

June 1, 2020

Dear Mr. Robert J. Sobie, Ph.D.,

We are writing to extend our sincere thanks to Oceana County for the opportunity we have had to be of service as the County’s auditors for the past six years. We have enjoyed working with you and your staff. We trust that you feel that the County has benefited from our professional relationship as well.

We are provided proposed fees for the next three fiscal year audit reports. It has been a pleasure working with the County and we would love to have another three years to look forward to with you.

Following is a schedule showing the proposed fees:

<u>12/31/2020</u>	<u>12/31/2021</u>	<u>12/31/2022</u>
\$ 32,400	\$ 33,000	\$ 33,600

These fees are based on the presumption that the County’s accounting records will be reasonably adjusted and auditable. The proposed fees include the County, the County Drainage Districts, the County Land Bank, and the County Medical Care Facility and the fees will be allocated accordingly. Any additional services required to assist the County in preparing a reasonably adjusted trial balance will be billed at our standard hourly rate. Further, a separate billing of \$3,000 would be charged for any year(s) requiring a separate federal single audit engagement.

The fees quoted for subsequent years may be subject to renegotiation if changes in the scope of the County’s operations or new professional requirements make our estimate of hours unrealistic. If any such changes occur, we will discuss the reasons with you, and arrive at a new fee arrangement prior to incurring any charges. However, the above fees do include the known accounting standards that will need to be implemented during the proposed years (including assistance with the implementation of Treasury’s new Uniform Chart of Accounts, GASB 84 *Fiduciary Activities*, and GASB 87 *Leases*).

These fees are independent of any special projects for which a separate engagement is contracted. We will, of course, continue to be available throughout the year to answer general business questions, and to assist you or your staff with accounting for specific transactions without charge.

Again, we thank you for the continuing opportunity to be of service to the County, and we look forward to many more years of exceeding your expectations. If you have any questions regarding this extension, or if we can be of assistance to you in any, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gabridge & Company". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name of the company.

Gabridge & Company, PLC

The above proposal is hereby accepted for an additional three years.

Signature

Date

Robert Sobie

From: Joe Verlin <jverlin@gabridgeco.com>
Sent: Monday, June 1, 2020 4:50 PM
To: Robert Sobie
Subject: RE: New Contract
Attachments: Proposal_06012020.pdf

Good Afternoon Bob,

Attached is the extension offer. These fees include an annual \$600 increase (starting from the 2019 total fees, which is just under 2%) and include our assistance with the new uniform chart of accounts implementation, GASB 84 + 87 implementation, and ongoing consulting. There would be an additional fee of \$3,000 if any years require a federal single audit report.

Please feel free to let me know if there are any questions.

Thank you very much for the consideration!

JOE VERLIN, CPA, CGFM

GABRIDGE & COMPANY

3940 PENINSULAR DRIVE SE SUITE 200 / GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49546

P 616-328-6275

F 616-538-2441

WWW.GABRIDGECO.COM

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From: Robert Sobie [mailto:rsobie@oceana.mi.us]
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 11:50 AM
To: Joe Verlin <jverlin@gabridgeco.com>
Subject: New Contract

Hi Joe.

I talked with Commissioner Larry Byl regarding a new contract with you and he agreed to move forward with it. So, I'd like you to prepare an agreement for 3 years covering fiscal years 2020, 2021, and 2022. Please have the new agreement reflect that the county no longer operates an EDC so this audit requirement is gone. But, we will need to have a single audit done for FY 2020 because of a \$1 million CDBG grant that we received exclusively for our largest employer (Peterson Farms). I assume there will be a cost of living increase in your fees so just point that out as well.

Larry did ask that I contact Mika Myers to discuss our goals related to pension liability bonds but he also wants to fold you into the process as well, hence the new agreement.

Thank you.

Bob

Robert J. Sobie, Ph.D.
County Administrator
100 State Street
Hart, Michigan 49420
(231) 873-4835

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Robert Sobie

From: Robert Sobie
Sent: Thursday, June 4, 2020 4:32 PM
To: 'Joe Verlin'
Subject: RE: New Contract

Thank you Joe. I'll get this in front of the commissioners soon, most likely not until June 25.

Bob

From: Joe Verlin [mailto:jverlin@gabridgeco.com]
Sent: Monday, June 1, 2020 4:50 PM
To: Robert Sobie <rsobie@oceana.mi.us>
Subject: RE: New Contract

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Robert J. Sobie, Ph.D.
County Administrator

Stacey Becker
Financial and Human Resources
Coordinator

Angela Aerts
Administrative Assistant

100 S. State Street, Suite M-4
Hart, MI 49420
Phone (231) 873-4835
Fax (231) 873-5914

MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Commissioners
From: Robert J. Sobie, County Administrator
Subject: UPDATE: COVID-19
Date: July 2, 2020

An employee previously reported to my office that the employee was at an event the weekend of June 20-21 in which one or more individuals later tested positive for COVID-19. The employee was tested and the results came back negative for the virus. You may recall from last week's update that the employee's doctor did not recommend self-isolation so the employee has been working.

My office is continuing a "coaching" role with security personnel to ensure procedural consistency with regards to the public entering the building. It's been reported that some people were turned away because they didn't have an appointment with a general county office. An appointment is not required to enter a building, but at the discretion of a department head it can be required in order to receive services from a general county office. A facial covering, health screen, and security screen are the three requirements to enter a building. If the office visited is only using appointments, then it is up to that department head's staff to inform the person directly. Courts remain closed.

Last week, a portion of the Federal CARES Act funds allocated to Michigan were approved for use by local governments for first responder hazard pay (refer to Senate Bill 690, Sec. 601). At the discretion of the Board of Commissioners (it's not mandated) up to \$1,000 can be awarded to first responder employees. Total pay is reimbursed to the county by the Michigan Department of Treasury. A webinar is scheduled for July 9 to explain the reimbursement process. In the near future, I will ask the Board to decide if hazard pay will be awarded and to define who is and is not a "first responder" in the county's workforce.

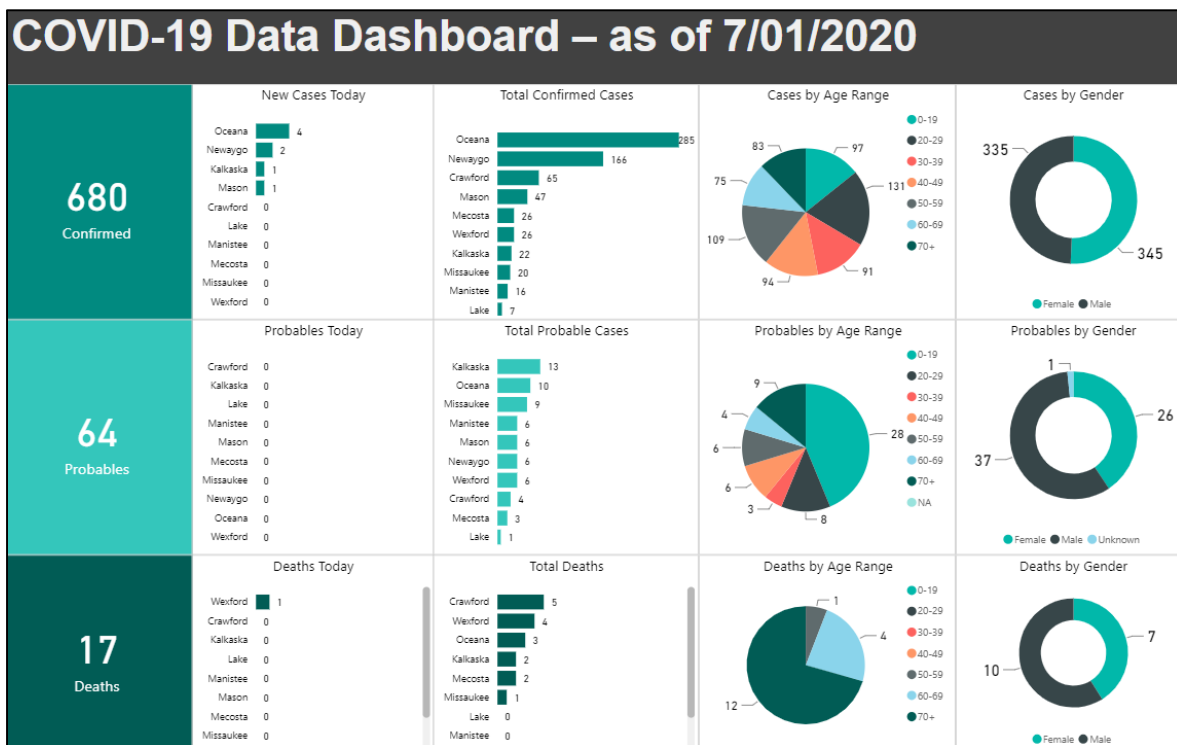
Official County Website: <http://www.oceana.mi.us>



"This institution is an equal opportunity provider"

Since I last reported to you on June 12, Governor Whitmer has issued the following executive directives and orders related to COVID-19. Please keep in mind that many of the newer EOs are rescinding/replacing earlier ones issued by the governor.

- EO # 2020-132: Enhanced authorization of remote means for carrying out state administrative procedures
- EO # 2020-133: Restarting professional sports
- EO # 2020-134: Eviction diversion program for COVID-19-related debtors
- EO # 2020-135: Creation of Michigan Nursing Homes COVID-19 Preparedness Task Force
- EO # 2020-136: Temporary restrictions on entry into health care facilities, residential care facilities, congregate care facilities, and juvenile justice facilities
- EO # 2020-137: Protecting the Food Supply and Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Workers from the effects of COVID-19
- EO # 2020-138: Encouraging the use of telehealth services during the COVID-19 emergency
- EO # 2020-139: n/a (renaming a building)
- EO # 2020-140: Temporary suspension of youth work permit application requirements
- EO # 2020-141: Providing alternative notice of public hearings under Michigan’s tax abatement statutes
- EO # 2020-142: Provision of pre K–12 education for the 2020–2021 school year
- EO # 2020-143: Closing indoor service at bars



Source: <https://www.dhd10.org/coronavirus/>

Engineers, Planners & Architects Associated with Parks & Recreation

Beckett & Raeder Inc
535 W. William
Ann Arbor, MI 75234
734.663.2622
Contact: Jennifer Farina (jfarina@bria2.com)

Carlisle Wortman Associates, Inc.
117 N. First St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
734.662.2200
Contact: Sonya Sheroski (ssheroski@waplan.com)

Fleis & VandenBrink Engineering Inc.
316 Morris Avenue, Suite 230
Muskegon, MI 49440
231.726.1000
Contact: Don DeVires (ddevries@fveng.com)

Grissim Metz Andriese Associates Inc
300 E. Cady St.
Northville, MI 48167
248.347.7010
Contact: Kathy Neiryneck (kathyn@gma-la.com)

Landscape Architects & Planners Inc
809 Center St. Suite 1
Lansing, MI 48906
517.485.5500
Contact: Robert Ford (info@LAPinc.net)

M C Smith Associates and Architectural Group Inc.
529 Greenwood Ave. S.E.
East Grand Rapids, MI 49506
616.451.3346
Contact: Tiffany Smith (TAS@mcsagroup.com)

PEA, inc.
7927 Nemco Way
Brighton, MI 48116
517.546.8583
Contact: Jeffrey Smith (esanders@peainc.com)

ROWE Professional Services Company
540 S. Saginaw Street
Flint, MI 48502
810.341.7500
Contact: Douglas Schultz (dschultz@rowepsc.com)

Spicer Group, Inc
230 S. Washington Ave.
Saginaw, MI 48607
989.754.4717
Contact: Tanya Moore (tanyam@spicergroup.com)

TMP Architecture Inc
1191 W. Square Lake Rd.
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302
248.338.4561
Contact: David Larson (dlarson@tmp-architecture.com)

*****Cody-Braun & Associates**
1822 Marne Road
Bolingbrook, IL 60490
1.630.632.1333
Contact: Jeffrey Braun (jeff@codybraun.com)

*****Obviously, Jeff is from Illinois and would have to be licenses to work in Michigan, or he could work for a company in Michigan. Jeff's was my architect since the early 1980's. Total architectural package, planning, design, engineering, construction docs, and construction management. He served in this capacity for several other park & recreation agencies throughout the Chicago suburbs. His work is impeccable – clear cut construction docs, very little change orders during construction, made regular site visits, managed disagreements representing the agency and not the contractor. If you interview...I would highly recommend at least an interview with Jeff; he and his team never let me down during any park construction, building renovations or new park buildings.**

Robert Sobie

From: John Wilson <John@snodawg.net>
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 11:11 PM
To: Robert Sobie
Subject: Peterson Farms P & R Planners Engineers Architects
Attachments: Potential Planners.Engineers.Architects.doc

Good morning,

Here is a list of potential Planners, Engineers, and Architect associated with parks and recreation projects; they are listed in specific order. I am going to call Richard Thursday morning and I will mention you have the list and I will probably send one to him...if he would like for me to do so. Just giving you this thought - a potential project of this size I would really recommend that he or his team seek out firms that would best fit with his potential plans and then go through an interview process with those firms. The project should be vetted out for, not limited to, the proper amenities on the proper land space; that the project would be environmental & maintenance friendly and how it could bolster the economics of the county/community...build it and they will come.

If there is anything I can do to further assist you with this project...please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Have a great Thursday!



John W. Wilson
john@snodawg.net
847-609-4053

"Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better." Maya Angelou

Robert Sobie

From: Robert Sobie
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2020 7:16 AM
To: 'John Wilson'
Subject: RE: Peterson Farms P & R Planners Engineers Architects

Hi John.

Please feel free to share the list directly with Richard. And, I agree with your statements regarding the importance of working with a qualified firm, vetting, etc.

I appreciate your help in perhaps getting something started in the county.

Have a great day.
Bob

From: John Wilson [mailto:John@snodawg.net]
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 11:11 PM
To: Robert Sobie <rsobie@oceana.mi.us>
Subject: Peterson Farms P & R Planners Engineers Architects

Good morning,

Here is a list of potential Planners, Engineers, and Architect associated with parks and recreation projects; they are listed in specific order. I am going to call Richard Thursday morning and I will mention you have the list and I will probably send one to him...if he would like for me to do so. Just giving you this thought - a potential project of this size I would really recommend that he or his team seek out firms that would best fit with his potential plans and then go through an interview process with those firms. The project should be vetted out for, not limited to, the proper amenities on the proper land space; that the project would be environmental & maintenance friendly and how it could bolster the economics of the county/community...build it and they will come.

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john@snodawg.net
847-609-4053

*"Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better." Maya
Angelou*

Robert Sobie

From: Jodi Nichols <NicholsJ@rightplace.org>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 9:53 AM
To: Richard Raffaelli
Subject: RE: Discussion

Richard,

Peterson Farms is obviously extremely important to the economic development of Oceana County and as the largest employer who makes incredible impact on various aspects of the county, was discussed in what I thought was a confidential closed board meeting.

I was asking for guidance from board members who were in attendance last night before following up with you because I was concerned that what I thought I heard you state last night, at a public council meeting with media present, was that you would have to consider moving two plants to Muskegon if the housing water issue is not resolved. This would obviously be a major economic development issue for the County and a suitable topic for discussion at the Economic Alliance Board meeting.

I do not discuss Peterson Farms, or any businesses that I work with, publicly. I hope this is reassuring to you and the company, as I obviously value the opportunity to work with Peterson Farms on continuing to grow the company and the county. Feel free to call me or any of the Alliance Board members if you have concerns you would like to discuss.

Thank you!

Take care and be well,

Jodi Nichols

Business Development Coordinator-Lake & Oceana Counties

Visit www.rightplace.org/covid19news often for business-related resources and updates.



The Right Place, Inc.

c +[231-742-3328](tel:+12317423328)

125 Ottawa Avenue, Suite 450

Grand Rapids, MI, 49503

www.rightplace.org



From: Richard Raffaelli <RRaffaelli@petersonfarmsinc.com>

Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 8:34 AM

To: Jodi Nichols <NicholsJ@rightplace.org>

Subject: Discussion

Are you going around talking about the statement regarding relocating part of our operation ? If so please stop

Richard Raffaelli | Chief Operating Officer

Peterson Farms | 3104 W. Baseline Road | Shelby, MI 49455

Office: 231-861-7101 x 341 **Cell 214-674-2539**
rraffaelli@petersonfarmsinc.com

Robert Sobie

From: Jodi Nichols <NicholsJ@rightplace.org>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 12:43 PM
To: Dean Gustafson; 'Eric Fox'; Eric Gustad; 'gformer@fbinsmi.com'; Larry Byl; lkotzian@icloud.com; 'lladner@cityofhart.org'; Mishelle Comstock; Robert Sobie; Robert Widigan; Scott Rumsey; tammy@oceanafoundation.org; Travis Alden
Subject: past small business relief grant recipients

Hello Everyone,

As requested this morning, the list of Small Business Relief Grant recipients is below. Each received \$843.60.

Affordable Auto
Affordable Homes
Beyer Auction Hesperia
Mike Blackmer Electric
The West River Company- The Boathouse Pentwater
Claybanks Construction
Country Dairy Farm Store
Gayle's Salon
Golden Café
Hegg's Furniture
Inspired Home Builders
KC Felt Construction
Klotz Agency
Lakeside Fitness
Lakeside Comprehensive Rehab
Oceana Auto
Oceana Winery
Open Hearth
Services of Hope
The Glove-5 stores
Total Fitness of Oceana
Trailside Restaurant
Up North Garden
Vasquez Enterprise-La Fiesta
Windridge Textile Printing

Take care and be well,

Jodi Nichols

Business Development Coordinator-Lake & Oceana Counties

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Oceana County Economic Alliance Business Development Director Activity Report

July 14, 2020

ANNUAL METRICS - 2020

105 NEW/RETAINED JOBS	\$28.1M CAPITAL INVESTMENT	\$2.6M NEW/RETAINED PAYROLL
\$0 WORKER TRAINING DOLLARS	7 RETENTION/EXPANSION/ATTRACTION & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS	185 OF 100 COMPANY ASSISTS

ANNUAL ACTIVITY METRICS

3 of 45
BRE VISITS

CUMULATIVE METRICS (January, 2019 – THROUGH 6/30/2020)

115 NEW/RETAINED JOBS	\$0 WORKER TRAINING DOLLARS	\$2.99M NEW/RETAINED PAYROLL
293 COMPANY ASSISTS	\$29.9M NEW CAPITAL INVESTMENT	3 EXPANSIONS 1 ATTRACTIONS

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECT PIPELINE UPDATE

- BUSINESS EXPANSION
 - **Project Fruitcake complete** – 12 yr PA198 with City of Hart approved and submitted; Metrics have been added above

- **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**
 - **Project Hot Spot** – working with Oceana College Access Network to map, promote and increase hot spots in rural areas with grant from MI CAN
 - **Discover Manufacturing 2020** – Planning has begun for virtual format; collaborating with Mason and Lake Counties to share \$2000 per county grant resources for videos, etc needed for online offering

MONTHLY RETENTION/EXPANSION/ATTRACTION ACTIVITIES

- **BUSINESS RETENTION/EXPANSION 'BRE' Visits**
 - None scheduled; some email contacts
 - Setting up August farm and food related visits with MDARD
- **BUSINESS ATTRACTION**
 - **The Creeks Housing Development Site Visit** - Developers from Cunningham-Limp from Novi & Traverse City toured the site and the city of Hart with City and RPI staff on July 2. Feedback was positive and conversations are continuing on promoting the site to their clients as well as the industrial park vacancies

MONTHLY COVID 19 PROGRAMS AND OUTREACH

- **SMALL BUSINESS RELIEF PROGRAM**
 - **Second Grant Round opens July 15**; Committee has been re-engaged, including Discover Oceana members, and will meet early August to award local dollars (approximately 9x more than last round of \$21,000); This round allows for 55 administration fee to go to Alliance (Minus small stipends to committee members)
- **DISCOVEROCEANA.COM**
 - **Gift Card Program** - \$42,000 in revenue to county small businesses (1200 cards sold out over weekend)
 - **Business Roundtable** - Being promoted to be held July 14 at 3pm on zoom
- **WEEKLY RESOURCE**
 - **Emails to 95 contacts**;
 - **Covid-Related assists have decreased** to only a few a week but will pick up again during grant process

MONTHLY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND UPDATES

- **PITCH NORTH – VIRTUAL VERSION**

- **27 Total Submissions, over 50 Zoom event participants, 5 finalists each won \$500 - \$4,000**
- **Oceana Finalist - Hearth Magic**, Home schooling curriculum and support business based in Pentwater, was first place winner of \$4,000!
- **THANK YOU SCOTT RUMSEY!** for serving as a judge and **THANK YOU SHELBY STATE BANK!** for being a sponsor!

- **ANNUAL REPORT**

- RPI can only provide the template that was provided last year. If a different format with photos and save the date language is wanted, it will have to be contracted out. Recommendation is to keep the report format the same and add a separate “save the date” to the email message and as postcard included with mailed reports
- The following will be featured as June 2019 - May 2020 Highlights:
 - Cumulative Metrics in this report, featuring Peterson Farms and Media Technologies Expansions
 - COVID 19 Assistance including SBR grant administration and Roundtable Series
 - Talent Initiatives and Assistance including Discover Manufacturing, ReThink Oceana, Arbre Farms Assistance with housing grant and childcare provider RFP

Robert Sobie

From: Robert Sobie
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2020 1:26 PM
To: Madelaine Clapp (MEDC)
Cc: 'nicholsj@rightplace.org'; 'Travis Alden'
Subject: Closeout Hearing

Hi Madelaine.

Is there any reason why I can't schedule a public hearing to close out the Peterson Farms business expansion project? I'm just looking to get it onto an upcoming Board of Commissioners schedule before we get too close to the holidays and people aren't participating.

Let me know.

Thanks.
Bob

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100 State Street
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(231) 873-4835

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Robert Sobie

From: Madelaine Clapp (MEDC) <clappm1@michigan.org>
Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 4:13 PM
To: Robert Sobie
Cc: 'nicholsj@rightplace.org'; Travis Alden
Subject: RE: Closeout Hearing

Bob,

You can conduct a close-out (performance) hearing. We can work on monitoring in within the month.

Thanks!

Madelaine Clapp

Senior Program Specialist (CDBG)

Michigan Economic Development Corporation

300 N. Washington Square | Lansing, MI 48913

Office: 517.335.0109

clappm1@michigan.org

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From: Robert Sobie <rsobie@oceana.mi.us>
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2020 1:26 PM
To: Madelaine Clapp (MEDC) <clappm1@michigan.org>
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Robert Sobie

From: Eric Lambert <ELambert@petersonfarmsinc.com>
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 11:24 AM
To: Robert Sobie; Ashlee Lange
Cc: 'nicholsj@rightplace.org'; Eric Lambert
Subject: RE: Closeout Public Hearing

Thanks very much, Bob. We will plan to have representation from Peterson Farms at the meeting.

Best regards,

Eric

Eric Lambert | Chief Financial Officer
Peterson Farms | 3104 W. Baseline Road | Shelby, MI 49455
Office: 231-861-6333 x 227 | Cell: 616-915-0784
elambert@petersonfarmsinc.com

From: Robert Sobie <rsobie@oceana.mi.us>
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 11:07 AM
To: Eric Lambert <ELambert@petersonfarmsinc.com>; Ashlee Lange <ALange@petersonfarmsinc.com>
Cc: 'nicholsj@rightplace.org' <nicholsj@rightplace.org>
Subject: Closeout Public Hearing

Good morning.

I'm tentatively planning to have the Board of Commissioners hold a required closeout public hearing on September 10 at 11:30 a.m. for your business expansion project and the use of some CDBG funding. I'd like invite you to attend the hearing to share a few remarks about the project if your schedule(s) allow.

You may recall that the hearing is required by the MEDC and its monitoring of the project.

Please let me know your availability or that of anyone else at Peterson Farms who would like to participate. Hearings like this usually only take a few minutes.

Thank you and I hope everything is going well!
Bob

Robert J. Sobie, Ph.D.
County Administrator
100 State Street

Hart, Michigan 49420
(231) 873-4835

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Robert Sobie

From: Jodi Nichols <NicholsJ@rightplace.org>
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 12:51 PM
To: Robert Sobie
Subject: RE: Closeout Public Hearing

Thanks Bob. I have it on my calendar.

Take care and be well,

Jodi Nichols

Business Development Coordinator-Lake & Oceana Counties

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You may recall that the hearing is required by the MEDC and its monitoring of the project.

Please let me know your availability or that of anyone else at Peterson Farms who would like to participate. Hearings like this usually only take a few minutes.

Thank you and I hope everything is going well!

Bob

Robert J. Sobie, Ph.D.
County Administrator
100 State Street
Hart, Michigan 49420
(231) 873-4835

This message may contain confidential and/or proprietary information, and is intended for the person/entity to which it was originally addressed. Any use by others is strictly prohibited.

Robert Sobie

From: Robert Sobie
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 11:07 AM
To: Eric Lambert; 'Ashlee Lange'
Cc: 'nicholsj@rightplace.org'
Subject: Closeout Public Hearing

Good morning.

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Robert Sobie

From: Richard Raffaelli <RRaffaelli@petersonfarmsinc.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 3:20 PM
To: Allen, Jason - RD, East Lansing, MI
Cc: SenJBumstead@senate.michigan.gov; Mark Timmer; Robert Sobie; Jodi Nichols
Subject: Update

Importance: High

Great talking with you today. Several projects have been resurrected now that we are in some sort of COVID rhythm where I believe we could gain some insight and help from the USDA

1. I recently won the primary election for Shelby Township Supervisor. Regardless of the November outcome I still maintain the Chairman of the planning commission position which has some teeth. Our intent in Shelby is to utilize 50% (Or more) of our annualized Road Millage to apply for a USDA loan to finance additional road improvements. My other hope is to partner with the Road Commission on primary road improvements thus doubling our effort and funds. Please let me know who from your team I could have a preliminary conversation with
2. The Oceana County Road commission is keen to follow suit. Would they be eligible as they do receive yearly income ? You had stated yes but would like to vet this out with your team
3. The housing project is starting again. 50 single family homes for sale. 20 for rent and 20 duplexes and triplexes. I will need a contact from your team
4. I'm also working on a committee to build a Shelby Township sports complex park and play area. I was wondering if there would be any USDA grants available that would apply to this project. It's a little unique as we are taking a conservation approach to the land and amongst other things including a section of the fields to be pollinators

Now.....My Master plan..... if successful in November and successful with a low interests loan for roads is to hold an education session with the surrounding townships introducing the process. I really do believe the Townships need to take control of their infrastructure to drive rural growth. My hope is the County involves itself as a key stakeholder but prepared to drive the ship forward to support Oceana County

Regards
Richard

Richard Raffaelli | Chief Operating Officer
Peterson Farms | 3104 W. Baseline Road | Shelby, MI 49455
Office: 231-861-7101 x 341 **Cell 214-674-2539**
rraffaelli@petersonfarmsinc.com

Robert Sobie

From: Jodi Nichols <NicholsJ@rightplace.org>
Sent: Friday, August 21, 2020 9:31 AM
To: Robert Sobie
Cc: Travis Alden
Subject: FW: Peterson Farms - village request for funding support

I realize there is most likely no way for the Alliance to fund these costs but want to pass on the request for board understanding and consideration, as it is important that we continue to be a partner in any way possible to solving this issue not only for Peterson Farms but for county residents who are dire need of the housing, as these units will most likely disappear and Peterson will then have to buy up more market units if this does not get resolved. How would you like to proceed with the request?

Take care and be well,

Jodi Nichols

Business Development Coordinator-Lake & Oceana Counties Visit www.rightplace.org/covid19news often for business-related resources and updates.

The Right Place, Inc.
c +231-742-3328
125 Ottawa Avenue, Suite 450
Grand Rapids, MI, 49503
www.rightplace.org

-----Original Message-----

From: Bill Cousins <administrator@shelbyvillage.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 9:26 AM
To: Jodi Nichols <NicholsJ@rightplace.org>
Subject: Peterson Farms

Jodi:

Thanks for the call yesterday. It was good to reconnect with The Right Place!!!

I need some assistance - as we discussed yesterday, the Village is working to determine the possibility of extending municipal water to the Peterson Farms apartments on Baseline Road. The Village Council is interested in moving the project forward, but very cautious regarding the costs involved. They do not want to place the Village in a position to be responsible for the costs of the extension (now or in the future). We are looking at a \$1.1M loan that will be repaid over 40 years.

The Village has made it clear that no Village funds be expended as the investigation is started. The most immediate issue this brings is that we are about to start the USDA loan process; however, this will cost about \$12,000 - \$14,000 for the environmental and technical information required for the application to be completed and action taken. Is there a way the Oceana Economic Alliance or the Right Place may be able to fund this aspect of the project? Any assistance or information you can pass on to me will be very helpful.

Your Truly,

Bill

Bill Cousins

Interim Village Administrator

Shelby, MI 49455

Office: (231) 861-4401

www.shelbyvillage.com

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Robert Sobie

From: Travis Alden <AldenT@rightplace.org>
Sent: Friday, August 21, 2020 9:42 AM
To: Jodi Nichols; Robert Sobie
Subject: RE: Peterson Farms - village request for funding support

Another thought - does an engineering firm ever forego the prelim engineering costs - or roll them forward - anticipating a larger scope of work with the eventual project? Just thinking out loud.

Travis Alden
Director of Business Development
The Right Place, Inc.
231.233.4349 | AldenT@rightplace.org
www.rightplace.org

-----Original Message-----

From: Jodi Nichols <NicholsJ@rightplace.org>
Sent: Friday, August 21, 2020 9:31 AM
To: Robert Sobie <rsobie@oceana.mi.us>
Cc: Travis Alden <AldenT@rightplace.org>
Subject: FW: Peterson Farms - village request for funding support

I realize there is most likely no way for the Alliance to fund these costs but want to pass on the request for board understanding and consideration, as it is important that we continue to be a partner in any way possible to solving this issue not only for Peterson Farms but for county residents who are dire need of the housing, as these units will most likely disappear and Peterson will then have to buy up more market units if this does not get resolved. How would you like to proceed with the request?

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Jodi Nichols

Business Development Coordinator-Lake & Oceana Counties Visit www.rightplace.org/covid19news often for business-related resources and updates.

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-----Original Message-----

From: Bill Cousins <administrator@shelbyvillage.com>

Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 9:26 AM

To: Jodi Nichols <NicholsJ@rightplace.org>

Subject: Peterson Farms

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STATE OF MICHIGAN
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

GARLIN GILCHRIST II
LT. GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER

No. 2020-111

Protecting the Food Supply and Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Workers from the effects of COVID-19

The novel coronavirus (COVID-19) is a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death. It is caused by a new strain of coronavirus not previously identified in humans and easily spread from person to person. There is currently no approved vaccine or antiviral treatment for this disease.

On March 10, 2020, the Department of Health and Human Services identified the first two presumptive-positive cases of COVID-19 in Michigan. On that same day, I issued Executive Order 2020-4. This order declared a state of emergency across the state of Michigan under section 1 of article 5 of the Michigan Constitution of 1963, the Emergency Management Act, 1976 PA 390, as amended (EMA), MCL 30.401 et seq., and the Emergency Powers of the Governor Act of 1945, 1945 PA 302, as amended (EPGA), MCL 10.31 et seq.

Since then, the virus spread across Michigan, bringing deaths in the thousands, confirmed cases in the tens of thousands, and deep disruption to this state's economy, homes, and educational, civic, social, and religious institutions. On April 1, 2020, in response to the widespread and severe health, economic, and social harms posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, I issued Executive Order 2020-33. This order expanded on Executive Order 2020-4 and declared both a state of emergency and a state of disaster across the State of Michigan under section 1 of article 5 of the Michigan Constitution of 1963, the Emergency Management Act, and the Emergency Powers of the Governor Act of 1945. And on April 30, 2020, finding that COVID-19 had created emergency and disaster conditions across the State of Michigan, I issued Executive Order 2020-67 to continue the emergency declaration under the Emergency Powers of the Governor Act, as well as Executive Order 2020-68 to issue new emergency and disaster declarations under the Emergency Management Act.

Those executive orders have been challenged in *Michigan House of Representatives and Michigan Senate v Whitmer*. On May 21, 2020, the Court of Claims ruled that Executive Order 2020-67 is a valid exercise of authority under the Emergency Powers of the Governor Act but that Executive Order 2020-68 is not a valid exercise of authority under the Emergency Management Act. Both of those rulings are likely to be appealed.

On May 22, 2020, I issued Executive Order 2020-99, again finding that the COVID-19 pandemic constitutes a disaster and emergency throughout the State of Michigan. That order constituted a state of emergency declaration under the Emergency Powers of the Governor Act of 1945. And, to the extent the governor may declare a state of emergency and a state of disaster under the Emergency Management Act when emergency and disaster conditions exist yet the legislature has declined to grant an extension request, that order also constituted a state of emergency and state of disaster declaration under that act.

The Emergency Powers of the Governor Act provides a sufficient legal basis for issuing this executive order. In relevant part, it provides that, after declaring a state of emergency, “the governor may promulgate reasonable orders, rules, and regulations as he or she considers necessary to protect life and property or to bring the emergency situation within the affected area under control.” MCL 10.31(1).

Nevertheless, subject to the ongoing litigation and the possibility that current rulings may be overturned or otherwise altered on appeal, I also invoke Emergency Management Act as a basis for executive action to combat the spread of COVID-19 and mitigate the effects of this emergency on the people of Michigan, with the intent to preserve the rights and protections provided by the EMA. The EMA vests the governor with broad powers and duties to “cop[e] with dangers to this state or the people of this state presented by a disaster or emergency,” which the governor may implement through “executive orders, proclamations, and directives having the force and effect of law.” MCL 30.403(1)–(2). This executive order falls within the scope of those powers and duties, and to the extent the governor may declare a state of emergency and a state of disaster under the Emergency Management Act when emergency and disaster conditions exist yet the legislature has not granted an extension request, they too provide a sufficient legal basis for this order.

COVID-19 can spread easily in setting when many people live in close proximity, such as the migrant housing camps that house thousands of migrant agricultural workers in Michigan each year. Migrant agricultural workers are an essential workforce in Michigan and securing their health and well-being will ensure that Michigan’s food supply chain is not disrupted.

Taking preventive measures now will save lives and keep the state’s agricultural sector running smoothly and consistently. Those who provide housing for Michigan’s migrant agricultural workers must implement plans to prevent exposure to the novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19, care for individuals with COVID-19, and prevent the spread of disease among their workers based on this directive. The state must take proactive, preventive measures to create safer living conditions for migrant workers.

Thus, to ensure the safety of migrant workers as well as the sustainability of Michigan’s food supply, it is reasonable and necessary to create temporary new requirements relating to the housing and working conditions of migrant and seasonal agricultural workers in the state during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Acting under the Michigan Constitution of 1963 and Michigan law, I order the following:

1. All owners and operators of employer-provided migrant housing camps licensed by the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (“camps”) must comply with section 1 of Executive Order 2020-97 or any order that follows it, providing camp residents with the same safeguards as businesses are required to provide their workers while at work. Within two weeks of the effective date of this order, a camp must post its COVID-19 preparedness and response plan, consistent with recommendations in Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19, developed by the Occupational Health and Safety Administration and available at <https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3990.pdf>.
2. In addition to section 1, all camp owners and operators must, at a minimum:
 - (a) Separate beds by at least six feet or more in all directions wherever possible, and encourage camp residents to sleep head-to-toe.
 - (b) Provide isolation housing for COVID-19-suspected residents who have not received a positive result from a COVID-19 test, unless the COVID-19-suspected resident resides in a one-family housing unit or in a family living unit that is part of a multifamily unit and can effectively isolate themselves within the unit.
 - (c) Provide housing, dining, and bathroom facilities for COVID-19-confirmed residents separate from residents who are not COVID-19-confirmed. Such facilities may be shared with other COVID-19-confirmed residents.
 - (d) Ensure regular ventilation of rooms where COVID-19-suspected residents are housed (e.g., by opening screened windows to the outside to let fresh air circulate).
 - (e) Ensure that anyone who delivers food and water to isolated residents is equipped with appropriate PPE.
 - (f) Arrange for COVID-19-suspected and COVID-19-confirmed residents to be evaluated by a medical provider through the local health department or federally qualified health center.
 - (g) Attempt to collect emergency contact numbers for each worker.
 - (h) Ensure that camp employees and residents have access to the phone number of the local health department. MiOSHA requires “camp superintendents” (or those providing the housing) to report immediately to the local health officer the name and address of any individual in the camp known to have or suspected of having a communicable disease. (29 CFR 1910.142(l)(1)). Additionally, camp owners and operators must ensure that the name, phone number, and email address of the camp superintendents is posted prominently in a central location.
 - (i) Conspicuously post workers’ housing address in a central location to ensure that workers will be able to call a 911 operator if needed.

- (j) Conspicuously post the phone number for the Michigan Coronavirus hotline, 888-535-6136, and include on the posting a statement that if workers would like to make a CONFIDENTIAL complaint about unsafe working or employer provided living conditions, they may call the hotline number.
 - (k) Adopt any additional infection control measures consistent with guidance issued by the Department of Health and Human Services (“DHHS”).
- 3. MDARD must use best efforts to conduct outreach visits to each migrant labor housing camp licensed under Part 124 of the Public Health Code within 20 working days of occupant arrival to review the rules issued pursuant to this order and any relevant DHHS guidance. MDARD may contract with third-party providers to provide these services.
- 4. Definitions.
 - (a) “COVID-19-suspected resident” includes a camp resident who has symptoms of COVID-19 (e.g., fever, cough, shortness of breath) but has not yet received a COVID-19 diagnostic test result.
 - (b) “COVID-19-confirmed resident” includes a camp resident who has received a positive result from a COVID-19 diagnostic test and has not subsequently discontinued transmission-based precautions based on a strategy outlined by the CDC. A description of the CDC recommendations for discontinuation of transmission-based precautions may be accessed at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/disposition-hospitalized-patients.html>.
- 5. The rules described in sections 1 and 2 have the status of regulations adopted by the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (“MDARD”). Any challenge to civil or criminal penalties imposed by MDARD for violating any of the rules described in sections 1 and 2 will proceed through the same administrative review process as any challenge to a civil or criminal penalty imposed by the department or agency for a violation of its own rules.
- 6. Consistent with MCL 10.33 and MCL 30.405(3), a willful violation of this order is a misdemeanor.
- 7. This order is effective upon issuance and remains effective through June 29, 2020 at 11:59 p.m.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Michigan.



Date: June 1, 2020

Time: 8:53 pm

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

By the Governor:

SECRETARY OF STATE

From: [Theaker, Orville \(MSP\)](#)
To: [Allison Farole](#); [Derek Schroeder](#); esmith@montcalm.us; [Fred Cantu](#); [Jennifer Robinson](#); [Jerry Becker](#); [Emergency Management](#); [Julie Adams](#); [Leah DeLano \(Idelano@miottawa.org\)](mailto:Idelano@miottawa.org); [Liz Reimink](#); [Lou Hunt](#); [Marc Griffis](#); [Mark Watkins](#); [nbonstell](#); [Patrick Maddox](#); [Renee Gavin](#); [Richard Warner \(warnerri@co.muskegon.mi.us\)](#); [Scott Schroeder](#); [Stacey Hayner](#); [Stacy Madden](#); [Stan Hoskins](#); [Tom Raymond](#); [Watkins, Abby](#)
Subject: FW: EO 2020-137, Emerg order - migrant worker protections (re-issue)
Date: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 9:18:16 AM
Attachments: [EO 2020-137 Emerg order - migrant worker protections - re-issue \(final signed\).pdf](#)
[ATT00001.htm](#)

EO on migrant worker protections, re-issue.

Lt. Orville Theaker
Region 6 Coordinator
Emergency Management and
Homeland Security Division
Michigan State Police
345 Northland Dr. NE
Rockford, MI 49341
Telephone: 269-953-6099
Fax: 616-866-3997

From: MSP-SEOCOSC <MSP-SEOCOSC@michigan.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 8:48 AM

To: Albrecht, Cindy (DHHS) <albrechtc@michigan.gov>; Badgero, William (MDOS) <badgerow@michigan.gov>; Bahlau, Brian (MSP) <BahlauB@michigan.gov>; Bechler, Todd (MDOC) <bechlert@michigan.gov>; Bishop, Mark (MDCR) <BishopM3@michigan.gov>; Browne, Elizabeth (EGLE) <BROWNEE@michigan.gov>; Burgess, Louis (MDE) <burgessl@michigan.gov>; Carroll, Tim (OSE) <CARROLLT@michigan.gov>; Connell, Jefferey (TREASURY) <ConnellJ1@michigan.gov>; Cross, Ryan (DTMB) <CrossR1@michigan.gov>; Deacon, Brad (MDARD) <deaconb9@michigan.gov>; Dillinger, Zachary (DIFS) <DillingerZ@michigan.gov>; Dintenfass, Linda <linda.dintenfass2@redcross.org>; Doll, Jeanette (LARA) <dollj@michigan.gov>; Doll, Ryan (DTMB) <DollR@michigan.gov>; Eickholt, Jay (EGLE) <EickholtJ1@michigan.gov>; Lynne Feldpausch (MEDC) <feldpauschl@michigan.org>; Gorzynski, Mark (DMVA) <MARK.A.GORZYNSKI.MIL@MAIL.MIL>; Guerrant, Kyle (MDE) <GuerrantK@michigan.gov>; Hagler, Gary (DNR) <HAGLERG@michigan.gov>; Howd, Raymond (AG) <HowdR@michigan.gov>; Hudson, Chris (MSHDA) <HudsonC5@michigan.gov>; Hunt, April (MDARD) <hunata9@michigan.gov>; dkelley <dkelley@michmab.com>; Klipa, Dennis <klipadk@gmail.com>; Lenneman, Stephanie (MCSC) <LennemanS@michigan.gov>; Levy, Daniel (MDCR) <LevyD@michigan.gov>; Livingston, Christy (DHHS) <LivingstonC1@michigan.gov>; Lixey-Terrill, Jennifer (DHHS) <LixeyTerrillJ@michigan.gov>; MacDonellD@courts.mi.gov; Maczko, James <james.maczko@noaa.gov>; Manning, Peter (AG) <ManningP@michigan.gov>; Martin, Teri (LEO) <MartinT21@michigan.gov>; McNeely, Jacques (DTMB) <mcneelyj@michigan.gov>; Miner, Krystle <krystle.s.miner@usace.army.mil>; Morese, Alexander (LARA) <moresea@michigan.gov>; Mraz, Frank <mrazf@courts.mi.gov>; OrtJ@courts.mi.gov; Phifer, Eileen (MDOT) <PhiferE@michigan.gov>; Philip, Brandon (DTMB) <philipb@michigan.gov>; Pollman, Richard <richard.pollman@noaa.gov>; Proudfoot, Paul (LARA) <proudfootp@michigan.gov>; Rush, Brian (TREASURY) <RushB@michigan.gov>; Schmittdiel, Cheryl (OSE) <schmittdielc@michigan.gov>; Searles, Ann (LARA) <SearlesA@michigan.gov>; Sehlmeier,

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Subject: FW: EO 2020-137, Emerg order - migrant worker protections (re-issue)

SEMC's,

Please find attached EO 2020-137, which rescinds and replaces EO 2020-111 on migrant worker protections.

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Cc: [Blake, Alvin](#)
Subject: FW: FYI - news release on migrant testing
Date: Monday, August 03, 2020 2:11:51 PM
Attachments: [JIC News Release 310 Emergency Order for Ag and food worker testing.doc](#)

FYI –

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NEWS RELEASE

STATE EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
No. 310 – Aug. 3, 2020

For more information contact:
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MDHHS Issues Order Requiring Testing of Agricultural and Food Processing Employees to Protect Health and Safety of Workers, Community

LANSING, MICH. Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Director Robert Gordon has issued an [Emergency Order](#) requiring COVID-19 testing for agricultural and food processing employees. The order makes Michigan a national leader in COVID-19 safety protections for agricultural and migrant workers, building on Executive Orders from Gov. Gretchen Whitmer requiring workplace safety measures in meat and poultry processing plants and safe housing for COVID positive migrant workers.

“The men and women who work in our fields and food processing plants are at particular risk for COVID-19, and they need and deserve protection,” said Gordon. “Today’s order will help to reduce the spread of COVID in communities across Michigan and reduce the pandemic’s disparate impact on Latinos.”

In recent weeks, there have been 11 identified outbreaks in farms and food processing plants in Michigan. In addition, Latinos are 5 percent of Michigan’s population but represent 11 percent of COVID cases in which the individual’s ethnicity is identified.

The order requires migrant housing camp operators to provide COVID-19 testing as follows:

- One-time baseline testing of all residents ages 18 and over.
- Testing of all new residents with 48 hours of arrival, with separate housing for newly arriving residents for 14 days and a second test 10 – 14 days after arrival.
- Testing of any resident with symptoms or exposure.

Employers of migrant or seasonal workers, meat, poultry and egg processing facilities and greenhouses with over 20 employees on-site at a time to provide COVID-19 testing as follows:

- One-time baseline testing of all workers.
- Testing of all new workers prior to any in-person work.
- Testing of any worker with symptoms or exposure.

“The department will work with employers and housing operators to ensure timely reporting of testing data and access to PPE so that together we can prevent further viral spread,” Gordon said.

“Ensuring the health and safety of Michigan’s essential food and agriculture workers is paramount to keeping our food supply chain moving,” said Gary McDowell, director of the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. “These workers are our frontline staff who are a vital part of bringing our food from farm to plate.”

"It is critical that we keep our workers and their families across the food and agriculture industry safe and healthy," said John Cakmakci, president of UFCW Local 951. "I applaud Directors Gordon and McDowell for their efforts to protect the people of Michigan and our economy."

[On July 28, the American Farm Bureau Federation and 30 U.S. produce industry organizations urged Congress to provide additional resources to assist growers in protecting their workforce from COVID-19.](#)

In a letter to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, the organizations requested additional access and resources for farmers to allow testing for farmworkers, priority access to PPE supplies and access to vaccine and/or medicines once available.

"Vital to these efforts have been the hardworking, skilled men and women who grow, harvest and ship our food – the farmworkers," the letter stated. "Collectively, we represent farmers who grow the majority of our nation's fruits, vegetables and tree nuts. They place the highest priority on the health and safety of their employees, taking extraordinary measures to insulate their employees from the risks of exposure to COVID-19."

Employers and housing operators must complete a plan by Aug. 10 for how they will conduct testing in compliance with this order. Completion of baseline testing and implementation of ongoing testing is required no later than Aug. 24.

Employers and housing operators have several options for completing the required testing, including contracting with a medical provider, occupational health provider or laboratory to arrange a testing program; requesting state assistance to conduct testing; or utilizing testing resources in the broader community. The state will provide testing support for employers or housing operators as its capacity allows and assist facilities in identifying other sources of testing capacity as needed.

MDHHS also released a [guidance document](#) for employers providing step-by-step information on how employers can complete testing and highlighting resources like grant funding and insurance coverage through Medicaid that can provide financial support for testing.

COVID positive and exposed residents would be required to isolate or quarantine until meeting the return-to-work criteria from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. MDHHS will be partnering with Community Action Agencies in impacted communities in order to provide food, housing, and economic support for workers who lose income due to testing.

Failure to comply with this order may result in the issuance of a civil monetary penalty under the authority of MCL 333.2262.

Information around this outbreak is changing rapidly. The latest information is available at Michigan.gov/Coronavirus and CDC.gov/Coronavirus.

###

From: [Michigan State Police](#)
To: [Emergency Management](#)
Subject: NEWS RELEASE: \$15 Million in Agricultural Safety Grants to Provide Critical Relief to Michigan's Farms and Food Processors
Date: Tuesday, July 07, 2020 11:48:41 AM

News from the State Emergency Operations Center



\$15 Million in Agricultural Safety Grants to Provide Critical Relief to Michigan's Farms and Food Processors

LANSING, MICH. Fifteen million dollars in economic assistance for Michigan farms and agricultural processors, to mitigate risks of the COVID-19 virus across the state's food production industry, gained approval from the Michigan Strategic Fund, the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) and the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) announced today.

"Michigan's food and agriculture sector has been especially hard hit by the COVID-19 virus, and this investment will provide critical resources to ensure the safety of the state's food production industry and its workforce," said Gov. Gretchen Whitmer. "We can further our economic recovery in the state by putting federal dollars through the CARES Act to work for the people and business across Michigan through efforts like these grants to farms and food processors."

In response to the economic impact of COVID-19, the State of Michigan has appropriated \$15 million of federal CARES Act funding through SB 690, signed into law by Governor Whitmer last week, to implement the [Michigan Agricultural Safety Grant Program](#). These grants will provide much needed funding to Michigan's agricultural processors and farms in support of this critical industry in the state.

The Michigan Agricultural Safety Grants are divided between agricultural processors and farms:

- \$10 million in grants will be provided to processors statewide, with a minimum grant of \$10,000 and a maximum grant of \$200,000.
- \$5 million in grants will be available to farms statewide, with a minimum grant of \$10,000 and a maximum grant of \$50,000.

Applicants must apply as either a processor or a farm – but not both – and funds will provide grants of up to \$1,000 per employee to fund COVID-19 mitigation costs, including but not limited to testing costs, personal protection equipment, facility needs, increased sanitation costs, employee training, and upgraded safety procedures for farm-provided housing.

"Employee testing and PPE continue to be a great need both on the farm and in the processing industry," said MDARD Director Gary McDowell. "These financial resources will provide much-needed services and equipment to an already struggling sector. Having adequate testing and PPE is critical to ensuring the safety of Michigan's food and agriculture workforce—whether domestic or migrant labor—as well as maintaining a safe and wholesome food supply."

The program will cover costs incurred from June 1, 2020 through September 15, 2020 and eligible applicants will be able to apply for funding beginning on July 15, 2020. Grants will be awarded on a first come, first serve basis until all funding has been awarded.

Applications will be processed by East Lansing-based GreenStone Farm Credit Services, one of America's largest rural lenders, including 31 branches in Michigan. GreenStone has a 100-year track record providing financial services to the agricultural industry – including short, intermediate and long-term loans, equipment and building leases, life insurance, crop insurance, accounting and tax services.

GreenStone will host the application portal, complete an initial screening of all applications and supporting documentation and recommend applications to the MEDC for final approval and disbursements of the grants awarded. GreenStone will also provide a report to the MEDC of all applications that were denied in the review process. The authorizing legislation for the program also requires reporting on October 15, 2020 to the Legislature and State Budget Office on the Agricultural Safety Grant Program's results, and that report will also be available on michiganbusiness.org/agsafety.

"The foundation of GreenStone is built on supporting rural communities and agriculture. That means more than the loan products and financial services we provide, and this partnership with MEDC is a special opportunity to help all of agriculture," said Dave Armstrong, President and CEO of GreenStone Farm Credit Services. We are pleased to have the depth of experience and relationships with our members to know we can meet the needs of this program to benefit the many farmers and agribusinesses feeling the effects from the Coronavirus pandemic."

To qualify for grant support, applicants must be a farm or agricultural processor located in Michigan and meet the following requirements:

- A minimum of 10 employees in Michigan, with supporting documentation.
- Provide proof of good standing with the state of Michigan, as applicable (Certificate of Good Standing).
- Attest that the business is current on all state, local and real estate taxes, or is otherwise contesting them in good faith.

"We are continuing to leverage every resource available – whether federal, state or local – to ensure our small businesses across Michigan are able to receive the support they need to not only survive COVID-19, but be in a position to thrive and drive economic recovery moving forward," said Mark A. Burton, CEO of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation. "Working in partnership with MDARD and GreenStone, we are confident we can get this critical support into the hands our farms and agricultural processors quickly and effectively to keep our workers and our food supply safe."

According to MDARD, food and agriculture contributes \$104.7 billion annually to Michigan's economy, and represents 805,000 jobs statewide. Additionally, Michigan exports approximately \$1.8 billion of food and agriculture products each year.

"The health and well-being of employees is the top priority for Michigan's agribusinesses, and these new grants support ongoing safety efforts across our state's agriculture sector," said Chuck Lippstreu, president of the Michigan Agri-Business Association. "We applaud the Governor and leaders in the Legislature for working together on a bipartisan basis to secure this critical funding, providing welcome assistance for businesses across Michigan agriculture."

The Michigan Strategic Fund today also approved the [Michigan Small Business Restart Program](#), which will provide a total of \$100 million to small businesses in Michigan as they work to reduce the negative economic impact of the ongoing COVID-19 crisis. The grants will be administrated by 15 regional economic development organizations throughout the state, which combined cover all 83 counties in Michigan. To learn more, visit here: [https://www.michiganbusiness.org/press-releases/2020/07/michigan-small-business-restart-program-to-provide-\\$100-million-in-grants-for-covid-19-recovery-efforts](https://www.michiganbusiness.org/press-releases/2020/07/michigan-small-business-restart-program-to-provide-$100-million-in-grants-for-covid-19-recovery-efforts).

With today's action by the MSF Board, the MEDC has launched 17 COVID-19 relief and recovery programs supporting more than 3,100 business in the state and helping to retain more than 12,400 jobs across all 83 counties. To learn more about MEDC's COVID-19 response programs and the impact they are having on economic recovery efforts, visit michiganbusiness.org/covid19response. Other resources for economic reopening efforts as well as businesses across Michigan struggling with economic losses as a result of the COVID-19 virus can be found online at michiganbusiness.org/covid19. The MEDC has also developed a FAQ for Michigan businesses and communities at michiganbusiness.org/covid19-faq.

Information around this outbreak is changing rapidly. The latest information is available at Michigan.gov/Coronavirus and CDC.gov/Coronavirus.

###

About Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC)

The Michigan Economic Development Corporation is the state's marketing arm and lead advocate for business development, job awareness and community development with the focus on growing Michigan's economy. For more information on the MEDC and our initiatives, visit www.MichiganBusiness.org. For Pure Michigan® tourism information, your trip begins at www.michigan.org. Join the conversation on: [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [Twitter](#).

About GreenStone Farm Credit Services

Headquartered in East Lansing, GreenStone Farm Credit Services is Michigan and northeast Wisconsin's largest agricultural lender and one of the country's largest associations in the Farm Credit System. A member-owned cooperative, GreenStone owns and manages \$10 billion in assets and serves over 25,000 members with 36 branch locations. More information on GreenStone is available at www.greenstonefcs.com.

GreenStone provides financial services to the agricultural industry - including short, intermediate and long-term loans, equipment and building leases, life insurance, crop insurance, accounting and tax services. GreenStone also specializes in residential and country home loans, and provides lending products for the purchase, improvement, construction or refinance of residences along with financing future home sites and recreational land.

Media Contact: [Otie McKinley](#)

- [JIC News Release 281_ \\$15 million in agricultural safety grants to provide critical relief to Michigans farms and food processors.pdf](#)

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