

# First Responder Presumed Coverage Fund

Pursuant to Public Act 317 of 1969, as amended,  
Section 405(8)(a)(b)(c) and (10)(a)(b)

## Calendar Year 2020

*Prepared by*

Workers' Disability Compensation Agency

Jack Nolish, Director

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MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF  
**LABOR & ECONOMIC  
OPPORTUNITY**

Susan Corbin, Director

The Workers' Disability Compensation Agency (WDCA) is pleased to present the 2020 annual report of the First Responder Presumed Coverage Fund (FRPCF).

This report is prepared in accordance with MCL 418.405(8) of the Workers' Disability Compensation Act, Act 317 of the Public Acts of 1969, as amended, and is submitted for your review.

The FRPCF was created pursuant to Public Act 515 of 2014 and was established to provide weekly workers' compensation wage loss and medical benefits to qualified first responders that have developed certain cancers. The FRPCF covers only first responders that have been employed full-time for 60 months or longer with a full-time fire authority at the time the cancer manifests itself and is exposed to the hazards incidental to fire suppression, rescue, or emergency medical services in the performance of necessary job duties. If true, the cancers are presumed to arise out of and in the course of their employment with respect to the claim only against the FRPCF. The statutory presumption may be rebutted by scientific evidence that the first responder was a substantial and consistent user of cigarettes or other tobacco products within the 10 years immediately preceding the date of injury, and that this use was a significant factor in the cause, aggravation, or progression of the cancer.

In 2019 the legislature passed PA 149 the *Lawful Sports Betting Act* and PA 152 the *Lawful Internet Gaming Act* which, if available, each provides \$2,000,000 to the fund. These sole funding sources limits the funding to \$4,000,000.

All claims are administered through a contract with Sedgwick and if a dispute should arise the FRPCF is represented by the Attorney General. For the period of January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020, the FRPCF received a total of 8 applications; 3 of the applications were approved and 1 were denied, and 4 pending a decision. We are presently paying wage loss and medical benefits on 21 claims.

During this reporting period, a total of \$379,039.22 was expended for claims and administration expenses.

The anticipated expenditures for claims expenses in next fiscal year is \$407,000.00. In addition, we will incur costs for staff and we anticipate additional vendor payments to administer each claim. We are allocating 1.5 FTE's for agency support.

Based on our current funding the FRPCF does not anticipate a funding shortfall this year.

Thank you for the taking the time to review this report.