



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY
LANSING

SUSAN CORBIN
DIRECTOR

Memorandum

DATE: January 27, 2022

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
Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Stephanie Beckhorn'.

RE: PA 87 of 2021, Sec. 1083(2) Report

Per Section 1083(2) of Public Act 87 of 2021, 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. Todd Cook, Director of LEO Legislative Affairs, at 517-230-8900.

SB:TF

Attachment

cc: Members, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor and Economic Opportunity/MEDC
Members, House Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government
Kathryn Summers, Director, Senate Fiscal Agency
Mary Ann Cleary, Director, House Fiscal Agency
Christopher Harkins, State Budget Director
House Policy Office
Senate Policy Office

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Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity
Michigan Rehabilitation Services
PA 87 of 2021, Sec 1083(2)

Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS) served **17 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. Assisted an agricultural worker in fisheries with acquiring a commercial fishing captains license as the owner was retiring. This allowed customer to continue working in addition to the assistive technology he received.
4. 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, custom ramps, dump truck bed liner, portable manlift, lawn mower suspension system, modified tractor steps, handrails on equipment, back support brace, loaders, safety work gear to protect amputation, electric lifter hoist and nets, boat crane, walk-behind tractor with attachments, and livestock handling systems.
5. 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: Lift creeper, lay down strawberry picker cart, trailer lift assist system, bin lift opener, sprayer, clutch levers, maternity pen, rectangular tube corral, calf catcher, rolling electric fence posts.