



GOVERNOR GRETCHEN WHITMER

EMPOWERING SMALL BUSINESSES



Governor Whitmer is committed to supporting small businesses as Michigan continues growing its economy. Throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic, the state implemented 23 economic relief programs for businesses, supporting more than 25,000 companies and retaining more than 200,000 jobs. As Michigan's economy grows, bolstered by a multi-billion-dollar surplus, federal legislation including the CHIPS and Science Act and the Inflation Reduction Act, and increasing momentum, Governor Whitmer's proposals will tackle underlying issues faced by small businesses and make bold investments to create economic prosperity for all.

"Our incredible small businesses create jobs and uplift their communities. Through the COVID-19 pandemic, they have been resilient and innovative, continuing to put their employees and customers first. They are a key part of our economic comeback, and I am focused on providing them the resources they need to thrive."

- Governor Gretchen Whitmer

Putting small businesses first

- Led the [best economic recovery](#) in Michigan history.
- Ushered in the [fastest small business growth](#) in 23 years and a [24% increase](#) in small business revenue.
- Added [220,000 jobs](#) in 2021, drove down unemployment and took Michigan from a projected \$3 billion deficit to a \$7 billion surplus.
- Signed [bipartisan economic development legislation](#) and a billion-dollar budget to empower Michigan to win huge manufacturing projects and create tens of thousands of good-paying jobs.
- Collaborated with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) to attract over [\\$11 billion in investments](#) from over 30 companies in the first half of 2022.
- Signed a [bipartisan tax cut, reduced tax burden](#), and [increased tax flexibility](#) for small businesses, enabling them to grow and create jobs.
- Signed a bipartisan bill to [cut costs](#) for Michigan distilleries.
- Signed an executive directive to increase [state procurement and contracts](#) with small and geographically disadvantaged businesses.
- Launched [MI New Economy](#), a \$2.1 billion plan to grow Michigan's middle class, support small businesses, and invest in communities.
- Created and funded the [Office of Rural Development](#) and secured over [\\$50 million](#) for food and agriculture economic development projects.

Connecting small businesses with talent

- Established and [fully funded](#) programs to provide thousands of Michiganders access to tuition-free higher education or skills training, leading to a high-skill, good-paying job.
 - [Michigan Reconnect](#), a program that pays tuition of Michiganders 25 and up to pursue an associate degree or earn a skills certificate in high-demand careers.
 - [Futures for Frontliners](#), a program that provides a tuition-free path to postsecondary education or skills training for Michiganders who served on the frontlines of the pandemic.
 - Invested in [Going Pro](#) to help businesses up-skill in-house talent, secured resources for talent retention and expansion in key industries, and expanded partnerships with union training facilities.

UPDATED: October 24, 2022

- Eliminated [barriers to employment](#) for low-income Michiganders.
- Set up [free virtual job fairs](#) connecting over 2,600 employers and 9,900 job seekers.
- Won federal funding to create [1,417 apprenticeships](#) in new sectors with an emphasis on recruiting Michiganders from historically underrepresented groups.
- Created the [Entrepreneurship & Innovation Program](#) which led to over 1,300 high-tech companies being formed in Michigan, and over 20,000 new full time equivalent jobs.

Helping families get back to work

- Signed a [\\$1.4 billion investment in childcare](#) to expand access to high-quality childcare, support childcare businesses, and invest in childcare professionals.
- Expanded access to free preschool for [22,000+ more four-year olds](#) through the high-quality, homegrown Great Start Readiness Program.
- Expanded access to affordable childcare for [150,000 more children](#). Now, a family of four earning up to \$55,500 is eligible for free or low-cost childcare.
- Launched [MI Tri-Share Childcare Program](#), an innovative childcare program that partners with business to lower costs of care for families in 59 counties.

Focusing on small businesses

- Proclaimed [Small Business Week](#) in Michigan and declared [Small Business Saturday](#), urging Michiganders to buy locally on Saturdays throughout the year to support Michigan's small businesses.
- Went on [MI Small Business Summer](#) tour to visit, recognize, and listen to Michigan's small businesses.
- Created and funded the [Office of Rural Development](#) and secured over [\\$50 million](#) for food and agriculture economic development projects.

Supporting small businesses through COVID-19

- Launched [23 economic relief programs](#) providing over \$240 million in vital economic support to small businesses across all 83 Michigan counties. The programs supported over 25,000 companies and retained over 200,000 jobs with nearly 75% of support going to restaurants, bars, retailers, and other service industry small businesses.
- Saved [52,500 jobs](#) by providing grants to 6,000 small businesses.
- Provided \$100 million through the [Small Business Restart Program](#) to help restaurants and other place-based businesses cover costs by providing grants up to \$20,000 for mortgage, rent, taxes, payroll and other operating expenses.
- Created the [Entrepreneurship & Innovation Program](#) which led to over 1,300 high-tech companies being formed in Michigan, and over 20,000 new full time equivalent jobs.
- Helped communities [revitalize commercial districts](#), awarding 30 grants, supporting 307 main street businesses.
- Issued over [\\$8 million in safety grants](#) to over 1,500 businesses helping them invest in equipment and training to create safe workplaces.
- Set up the [Ambassadors program](#) offering free consultation to over 5,400 employers on how to set up safer workplaces to get people back to work.
- [Expanded Work Share](#) to offer employers greater flexibility as they brought employees back from unemployment. Work Share provided over \$550 million, preserved over 110,000 jobs and helped nearly 2,600 employers retain workers and bring them back to the workforce.