number of professional placements: 20*
- *Average starting salary for professional placements: \$57,886*
- *Top overall industries for placements:*
 - *Engineers/Architects: 21%*
 - *IT: 14%*
 - *Healthcare: 13%*
 - *Accounting: 9%*
 - *Education: 7%*

- *Business/Operations/Logistics: 6%*
- *Administrative/Legal, HR, Marketing/Communications: 5% (3-way tie)*
- *Finance/Banking: 3%*

(c) A description of the activities that the office has conducted to attract and retain international, advanced degree, and entrepreneurial talent.

MITS: Through FY20, the MITS program works with foreign-educated/foreign-trained individuals who hold at least a bachelor's degree, and who are unemployed or underemployed, and the program provides skills to the jobseeker so that they are better equipped to navigate the U.S. job market.

ORS: Historically, Michigan is in the top 10 of states to receive arriving refugees. Due to our outstanding program and our strong ethnic communities in the state, Michigan continues to be a destination for refugees. For retention purposes specifically, refugee service agencies and employment/employment-service providers (through contracts with ORS) provide training and services to refugees to assist them in obtaining employment. During FY20, approximately 682 individuals were served.

GTRI partnership: Global Michigan has a strong partnership with the Global Talent Retention Initiative (GTRI - a program at Global Detroit, a SE Michigan non-profit). GTRI focuses on the retention of international students. Global Michigan sits on the Advisory Board for GTRI which also includes the International Student offices of the University of Michigan, Michigan State, Eastern Michigan, Oakland University, Wayne State and UM-Dearborn. Global Michigan speaks at GTRI educational events, partners with them on international student job fairs and also assists with bringing in universities from around the state to partner with GTRI.

MEDC & SBAM partnership: Global Michigan has partnered with both the MEDC and SBAM to promote small business engagement with immigrant and ethnic owned businesses and facilitate relationships. The office has also held two information sessions for community stakeholders on MEDC programs.

Global EIR: Global Michigan is on the Advisory Board of the Global EIR (entrepreneurs in residence) program of Global Detroit. Global EIR is a partnership with UM to assist immigrant entrepreneurs be able to successfully launch their businesses while assisting them with their visa requirements. This program has been in a pilot phase with UM, but will soon be expanding to other universities in Michigan. In addition to sitting on the Advisory Board, Global Michigan helps to market the program to qualified immigrant entrepreneurs.

Sixty by 30 (post-secondary credential goal & Futures for Frontliners): Michigan, through the leadership of Global Michigan, was the first state in the country to include immigration and an immigrant and refugee integration element in the state's post-secondary credential goal. Global Michigan led a collaborative effort with local and national partners to develop a plan for engaging with immigrants and refugees for Sixty by 30.

Workforce Development: Global Michigan serves as the technical content expert for the MWA Refugee & Immigrant Navigator (RAIN) program. The RAIN program endeavors to ensure that immigrants and refugees are connected to appropriate workforce development services. Additionally, Global Michigan participates in the World Education Services (WES) Barrier Reduction group which strives to remove occupational licensing barriers for individuals who are foreign-educated/foreign-trained. The work in the Barrier Reduction group pairs well with the on-going work that Global Michigan does with LARA to minimize and/or remove barriers within the state's occupational licensing process.