



## Internal Memo

July 2, 2020

TO: Mayor and City Council

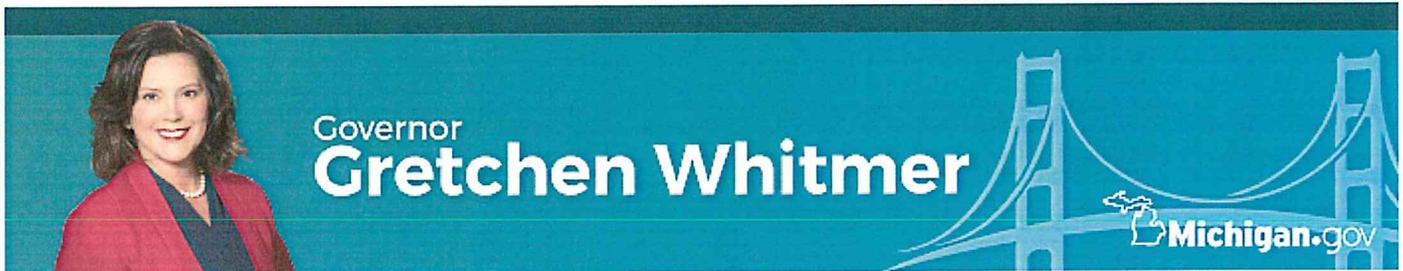
FROM: Mark C. Meyers, City Administrator *MCM*

SUBJECT: General Information Packet

Attached are general items of information you may find interesting. If you have any questions or comments regarding the information, please contact me.

MCM/th  
Attachments

**From:** Michigan Executive Office of the Governor <mieog@govsubscriptions.michigan.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 18, 2020 8:02 PM  
**To:** Mark Meyers  
**Subject:** RELEASE: Governor Whitmer Extends Executive Order Allowing Public Bodies to Meet Remotely



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 18, 2020

Contact: [press@michigan.gov](mailto:press@michigan.gov)

**Governor Whitmer Extends Executive Order Allowing Public Bodies to Meet Remotely**

**LANSING, Mich.** — Governor Whitmer today signed Executive Order 2020-129, which extends a previous Executive Order allowing public bodies to conduct public meetings remotely during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Executive Order 2020-129 expires on July 31, 2020.

“As we continue our efforts to flatten the curve and prevent a second wave of COVID-19, it’s important for public bodies to be able to continue holding meetings and the public to participate in those meetings,” **Governor Whitmer** said. “By allowing for remote meetings, public bodies and residents can continue practicing safe social distancing while also ensuring meetings remain open, accessible and transparent to the public.”

Under Executive Order 2020-129, public bodies subject to the Open Meetings Act, including boards, commissions, committees, subcommittees, authorities, councils and nonprofit boards, can use telephone- or video-conferencing methods to continue meeting and conducting business during the COVID-19 public health crisis, so long as they follow certain procedures to ensure meaningful access and participation by members of the public body and the general public.

Public bodies must meet the following criteria when holding a public meeting remotely:

- Ensure two-way communication for members and the public to hear and address each other when speaking.
- Provide adequate notice to the public of the meeting.
- Post a public meeting notice on their website.
- Permit participants to record or broadcast the public meeting.
- Allow participants to address the public body during a public comment period.

The order also temporarily authorizes public bodies, departments and agencies to use technology to enable remote participation in public comment and hearings, and temporarily excuses school boards from monthly meeting requirements.

Information around this outbreak is changing rapidly. The latest information is available at [Michigan.gov/Coronavirus](https://Michigan.gov/Coronavirus) and [CDC.gov/Coronavirus](https://CDC.gov/Coronavirus).

To view Executive Order 2020-129, click the link below:

- [EO 2020-129 Emerg order - OMA - re-issue.pdf](#)

###

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## **PRESIDENT/CEO REPORT**

**June 16, 2020**

### 1. The Economy and Recovery –

- Job losses: 19,026 February to April; unemployment 3.9% to 29.3%. Wall Street Journal and Washington Post conducting local interviews
- COVID-19 Dashboard
- MSBRP – Grant Program: 30 grants awarded to Muskegon County small businesses. A total of 450 applications were reviewed. \$140,000 total, grants ranged from \$1,000 to \$10,000. Committee members were Morgan Carroll, Tom Zant, Cindy Larsen, Eric Siefert, Karen Benson, Dave Alexander, Jim Edmonson

### 2. Business Retention, Expansion, Attraction –

- Project wins to date: 10 projects; 154 new jobs; \$65.7 million in new investment
- 71 business retention visits from October 1, 2019 through May. Shifting to retention telephone calls.
- Projects-in-the-Pipeline – We are working on or monitoring 27 projects that represent the potential to create over 981 new jobs and \$322.3 million in new investment.
- Active Projects: 5 projects with the potential to create 622 jobs and \$132.2 million in new investment
- Year to date Muskegon County business PTAC contract awards: \$130.8 million

### 3. Community Capacity Building –

- Since April, submitted 8 grant applications on behalf of MAF, WMFPA, Norton Shores, and Muskegon Heights that total \$852,150. Applying for another \$340,000 through the remainder of the year.
- Sites visits to cities and townships postponed
- Selected a consultant for the Muskegon Heights Visioning Process
- WMFPA – Distributed 1,000, 20-pound food boxes per week through the USDA Farmers to Families Food Box Program. Continued expansion of WMFPA programming to Mason, Newaygo, Oceana, and Ottawa counties. Submitted language that was used in federal legislation by the Agriculture Committee related to the next round of COVID stimulus funding. Working on improving regional food supply chains and healthy processing and sustainability for Future Food 21 program. Applied \$676,000 in grants, received \$60,000, other pending.

### 4. Strategic Infrastructure Projects –

- The FARM incubator, education, and R&D facility received Special Use Permit from

Muskegon Township; construction started June 2<sup>nd</sup>; occupancy expected early 2021.

- Progress is continuing with Brightmark Energy and their wastewater system expansion in eastern Muskegon County. Fairlife has decided not to join at this time. Polkton Township in Ottawa County is prepared to sign the Muskegon Wastewater Users Master Contract. Brightmark has funded an escrow account for project engineering.
- Continued efforts to create the Muskegon Heights Industrial Park

5. Marketing –

- Name and Logo presented at June Board Meeting
- Website new layout and content to begin in June
- Manufacturers Directory was published in May will be available on new website
- Continued work with ROI on food processing prospects
- MAF continues its partnership with Lakeshore Advantage on business intelligence research, although work has been altered due to COVID-19. Report delayed to December.

6. Organizational Planning –

- In response to pandemic Strategic plan being prepared to frame path forward regarding fundraising, programing, and needs of business.

# COVID-19 Indicator Dashboard

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MUSKEGON COUNTY

JUNE 19, 2020



**Muskegon Area First**

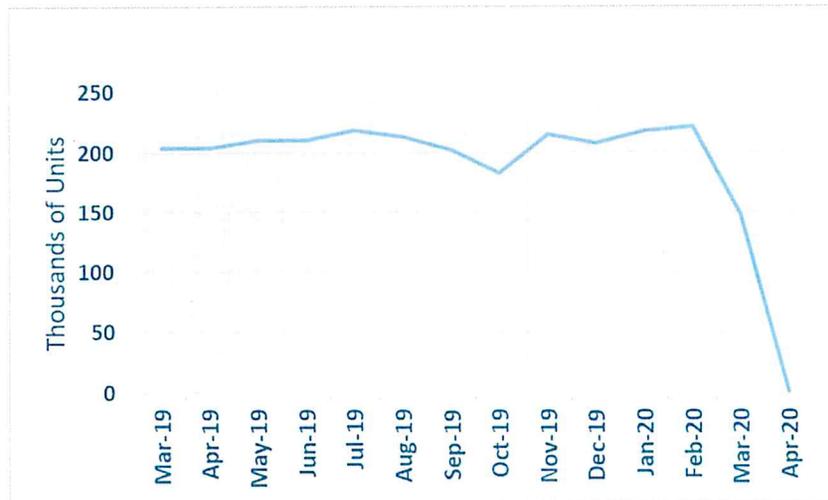
*Driving Economic Growth Along the  
Lakeshore*

# Muskegon County COVID-19 Indicator Dashboard

Auto sector production dropped by 99.4% from March 2020 to April 2020.  
PMI grew by 1.6 points from April 2020 – May 2020.

## Monthly Domestic Auto Production

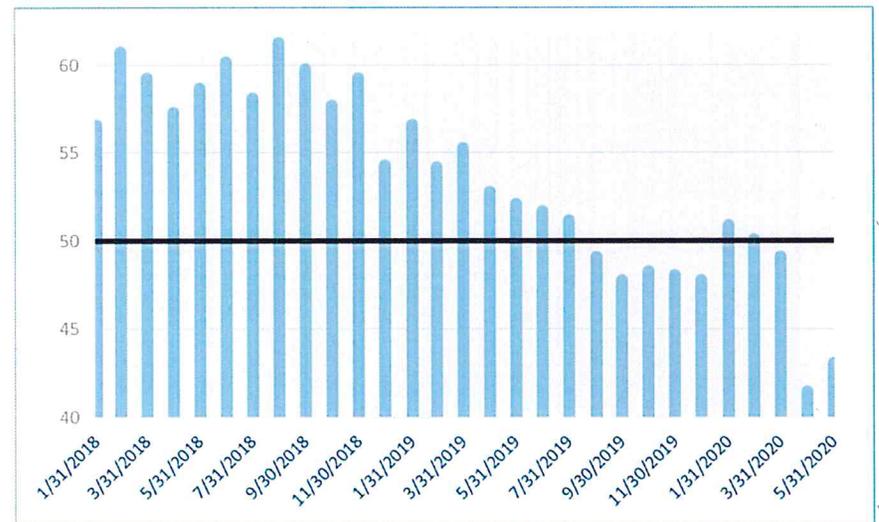
March 2019 to April 2020



Source: Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis

## Purchasing Managers Index

January 2018 to May 2020

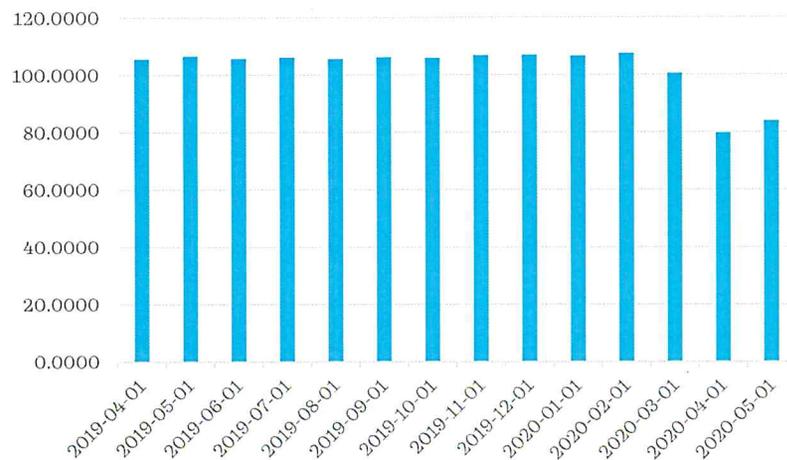


Source: Institute for Supply Management

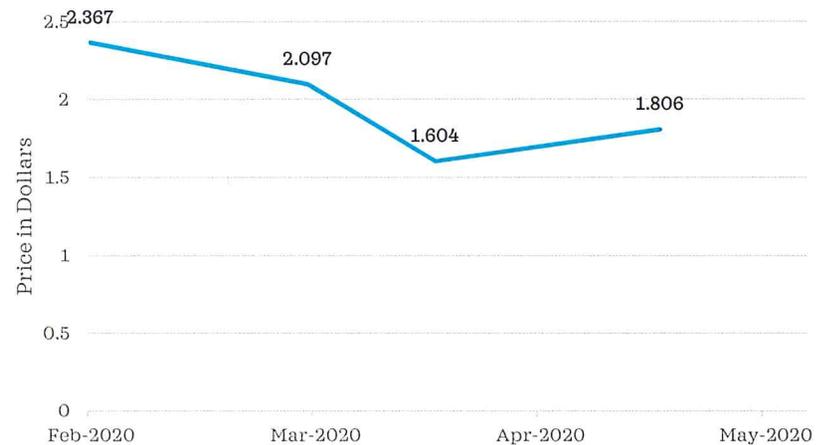
# Muskegon County COVID-19 Indicator Dashboard

Domestic furniture production dropped by 16.4% from March 2020 to May 2020.

**Domestic Furniture Production**  
May 2019 - May 2020  
2012=100



**Domestic Gas Prices**  
February 2020-May 2020



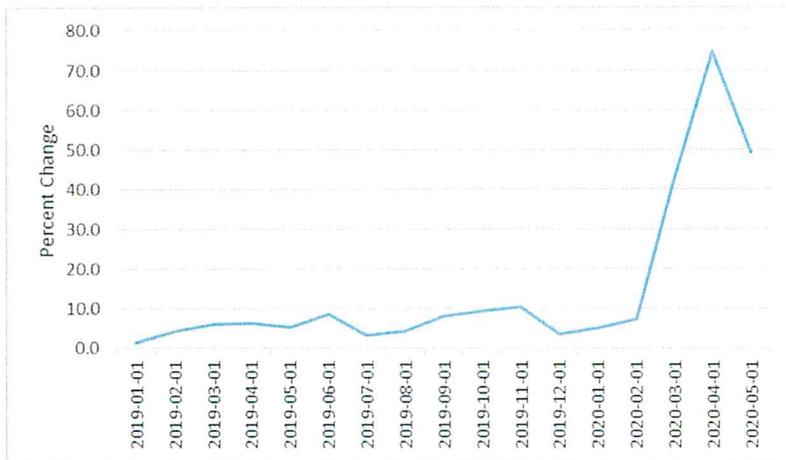
Source: Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis

Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration •  • Muskegon Area First

# Muskegon County COVID-19 Indicator Dashboard

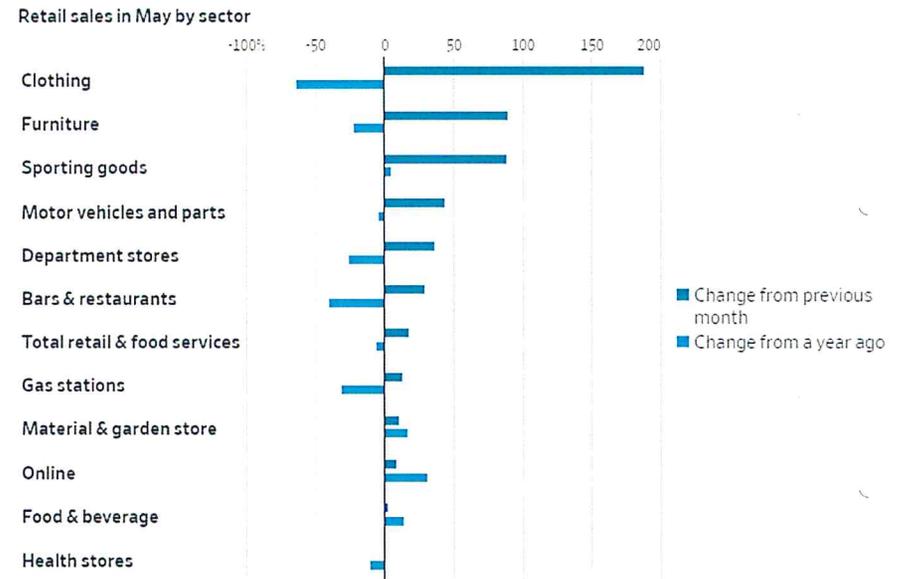
US bank deposits increased by 93.1% from January 2020-April 2020.

**US Bank Deposits – Monthly Change**  
January 2019 - May 2020



Source: Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis

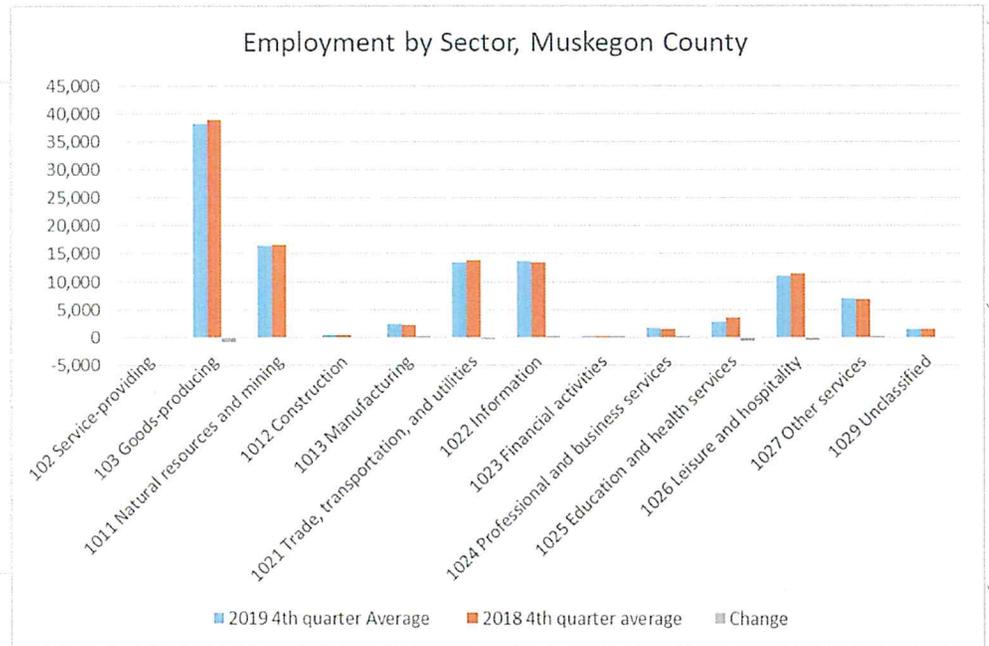
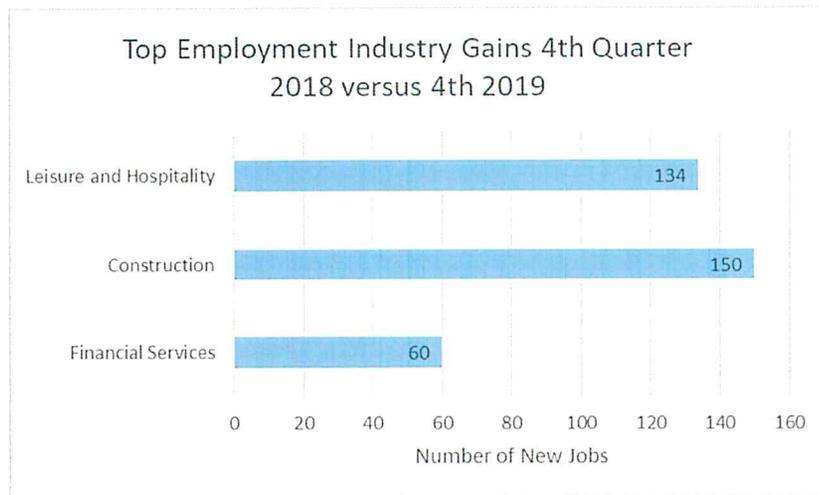
**Change in US Retail Sales**  
May 2020 vs. April 2020 and May 2020 vs. May 2019



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce

# Muskegon County COVID-19 Indicator Dashboard

## County employment gains and changes pre-COVID



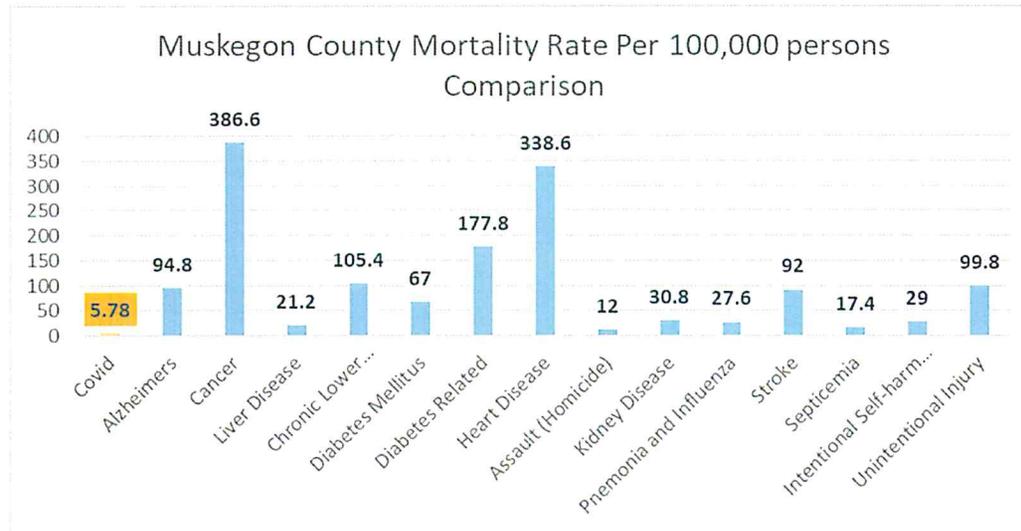
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

# Muskegon County COVID-19 Indicator Dashboard

## County case and mortality statistics.

County	COVID Cases	Cases/100k	COVID Deaths	Mortality Rate	Mortality/100k
Muskegon	727	418.86	42	5.78	24.20
State	60,064	601.42	5,772	9.61	57.80

Source: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, June 16, 2020



Source: Muskegon County Health Department, May 15, 2020 – All but COVID, 2014-2018 – 5 year moving average

# Muskegon County COVID-19 Indicator Dashboard

With loosening of restrictions our activities are changing.

On June 14<sup>th</sup> we spent more time at work and parks and less time at home compared to May 25<sup>th</sup>.

## June 14, 2020

County	Retail & Recreation	Grocery & Pharmacy	Parks	Transit Stations	Workplace	Residential
Muskegon	6%	10%	103%	-	-10%	-2%
State	-5%	4%	314%	-9%	-9%	0%

## May 25, 2020

County	Retail & Recreation	Grocery & Pharmacy	Parks	Transit Stations	Workplace	Residential
Muskegon	-17%	9%	58%	-	-74%	16%
State	-31%	-6%	228%	-42%	-76%	20%

Source: Google Mobility Change Report, May 25, 2020 and June 14, 2020





News from  
Michigan's U.S. Senators

**Debbie Stabenow & Gary Peters**

[stabenow.senate.gov](http://stabenow.senate.gov) | [peters.senate.gov](http://peters.senate.gov)



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## Peters, Stabenow Announce Muskegon County Airport Will Receive \$1 Million Federal Grant for Improvements

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 30, 2020

Nirmeen Fahmy (Peters)

[Media@peters.senate.gov](mailto:Media@peters.senate.gov)

Robyn Bryan (Stabenow)

[Robyn\\_Bryan@stabenow.senate.gov](mailto:Robyn_Bryan@stabenow.senate.gov)

WASHINGTON, DC – U.S. Senators Gary Peters (MI) and Debbie Stabenow (MI) today announced that the Department of Transportation (DOT) will be awarding \$1,052,631 to the Muskegon County Airport. This Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) grant is supplemented by the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act* — which Peters and Stabenow helped enact — to support airports affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The funding will go towards infrastructure improvements including the rehabilitation of runways and taxiways.

“Ensuring safe and reliable air travel continues in West Michigan will enable our communities to remain connected to markets and destinations during this pandemic,” **said Senator Peters**. “I’m pleased to announce this grant, which will strengthen transportation infrastructure in our state and improve travel safety for Michiganders.”

“The Muskegon County Airport plays a critical role in economic development and tourism in West Michigan,” **said Senator Stabenow**. “When we invest in Michigan’s airports, we invest in safe and efficient travel.”

“This grant will help Muskegon County Airport make important upgrades and improve the overall air travel experience to-and-from West Michigan,” **said Mark Eisenbarth, Muskegon County Administrator**. “We’re proud that our Airport is a beacon of economic growth for our area, and we thank Senators Peters and Stabenow for their support for this grant.”

The FAA grants are administered through Fiscal Year 2020 Airport Improvement Program (AIP) annual and supplemental awards. Funds provided through the *CARES Act* serve as the local match for the infrastructure grants. Michigan will receive over \$5.4 million in grant funding to help ensure critical safety and capacity projects continue without financial disruption.

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## Anthony Chandler

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**From:** Lukens, Robert <Bob@visitmuskegon.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 18, 2020 4:41 PM  
**To:** Terry Boer (tboer@visionaircenter.com); Wilkins, Rillastine; Mahoney, Kenneth; Scolnik, Robert; Anthony Chandler; 'Robert Gustafson'; 'Cindy Larsen'; Amy VanLoon (avanloon@whitelake.org); 'Richard D. Houtteman'; 'Dave Kendall'; 'James Perri'; 'Dakota.Mitchell@skywest.com'  
**Cc:** Bierman, Rita; Mark Meyers; Eisenbarth, Mark; Tharp, Kathy; Barnhill, Kristin  
**Subject:** Airport Update

Good Afternoon Airport Development Committee:

It has been quite some time since we have met and I wanted to provide an update on the airport during the COVID-19 crisis.

- The United Express/SkyWest schedule has been in flux throughout the crisis, beginning on or about March 16 with the closure of businesses and restrictions on travel. Executive Orders in Michigan and around the U.S. and world greatly reduced air travel, and load factors plummeted. The recovery will be slow, but we are still operating every day at the Muskegon County Airport.
- SkyWest requested to change their schedule from two flights per day to one flight per day, through July 5, 2020. The request was approved by the DOT. Beginning July 6, we will go back to 2 RT flights per day. Before COVID, we were scheduled to have 3 flights per day through August, due to increased summer visitation to Muskegon County.
- The search for an airport manager has also been rough going due to the COVID crisis and the lack of qualified candidates that would be willing to relocate to Muskegon County during these unsettling times. We were moving through the interview process in late February/early March. We had two good candidates, and after the COVID crisis struck in mid-March, one candidate withdrew, and the other candidate eventually withdrew after the offer for a third, in-person interview. We are now back at it, and I have invited a qualified candidate for a second interview.
- The airport received federal CARES Act funding that will help us maintain operations during the crisis and beyond.
- Airport staff – Maintenance staff and our Administrative Analyst Rita Bierman – have been doing an exceptional job of keeping the airport up and running during these difficult times.

Thank you for your support, and feel free to contact me anytime with questions.

Stay safe and healthy,  
Bob

Robert M. Lukens  
Community Development Director  
Muskegon County, Michigan  
610 W. Western Avenue, Muskegon, MI 49440  
Direct: 231-724-3103 • Cell: 231-286-3190  
Toll-free: 800-250-9283 • Fax: 231-724-1398

**From:** Inside 208 <donotreply@wordpress.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 29, 2020 4:23 PM  
**To:** Mark Meyers  
**Subject:** [New post] Summer Property Tax Deferral Package Heads to Governor-Outlook Uncertain

Chris Hackbarth posted: "Given the limited calendar for legislative action last week, the Senate moved quickly to report House Bills 5761 and 5810 through committee and then overwhelmingly passed the bills, along with a potential trailer bill (SB 943) intended to address any cont"

## New post on Inside 208



### [Summer Property Tax Deferral Package Heads to Governor-Outlook Uncertain](#)

by [Chris Hackbarth](#)

Given the limited calendar for legislative action last week, the Senate moved quickly to report House Bills [5761](#) and [5810](#) through committee and then overwhelmingly passed the bills, along with a potential trailer bill ([SB 943](#)) intended to address any continuing clean-up language that is expected to be needed. The House Bills went back to the House where they were unanimously concurred in and prepared for enrollment. The bills are still awaiting presentation to the Governor, where the prospects for her signature are currently uncertain.

[Over the course of the last month, this proposal has gone through numerous rewrites](#), with new versions being reviewed by the League and other interest groups on an almost weekly basis. The proposal adopted by the House and then modified in the Senate would allow for individuals and businesses that meet certain COVID-related hardship criteria to apply for a hardship deferral to their local unit of government by August 28th of this year. The Senate changes also included individuals and businesses impacted by the flooding in Midland County to be eligible for this one-time property tax deferral program. This deferral opportunity would relate solely to real property taxes associated with the Summer 2020 property tax bill. Individuals and businesses currently escrowing their property taxes or participating in another deferral or property tax relief program would be excluded from this program. Property owners qualifying under this program would have until February 28, 2021 to pay their Summer 2020 property tax bill or the local unit would turn the parcel over to the county along with all other normal delinquent parcels.

Following the property owner's submission of the hardship affidavit, the local tax collecting jurisdiction would forward the affidavits to the county treasurer by September 11th. The county treasurer would then provide an advance payment for all of the local taxing units for any eligible summer 2020 property taxes that were deferred under this program in that county. The county treasurer could utilize existing funds or borrowing under their individual Delinquent Tax Revolving Funds or serve as a conduit borrower from one larger,

pooled borrowing done by the state through a mechanism like Treasury's Municipal Finance Authority. This advance payment for the deferred parcels must be made to all local jurisdictions by December 1, 2020.

The League submitted testimony in both the House and Senate that throughout the negotiations, we have maintained our desire to balance affordable and sustainable relief for main street and downtown small businesses, while protecting the critical revenue stream that the summer property tax collection provides for our local governments and schools. Without the necessary financing to support the advance payments to our municipalities, in as close a time-frame to the normal summer tax collection dates as possible, we run the risk of harming our front line services and personnel and potentially forcing a number of local units and schools into deficit. We advocated that any such program should be crafted to be as easy to administer as possible and be easily understood by the taxpayer.

Due to the compressed nature of negotiations with the limited legislative session calendar and the fact that summer tax bills were already being sent to taxpayers, both House Bills were moved through the process with the expectation that any additional technical or structural issues necessary to ensure the viability of this program would be adopted within Senate Bill 943 and passed when the legislature returns in late July.

During Senate committee testimony, the Michigan Department of Treasury went on record opposing the bills and cited a number of concerns related to the timelines in the bills for state action and concerns about the state's ability to comply with the short-term borrowing required by the bill. Based on this opposition, the future of the bills is not clear at this time. Additional work group meetings have been scheduled for later this week to determine if changes can be made within SB 943 to address Treasury's concerns and gain the Governor's support. The League will continue to update our members as additional information becomes available.

*Chris Hackbarth is the League's director of state & federal affairs. He can be reached at 517-908-0304 and [chackbarth@mml.org](mailto:chackbarth@mml.org).*

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[Chris Hackbarth](#) | June 29, 2020 at 4:22 pm | URL: <https://wp.me/p3wSLH-1VD>



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<http://blogs.mml.org/wp/inside208/2020/06/29/summer-property-tax-deferral-package-heads-to-governor-outlook-uncertain/>



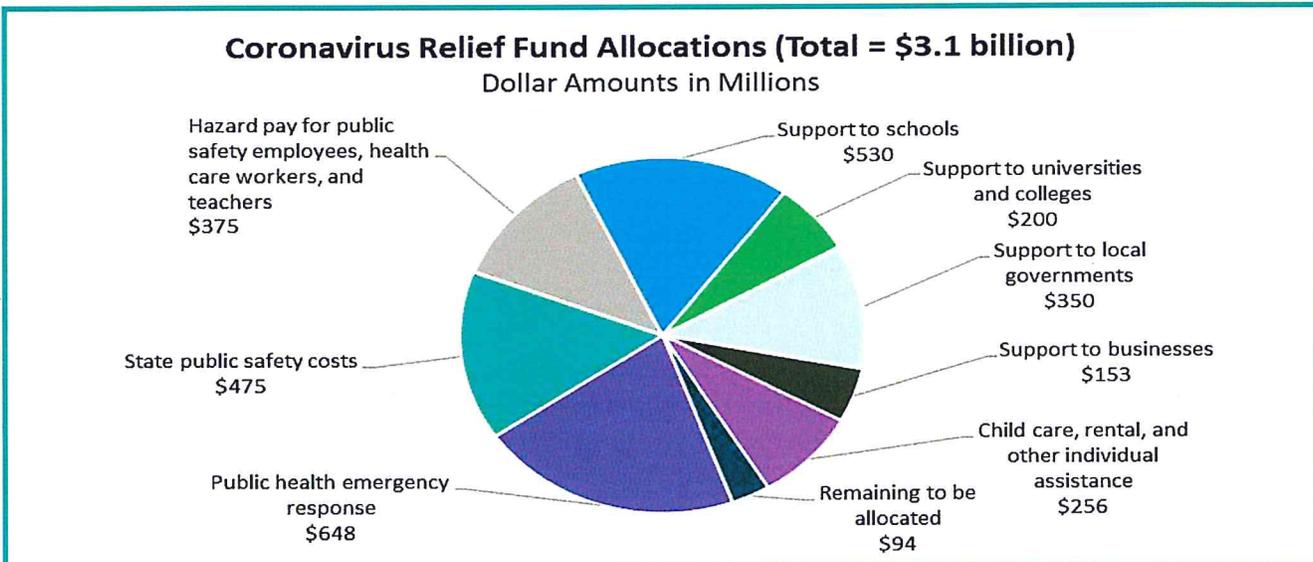
# FY 2020 Budget Agreement

State of Michigan • June 29, 2020

The following allocations from the federal Coronavirus Relief Funds will support teachers, school districts, higher education institutions, and local governments to address the significant COVID 19 costs they've already incurred or will face as they prepare for the Fall in amounts equal to or outweighing any reductions to state aid.

<b>\$512M</b> Schools
<b>\$53M</b> Hazard pay for each teacher across Michigan as the state battles COVID-19
<b>\$200M</b> Universities and Community Colleges
<b>\$150M</b> Local Governments in addition to the \$300M appropriated in SB 690 for public health and safety costs and first responder hazard pay

With this agreement, \$3 billion of the CRF has been allocated as follows to support Michigan businesses, workers, and residents with the costs incurred from facing COVID 19. But there is remaining need. We are committed to working together to address the remaining shortfalls in next year's budget and we are looking to our partners in Congress for support to help maintain the essential services relied upon by our families and small businesses.



An agreement to solve the \$2.2 billion combined General Fund and School Aid Fund shortfall, includes the following:

<b>\$350M</b> From the State Rainy Day Fund
<b>\$490M</b> Savings achieved through the state hiring and discretionary spending freezes, layoffs, and other identified savings in state government
<b>\$475M</b> Public safety costs now eligible for federal coronavirus relief funds (CRF)
<b>\$256M</b> State Aid reductions to schools
<b>\$200M</b> State Aid reductions to universities and community colleges
<b>\$97M</b> State Aid reductions to local governments
<b>\$340M</b> Continuation of the enhanced federal Medicaid matching funds, reducing GF appropriated for COVID response costs now eligible for federal CRF funds, and other savings