



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY
LANSING

SUSAN CORBIN
DIRECTOR

Memorandum

DATE: February 8, 2023

TO: The Honorable Mary Cavanagh, Chair
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on LEO/MEDC

The Honorable William Snyder, Chair
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor and Economic Opportunity

FROM: Sigrid Adams, Deputy Director
Michigan Rehabilitation Services
Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity

RE: PA 166 of 2022, Sec. 1083(2) Report

Per Section 1083(2) of Public Act 166 of 2022, 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.

Attachment

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

Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity
Michigan Rehabilitation Services
PA 166 of 2022, Sec 1083(2)

Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS) served **24 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 **\$183,591 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 logging with acquiring a log conveyor and truck crane for him to complete his essential job duties and keep business operations productive.
4. A Cleanspace respirator was purchased for a farmer with respiratory limitations to allow him to work in dusty conditions moving cattle, sweeping out empty grain bins, stoking the woodstove, making hay or while welding in the shop without straining his lungs.
5. 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, portable manlift, modified tractor steps, handrails on equipment, portable fold up steps, loaders, and livestock handling systems, drive through gates, and grain bin scaffolding,
6. 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, trailer lift assist system, grain bin lift opener, rolling electric fence posts, antivibration gloves, portable coral barrier, air suspension tractor seat, rearview camera system, hitch systems, pneumatic seed system, and jib crane.