



GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY  
LANSING

SUSAN CORBIN  
DIRECTOR

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** January 23, 2023

**TO:** Mary Cavanagh, Chair, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor and Economic Opportunity/MEDC  
  
William Snyder, Chair, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor & Economic Opportunity

**FROM:** Poppy Hernandez, Executive Director  
Office of Global Michigan  
Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity

**SUBJECT:** Pursuant to Section 1092 of PA 166 of 2022  
Office of Global Michigan Activities FY 2022 Report to the Legislature

Attached is the Office of Global Michigan Activities FY22 Report to the Legislature, prepared by the office, pursuant to Section 1092 of PA 166 of 2022.

Should you have any questions regarding this report or need additional information please contact Todd Cook, LEO Legislative Director, at (517) 230-8900.

cc: Christopher Harkins, State Budget Director  
Kathryn Summers, Senate Fiscal Agency  
Mary Ann Cleary, House Fiscal Agency

**Office of Global Michigan Activities  
FY 2022 Report to the Legislature**

(Pursuant to Section 1092 of PA 166 of 2022)

**January 31, 2023**

**Prepared by**

**Office of Global Michigan**

**Reporting Period: October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022**



GLOBAL  
MICHIGAN

Public Act 166 of 2022 section 1092 requires the following from the Office of Global Michigan:

*Sec. 1092. The Office of Global Michigan must produce a report by January 31 and transmit the report to the subcommittees, the senate and house fiscal agencies, and the state budget director. The report may include other information, but it must include all of the following:*

- (a) A description of the major programs and activities of the Office of Global Michigan and the number of individuals served through those programs*
- (b) The number of jobseekers and the number of employers that the office has served through the Michigan International Talent Solutions program*
- (c) A description of the activities that the office has conducted to attract and retain international, advanced degree, and entrepreneurial talent.*

- (a) A description of the major programs and activities of the Office of Global Michigan and the number of individuals served through those programs.*

As background, the Office of Global Michigan was created to help grow Michigan's economy by retaining and attracting global talent; to promote the skills, energy, and entrepreneurial spirit of our immigrant and refugee communities; and strives to make Michigan a more welcoming state. Consistent with that vision, the office supports immigrant and refugee integration policies and programs for the state. It works with state agencies that provide services to immigrants and refugees and strives to eliminate barriers to accessing those state services. Global Michigan analyzes and makes recommendations to the Governor on state and federal policies and programs. It also leads a comprehensive stakeholder initiative. Global Michigan partners closely with refugee resettlement agencies, economic development organizations, ethnic service providers, universities, non-profits, our state Ethnic Commissions, and many other organizations around the state. Additionally, it strives to make Michigan a more

welcoming state. Global Michigan's work touches the areas of licensing, workforce training, education, housing, healthcare and quality of life.

Global Michigan oversees the state Office of Refugee Services (ORS), and the state's three ethnic commissions. Global Michigan also typically holds 3-4 stakeholder meetings per year, and approximately 20 refugee community consultations per year.

Additionally, during FY22, Global Michigan was the lead office for the state to receive approximately 1,700 Afghan nationals who were evacuated out of their country by the United States. Michigan has also received a few thousand Ukraine arrivals through the federal government's Uniting for Ukraine program, and Michigan received approximately 1,206 refugees through the federal government's refugee resettlement program. Global Michigan had ongoing communications and engagements with many state agencies, partners and community stakeholders during FY22 as we received the largest number of arrivals with humanitarian status into the state in over a decade.

***FY22 major programs and activities and number of individuals served***

ORS (overall): 4,217 individuals

Digital Learning and Literacy Program (funded through ORR): 667 individuals

Digital English as a Second Language (DESL) program (grant funded through 2/27/23): approximately 100 individuals

State of Michigan Career Connector program (grant funded through 6/30/23): approximately 30 individuals

(b) *The number of jobseekers and the number of employers that the office has served through the Michigan International Talent Solutions program.*

***As a reminder, the MITS program ended as a direct service provider ended as of 11/30/2020.***

Jobseekers and employers served through Global Michigan:

- *Made over 45 referrals for employers to the Refugee And Immigrant Navigators, employment or other non-profit service providers*
- *Met with over 50 jobseekers and provided either career consultation or credential evaluation support*

(c) *A description of the activities that the office has conducted to attract and retain international, advanced degree, and entrepreneurial talent.*

Workforce trainings: Throughout FY22, Global Michigan provided content trainings for approximately 835 individuals who help immigrants join the workforce. Training was provided to the Refugee & Immigrant Navigators, various ethnic service organizations, members of the Michigan Works Association and others.

WES Skilled Immigrant Integration Program (SIIP) Demonstration Grant – SOM Career Connector program: Global Michigan was selected as one of 5 national sites to participate in an 18-month pilot to develop and implement statewide networking and professional employment programming for skilled immigrants. Global Michigan has been hosting monthly webinars for the Career Connector participants and has also been providing bi-weekly information about SOM job postings. Global Michigan is also working with the state's Equity & Inclusion Officers to develop best practices around hiring and retention of employees.

ORS: Michigan is in the top 10 of states to receive arriving refugees. Due to our outstanding program and our strong ethnic communities in the state, Michigan continues to be a destination for refugees. For retention purposes specifically, refugee service agencies and employment/employment-service providers (through contracts with ORS)

provide training and services to refugees to assist them in obtaining employment. During FY22, 831 individuals were served.

**GTRI partnership:** Global Michigan has a strong partnership with the Global Talent Retention Initiative (GTRI - a program at Global Detroit, a SE Michigan non-profit). GTRI focuses on the retention of international students. Global Michigan sits on the Advisory Board for GTRI which also includes the International Student offices of the University of Michigan, Michigan State, Eastern Michigan, Oakland University, Wayne State and UM-Dearborn. Global Michigan speaks at GTRI educational events, partners with them on international student job fairs and assists with bringing in universities from around the state to partner with GTRI.

**Global EIR:** Global Michigan is on the Advisory Board of the Global EIR (entrepreneurs in residence) program of Global Detroit. Global EIR is a partnership with UM and Wayne State to assist immigrant entrepreneurs be able to successfully launch their businesses while assisting them with their visa requirements.

**Sixty by 30 (post-secondary credential goal, Futures for Frontliners and Reconnect):** Global Michigan team members connected frequently with the Sixty by 30 team to ensure that Sixty by 30 is accessible by eligible international community members.

**Workforce Development:** Global Michigan serves as the technical content expert for the MWA Refugee & Immigrant Navigator (RAIN) program. The RAIN program endeavors to ensure that immigrants and refugees are connected to appropriate workforce development services. Additionally, Global Michigan participates in the World Education Services (WES) Barrier Reduction group which strives to remove occupational licensing barriers for individuals who are foreign-educated/foreign-trained. The work in the Barrier Reduction group pairs well with the on-going work that Global Michigan does with LARA to minimize and/or remove barriers within the state's occupational licensing process.