



## **Michigan Agricultural Safety Grant Guidelines**

### **PURPOSE**

In response to the economic impact of the COVID-19, the State of Michigan has allocated \$15 million of CARES Act funding to implement the Michigan Agricultural Safety Grant Program (“Program”) to support the needs of Michigan’s agricultural processors and farms. The Program supports the implementation of COVID-19 monitoring and mitigation strategies to protect agricultural employees and the state’s overall food production industry.

### **GRANT PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

The Michigan Strategic Fund (“MSF”) will create and operate the Program to provide grants (the “Grants”) to eligible agricultural processors and farms; \$10 million will be available for grants to agricultural processors and \$5 million will be available for grants to farms. The application for the Program must be made available by July 15, 2020 and must be posted on the MSF website along with applicable Program guidelines and requirements. By October 15, 2020, the MSF must issue a report on the results of the Program to the Legislature and the State Budget Office. Reporting will include grant awards detailed by recipient and by county.

### **Grant Criteria**

Agricultural processors and farms may use the Grants for COVID-19 testing costs, facility or farm needs to protect against the spread of COVID-19, personal protection equipment, and establishing or conducting COVID-19 screening procedures.

In order to be eligible for funding under the Program agricultural processors and farms (**“Eligible Applicant”**) must meet the following criteria:

- **Eligible Applicant** means a farm or agricultural processor located in Michigan that meets all the following requirements:
  - Employs at least 10 employees in Michigan
  - Applies for either a grant as an agricultural processor or a farm (applicants cannot apply as both)
  - Provides a 2019 1040, Schedule F (2018 Schedule F may be submitted if 2019 is unavailable) or state license, tax, or other relevant information demonstrating qualification as a farm or processor
  - Provides internal payroll documentation supporting the number of employees for which grant funds are being requested
  - Certifies funds will only be used for Eligible Expenses
  - Provides a Certificate of Good Standing, as applicable.
  - Certifies that the business is current, on a payment plan, or otherwise contesting in good faith, State, Local and Real Estate Taxes.
  - Agrees to all other required MSF terms and conditions.
  - Agrees to register for payment by EFT at the State of Michigan State Integrated Governmental Management Applications (SIGMA) Vendor Self-Service (VSS) website and agrees to provide its registration number.

## Exhibit A

- The Grants must be used for expenditures incurred by the Eligible Applicant and meet the following criteria (“**Eligible Expenses**”):
  - made or incurred between June 1, 2020 and September 15, 2020 that meet the following criteria:
    - COVID-19 testing costs (i.e. on-site testing, with full plant or individual testing at certified sites, including costs for staffing/medical personnel to administer tests and personal protection equipment for testing sites)
    - Facility and/or farm needs to protect against the spread of COVID-19, including but not limited to dividers between employees, temporary facilities to maintain social distancing, increased sanitation needs, and upgraded safety measures for farm-provided housing
    - Personal protection equipment and supplies for employees
    - Establishing and conducting screening procedures (i.e. medical staff, thermometers, and/or other supplies and equipment needed for effective, daily employee screening)
  - The Grants will be limited to \$1,000 per employee.
    - Agricultural processors will be eligible for a minimum of \$10,000 and a maximum of \$200,000.
    - Farms will be eligible for a minimum of \$10,000 and maximum of \$50,000.
  - The Grants will be awarded to eligible applicants on a first-come, first served basis. Once Program funds are exhausted, no further grants will be issued.

All MSF support shall be memorialized by final written grant agreements, with terms and conditions in accordance with state law, these guidelines and otherwise satisfactory to the MSF, including, without limitation, reporting of data, financial information, and any other information required to facilitate reporting to the MSF and the Michigan Legislature.

The Michigan Economic Development Corporation (“MEDC”) provides administrative services for the MSF for the Program.