State of Michigan to Participate in Federal Work Share Program to Protect Workers, Help Address Budget Deficit

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 13, 2020
Contact: **press@michigan.gov**

State of Michigan to Participate in Federal Work Share Program to Protect Workers, Help Address Budget Deficit

LANSING, Mich. -- Today the state of Michigan announced that it would participate in the federal Unemployment Insurance Agency (UIA) Work Share program to help offset budget implications as a result of the state's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. As part of this program, impacted state employees will take two temporary layoff days per pay period beginning Sunday, May 17th until July 25th resulting in up to $80 million in decreased wage costs.

"As we continue to combat COVID-19, it's clear that we're facing unprecedented challenges that will lead to serious budget implications for the state of Michigan," said Governor Whitmer. "Utilizing this federal program keeps state employees working so they can continue to provide critical services to Michiganders and protects their paychecks so they can continue to support their families."

This federal program allows the state to keep employees working with reduced hours, while employees collect partial unemployment benefits to make up a portion of the lost wages. State managers at the 17 level and above will not participate in Work Share but will take one layoff day every other pay period resulting in an approximate 5 percent reduction in gross pay. Over 31,000 state employees will be impacted.

Impacted employees will retain their health insurance and other benefits and will be automatically enrolled into the unemployment process to help ensure they have the support they need during this challenging time.

Last month, Governor Whitmer announced she was taking a 10 percent pay cut and directed her executive team and cabinet appointees to take a 5 percent pay cut for the remainder of the fiscal year. Additionally, the Executive Office of the Governor will participate in the Work Share program.

Today’s layoffs do not impact anybody working on the front lines of the COVID-19 response. Law enforcement, the prison system, veterans’ homes, and other key health and human services all remain fully staffed with on-site employees.

###

RELATED CONTENT

Gov. Whitmer Announces State will Open to Full Capacity on June 22

Gov. Whitmer Announces Credit Rating Outlook Boost as State Displays Strong Financial Position, Economic Recovery

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer announces 90 manufacturing and professional services jobs in Southwest Michigan

Gov. Whitmer Signs Executive Directive Prohibiting use of MDHHS-Administered Funds for the Practice of Conversion Therapy on Minors

Gov. Whitmer Announces Record Investment to Help Families Access Safe, Quality, Affordable Child Care as Michigan Gets Back to Work

PHOTOS: Lt. Governor Gilchrist Tours Saginaw Small Businesses

Governor Whitmer Announces Award Recognizing Michigan as Top State for New Manufacturing Jobs and Investment

Governor Whitmer & Lt. Governor Gilchrist Announce Michigan has Reached a First Dose Vaccination Rate of 60%

Gov. Whitmer Announces $105.8 Million Proposal in Women's Facilities Modernization for Michigan Army National Guard, Declares June 12 Women Veterans Recognition Day

U.S. Department of Commerce Invests $754,840 in CARES Act Recovery Assistance to Support Medical Technology Innovators in Southeast Michigan

Governor Announces Plan for Historic $250 Million Investment to Modernize State Parks and Trails to Enhance Tourism, Boost Local Economies

Governor Announces Plan for Historic $250 Million Investment to Modernize State Parks and Trails to Enhance Tourism, Boost Local Economies

Governor Whitmer Makes Appointments to Boards and Commissions

Governor Whitmer Signs Bipartisan Bills Helping Veterans and their Families Continue their Careers in Michigan, Accelerating Michigan's Economic Recovery

Governor Whitmer announces XL Fleet's new fleet electrification technology center in Wixom creating nearly 50 jobs, strengthens Michigan as leader in EV research and

development

Gov. Whitmer Establishes Bipartisan Task Force on Juvenile Justice Reform

Governor Whitmer Signs Bipartisan Bills to Improve Access to Mental Health Services through Michigan Crisis and Access Line

Governor Whitmer and State Officials Encourage Reviewing Lender Programs and Insurance Policies During National Homeownership Month

Gov. Whitmer Announces Preschool Funding Plan to Ensure 22,000 More Children Can Enroll in Early Education

Five Michigan Main Street communities receiving a total of $100,000 in grants for downtown improvement projects

COPYRIGHT 2021 STATE OF MICHIGAN