

GOVERNOR GRETCHEN WHITMER

HELPING SMALL BUSINESSES THRIVE



Governor Whitmer is committed to supporting small businesses as Michigan emerges from the pandemic and ushers in a new era of prosperity. Through COVID, the state implemented 23 economic relief programs for businesses, supporting more than 25,000 companies and retaining more than 200,000 jobs. Now, Governor Whitmer is dedicated to helping small businesses navigate existing programs and services available to help them recover and thrive for years to come. Recently, the governor laid out a \$2.1 billion proposal to grow Michigan's middle class, support small businesses, and invest in communities by tackling several underlying issues. As Michigan's economic jumpstart continues, bolstered by a strong GDP, low unemployment, and a historic surplus, Governor Whitmer's proposals will tackle underlying issues faced by small businesses and take advantage of the massive influx of federal resources Michigan has received to deliver meaningful change that makes a real difference for small businesses and Michigan workers.

FOSTERING MICHIGAN'S ECONOMIC JUMPSTART

- Ushered in 7.6% GDP growth, the best in the Midwest during the first quarter of 2021
- Took Michigan from a projected \$3 billion deficit to a \$3.5 billion surplus
- 2 independent credit ratings agencies upgraded Michigan's credit rating outlook
- Lower unemployment than the national average, down for seven straight months



"Our incredible small businesses create jobs and uplift their communities. Through the COVID-19 pandemic, they have been resilient and innovative, continuing to put their employees and customers first. They are a key part of our economic comeback, and I am laser-focused on providing them the resources they need to thrive."

- Governor Gretchen Whitmer

A BOLD ECONOMIC AGENDA

- Laid out a \$2.1 billion proposal to grow Michigan's middle class, support small businesses, and invest in communities
 - \$722 million to grow the middle class and educate more workers
 - \$215 million expansion of Michigan Reconnect and Futures for Frontliners.
 - \$70 million to grow the pipeline of talented workers to industry
 - \$100 million influx for the Going Pro credential program
 - Investing in programs that offer work experience to Michiganders earning their GEDs and help those reentering society after incarceration transition into the workforce
 - \$651 million to support small businesses and create better jobs
 - Building on her \$300 million Michigan Mainstreet Initiative, which offers grants to restaurants, place-based businesses, and microenterprises with further dollars to attract more start-ups.
 - \$200 million to create a more conducive business environment for high-tech, high-growth start-ups and create jobs of the future in Michigan
 - \$40 million to speed up electric vehicle charging infrastructure
 - \$100 million to prepare manufacturers and the workforce for opportunities of the future
 - \$11 million investment into the STEM Forward program, which places STEM students in internships in Michigan and improves talent attraction and retention
 - \$800 million to build housing and invest in communities.
 - \$100 million to build 2,000 units, create 1,600 jobs, and house 6,000 Michiganders. S
 - \$50 million to create a healthier, cleaner, and more energy efficient homes
 - \$100 million to rehabilitate vacant buildings
 - \$200 million to redevelop brownfield sites
 - \$100 million to build development-ready sites conducive to business investment.
- Went on MI Small Business Summer Tour to visit, recognize, and listen to Michigan's small businesses that have shown resiliency through COVID. These conversation directly with small business owners, advocates, and support organizations will inform a comprehensive strategy for small business recovery and investment in Michigan.

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SUPPORTED SMALL BUSINESSES THROUGH COVID-19

- Launched 23 economic relief programs providing over \$240 million in vital economic support to small businesses across all 83 Michigan counties. The programs supported over 25,000 companies and retained over 200,000 jobs with nearly 75% of support going to restaurants, bars, retailers and other service industry small businesses.
- Saved 52,500 jobs by providing grants to 6,000 small businesses.
- Provided \$100 million through the Small Business Restart Program to help restaurants and other place-based businesses cover costs by providing grants up to \$20,000 for mortgage, rent, taxes, payroll and other operating expenses.
- Set aside \$25 million for small businesses with less than nine employees, over half of Michigan businesses and a high proportion of women and minority-owned businesses.
- Set up International Trade Program helping 530 Michigan companies increase their export sales to 121 countries.
- Created the Entrepreneurship & Innovation Program which led to over 1,300 high-tech companies being formed in Michigan, and over 20,000 new full time equivalent jobs
- Helped communities revitalize commercial districts, awarding 30 grants, supporting 307 main street businesses
- Proposed the \$125 million Microenterprise Support Initiative to provide grants for rural and micro-businesses that did not qualify or apply for other incentives, like the federal Paycheck Protection Program
- Pitched the \$75 million Small Business SmartZones and Business Accelerator and Resiliency Initiative to provide grants to startups that can help our communities thrive

PROTECTED EMPLOYEES AND CUSTOMERS THROUGH COVID-19

- Issued over \$8 million in safety grants to over 1,500 businesses helping them invest in equipment and training to create safe workplaces.
- Provided \$3 million in federal CARES Act funds to over 300 small businesses to expand their capacity by adding weatherized, temporary outdoor facilities.
- Set up the Ambassadors program offering free consultation to over 5,400 employers on how to set up safer workplaces to get people back to work.

PROVIDED TOOLS TO GET MICHIGANDERS BACK TO WORK

- Expanded Work Share to offer employers greater flexibility as they brought employees back from unemployment. Throughout the pandemic, Work Share provided over \$550 million, preserved over 110,000 jobs and helped nearly 2,600 employers retain workers and bring them back to the workforce.
- Delivered \$36 billion in critical benefits and aid to 3.3 million Michiganders through the pandemic, resulting in over \$68 billion of economic impact.
- Expanded access to free preschool for 22,000 more four-year olds through the high-quality, homegrown Great Start Readiness Program.
- Expanded the childcare subsidy to help 7,000 more families get access to quality affordable care.
- Proposed a \$1.4 billion investment in childcare to expand access to high-quality childcare, expand access to low or no-cost care for 150,000 kids, and support early education professionals.
- Launched MI Tri-Share Child Care Program, an innovative, bipartisan childcare program that divides cost equally between the employer, employees, and the state.

CONNECTED SMALL BUSINESSES WITH TALENT

- Set up free virtual job fairs connecting over 2,600 employers and 9,900 job seekers.
- Won federal funding to create 1,417 apprenticeships in new sectors with an emphasis on recruiting Michiganders from historically underrepresented groups.
- Established bipartisan Michigan Reconnect program to pay tuition for Michiganders 25 and up pursuing an associate degree or earning a skills certificate in high-demand careers. To date, nearly 75,000 Michiganders have applied.
- Created Futures for Frontliners to provide a tuition-free path to postsecondary education or skills training for Michiganders who served on the frontlines of the pandemic. Put over 120,000 applicants on a path to higher education or training