



# GOVERNOR GRETCHEN WHITMER

## EMPOWERING SMALL BUSINESSES



Governor Whitmer is committed to supporting small businesses and small business owners as Michigan continues growing its economy.

### Putting small businesses first

- Ushered in [fastest small business growth](#) in 23 years and a [24% increase](#) in revenue, making Michigan [one of the Top 10 states for business](#).
- Signed a [bipartisan tax cut, reduced tax burden](#), and [increased tax flexibility](#) for small businesses, lowering their costs and enabling them to grow and create jobs.
- Signed an executive directive to review ways state government can [speed up state permitting](#), make Michigan more competitive.
- Signed an executive directive to increase [state procurement and contracts](#) with small and geographically disadvantaged businesses.
- Signed a bipartisan [supplemental budget](#) investing \$75 million to support small business smart zones, business accelerators, and entrepreneurial activities.
- Leveraged federal funding to launch a [\\$10 million partnership](#) to support women, veterans and entrepreneurs of color in accessing microloans.
- [Protected](#) federal funding for small businesses in 28 counties and census tracts through the federal HUBZone program fueling small business growth in underutilized areas.
- Proclaimed [Small Business Week](#) in Michigan and declared [Small Business Saturday](#), urging Michiganders to buy locally on Saturdays throughout the year.
- [Delivered](#) investments in talent action teams and to promote Michigan as a destination for special events and national conventions.
- [Established](#) the small business support hubs program to help small business owners with the resources they need to create jobs and grow the economy.
- [Urged](#) federal government to provide relief to businesses impacted by low-snow winters
- [Signed](#) legislation supporting small businesses by increasing democratization in community development.
- Established [Michigan Secure Retirement](#), helping small businesses set up retirement savings plan for their employees at no cost to the employer.
- [Delivered](#) \$10 million in grants for minority-owned businesses and continued the MI Contracting Program, helping minority-owned businesses win state contracts.
- Launched [MI New Economy](#), a \$2.1 billion plan to grow Michigan's middle class, support small businesses, and invest in communities.

### Connecting small businesses with talent

- Funded programs like [Reconnect](#), [Futures for Frontliners](#), and [Michigan Opportunity Scholarship](#) to provide hundreds of thousands of Michiganders tuition-free higher education or skills training that leads to a high-skill, good-paying job.
- Invested in [Going Pro](#) to help businesses up-skill in-house talent, secured resources for talent retention in key industries, and expanded partnerships with union training facilities. In the last 4 years, created over 22,000 new apprenticeships in Michigan.
- Invested in future talent through [STEM Forward](#), connecting Michigan's higher education students in STEM fields to internships with a wage-match at Michigan businesses.

### Helping families get back to work

- [Signed](#) a record \$1.4 billion in child care funding supporting child care businesses and professionals and expanding access to affordable child care for [150,000 more children](#). Now, a family of four earning up to \$55,500 is eligible for free or low-cost child care.
- Expanded access to free preschool for [22,000+ more four-year olds](#) through the high-quality, homegrown Great Start Readiness Program.
- Launched [MI Tri-Share Childcare Program](#), an innovative childcare program that partners with business to lower costs of care for families in 59 counties.
- [Signed a budget](#) putting Michigan on a path towards [Pre-K for All](#), to make preschool free for all four-year-olds by the end of the second term by significantly expanding the Great Start Readiness Program, saving Michigan families an average of \$10,000.
- [Expanded](#) access to free pre-K to every four-year-old in Michigan while prioritizing families who need it most so every kid can arrive at kindergarten ready to learn.

**UPDATED: November 19, 2024**