



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY
LANSING

SUSAN CORBIN
ACTING DIRECTOR

Memorandum

DATE: February 5, 2021

TO: The Honorable Kenneth Horn, Chair
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor and Economic Opportunity/MEDC

The Honorable Greg VanWoerkom, Chair
House Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government

FROM: Stephanie Beckhorn, Director
Employment and Training
Labor & Economic Opportunity *Stephanie Beckhorn*

RE: Public Act 166 of 2020, Section 1083(2) Report

Per Section 1083(2) of Public Act 166 of 2020, the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity shall provide a report on the total number of clients served and the total amount of federal matching funds obtained throughout the duration of the program.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Andrew Beardslee, Legislative Analyst, 517-388-6101.

SB:TF

Attachment

cc: Members, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor and Economic Opportunity/MEDC
Members, House Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government
House and Senate Fiscal Agencies
House and Senate Policy Offices
State Budget Office

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Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity
Michigan Rehabilitation Services
PA 166 of 2020, Sec 1083(2)

Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS) served **19 individuals** through the MRS Farm Rehab Program. The program assisted agricultural workers with disabilities in acquiring or maintaining quality employment and independence. MRS utilized the \$50,000 in state appropriated funds to secure an additional **\$184,742 in federal matching funds** to support the provision of vocational rehabilitation services to eligible agricultural workers with disabilities.

Funding was used for:

1. Farm rehabilitation engineering services that included but were not limited to evaluations to identify the individualized assistive technology or accommodations needed by the worker to perform their work duties. These services included follow up to ensure the worker integrated and safely used the implemented accommodations into their work routine, the overall effectiveness of the implemented accommodations, and that no other accommodation needs were present.
2. Supporting workers with medical restoration needs and acquiring devices to assist them in improving communication with employees and customers, for example, hearing aids.
3. Identifying, acquiring, and implementing accommodations or assistive technologies to assist workers with mobility or lower extremity functional limitations. Some examples of implemented assistive technologies and accommodations include outdoor mobility carts, wheelchair seat elevators, man lifts, footrest, mini skid steers, ATV feeder, rolling sit/stand stool, modified tractor steps, handrails on equipment, power lift steps, back support spring, drive through gates, safety ladders, gooseneck dump trailer, custom ramps, and livestock handling systems.
4. Identifying, acquiring, and implementing accommodations or assistive technologies to assist workers experiencing upper extremity functional limitations. Some examples of implemented assistive technologies and accommodations include rearview camera systems, tire changing machine, swivel tractor seats, power wheelbarrows, rearview mirrors, egg cooler, power gate openers, wagon hitch kits, customized summit trellis system, electric powered pruners, and hay handling systems.
5. Assistance was also provided to a farmer with a visual impairment with the assistive technology of an automatic tractor guidance system needed for operating a tractor.