



GOVERNOR GRETCHEN WHITMER

INVESTING IN SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN

The Whitmer-Gilchrist administration has invested in every region of Michigan to deliver on the kitchen-table issues that matter most to families, communities, and small businesses.

Growing Southwest Michigan's economy

- Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) investments:
 - Over \$50 million invested to support nearly 70 Business Development projects projected to create nearly 2,000 jobs and leverage over \$1 billion in private investment.
 - \$147 million to support over 70 Community Development projects, leveraging more than \$250 million in private investment and reactivating more than 3.5 million square feet of public space.
- Delivered \$20 million to support over 2,300 businesses and retain more than 25,500 jobs through COVID, with 35% of relief going to geographically disadvantaged areas.

Empowering workers in Southwest Michigan

- 8,759 Michigan Reconnect applicants in Southwest Michigan are on tuition-free paths to higher education or skills training.
- 8,362 Futures for Frontliners in Southwest Michigan who served on the frontlines of the pandemic have been accepted to get on tuition-free paths to receiving a diploma or attending community college.
- Created 2,601 new registered apprenticeships with a focus on supporting opportunities for underrepresented populations: veterans, women, people of color, those with disabilities, and young Michiganders.
- COVID relief:
 - Saved 5,768 jobs with Workshare program which allowed employees to collect unemployment benefit while working part-time.
 - Set up two virtual job fairs connecting 55 employers to over 170 job-seekers.

Fixing roads, bridges, pipes, and parks in Southwest Michigan

- Fixed 1,215 lane miles of road and 74 bridges, supporting 7,830 jobs.
- Invested \$14.1 million to upgrade or repair state and local parks.
- Invested 70.6 Million in water infrastructure in Southwest Michigan to upgrade sewer systems, replaced lead pipes, and protected safe drinking water for families.

Investing in students and schools in Southwest Michigan

- Increased per-student funding by \$787 for the 138,000+ students in Southwest Michigan since taking office.
- Expanded free preschool through the Great Start Readiness Program to 1,080 more kids in Southwest Michigan.
- Raised childcare funding per kid in Southwest Michigan by 178%.

Building housing and keeping families in their homes in Southwest Michigan

- Constructed 487 affordable, attainable housing units.
- Helped 582 families with mortgages and down payments.
- Kept 12,667 families in their homes with rental and utility assistance.

Proposals to cut taxes for seniors and working families in Southwest Michigan

- Governor Whitmer's proposal to roll back the retirement tax would save 44,700 families in Southwest Michigan an average of \$1,000 a year, putting \$44.7 million back in people's pockets and the local economy.
- Governor Whitmer's proposal to triple Michigan's Earned Income Tax Credit would deliver an average combined tax refund of \$3,000 to 67,700 working families in Southwest Michigan, putting \$203.1 million in people's pockets and the local economy.