

MICHIGAN RECONNECT GRANT ACT (EXCERPT)
Act 84 of 2020

390.1705 Michigan reconnect grant program; powers and duties of department of labor and economic opportunity; program requirements; annual written progress report.

Sec. 5.

The Michigan reconnect grant program is created in the department for the purpose of providing Michigan reconnect grants to individuals eligible for those grants under the Michigan reconnect grant recipient act, 2020 PA 68, MCL 390.1711 to 390.1723. The department shall do all of the following:

- (a) Develop and administer the program.
- (b) Create and maintain a program website.
- (c) Create and maintain a marketing campaign for the program.
- (d) Operate a help desk for the program.
- (e) Create and maintain a network of navigators to help Michigan reconnect grant students navigate the path to college, supporting but not supplanting the programming and assistance offered by community colleges. In connection with maintaining this network of navigators, the department shall ensure that navigators are instructed to inform Michigan reconnect grant applicants of any relevant policies for earning credit for prior learning, as described in section 3(c)(iv)(B), and connect Michigan reconnect grant applicants to their local workforce development agency for additional support services and registration with their local career services office.
- (f) Provide Michigan reconnect grant students with information about skills in demand and related compensation in the local labor market.
- (g) Partner with the center to report, in a user-friendly format, credential completion outcomes of Michigan reconnect grant students.
- (h) To facilitate the reporting of valid and reliable longitudinal data under subdivision (g), ensure that all eligible institutions and other individuals and entities that participate in the implementation of the Michigan reconnect grant program use the unique statewide student identification codes issued by the center to track Michigan reconnect grant students in accordance with section 94a of the school aid act of 1979, 1979 PA 94, MCL 388.1694a, and require eligible institutions to identify and report at the student level any attempts and completion for gateway English and mathematics courses in a form and manner as prescribed by the center.
- (i) Establish a process to allow eligible institutions to be reimbursed for awarding credit for prior learning at a rate of \$80.00 per credit hour for credit awarded to Michigan reconnect grant students for Advanced Placement, CLEP, DSST, military training, industry credentials, work-based learning, portfolio assessment, and other types of credit for prior learning as determined by the department.
- (j) As part of the department's responsibility to better connect education and training demands in the labor market with qualified degree, training, and apprenticeship programs, facilitate efforts by businesses, unions, and community colleges to effectively match skills provided with those in demand and encourage eligible institutions across this state to adopt consistent placement policies.
- (k) To facilitate maximum 4-year completion rates for Michigan reconnect grant students, implement all of the following program requirements:
 - (i) The center shall provide each eligible institution with a 4-year adult completion rate baseline that reflects the percentage of degree-seeking adult students age 25 and up who enrolled at that institution in the fall of 2017 and earned an associate degree or occupational certificate, or transferred to a 4-year university or college, by August 2021. Degree-seeking adult students age 25 and up who enrolled at the institution in the fall of 2017 and transferred to another eligible institution must be subtracted from both the numerator and denominator in calculating the 4-year adult completion rate baseline.
 - (ii) The center shall annually provide the department each eligible institution's credential completion numbers and rates to determine whether the institution has maintained full program standing. To assist the center in this annual reporting, by a deadline set by the department, each eligible institution shall provide the center with a preliminary calculation of the institution's previous year's credential completion numbers and rates. The center shall consider an institution's preliminary calculations when making its independent determination of the institution's credential completion numbers and rates. To maintain full program standing, an institution must achieve 1 of the following, as applicable:
 - (A) For an institution with a 4-year adult completion rate baseline as provided by the center under subparagraph (i) of less than 30%, the institution must subsequently achieve each year a 4-year completion rate that is no less than 3 percentage points greater than its immediately preceding 4-year completion rate until a 30% 4-year completion rate is attained; then must subsequently achieve each year a 4-year completion rate that is no less than 2 percentage points greater than its immediately preceding 4-year rate until a 50% 4-year completion rate is attained; and then must subsequently achieve each year a 4-year completion rate that is greater, by no specific measure, than

its immediately preceding 4-year completion rate until a 75% 4-year completion rate is attained.

(B) For an institution with a 4-year adult completion rate baseline as provided by the center under subparagraph (i) equal to or greater than 30% and less than 50%, the institution must subsequently achieve each year a 4-year completion rate that is no less than 2 percentage points greater than its immediately preceding 4-year completion rate until a 50% 4-year completion rate is attained; and then must subsequently achieve each year a 4-year completion rate that is greater, by no specific measure, than its immediately preceding 4-year completion rate until a 75% 4-year completion rate is attained.

(C) For an institution with a 4-year adult completion rate baseline as provided by the center under subparagraph (i) equal to or greater than 50% and less than 75%, the institution must subsequently achieve each year a 4-year completion rate that is greater, by no specific measure, than its immediately preceding 4-year completion rate until a 75% 4-year completion rate is attained.

(iii) An institution that fails to achieve its annual completion-gain target under subparagraph (ii) is placed on probationary status. If it meets its annual completion-gain target the subsequent year, it is returned to full program-standing status.

(iv) An institution that fails to meet its annual completion-gain target for 2 consecutive years is placed on low-performing status with the following consequences:

(A) In a time and manner prescribed by the department, the institution shall develop a corrective action plan in consultation with the department's Office of Sixty by 30 or its successor, the Michigan Community College Association, and, subject to section 5a, the Michigan Center for Adult College Success, and the institution shall submit its corrective action plan to the Office of Sixty by 30 or its successor for approval.

(B) In the first year after an institution is placed on low-performing status and each succeeding year in which the institution fails to meet its completion target, this state will reimburse the institution only 90% of the last-dollar tuition cost of each Michigan reconnect grant student, the institution being required to pay the remaining 10% of last-dollar tuition cost out of other institution revenues in order to remain eligible for participation in the Michigan reconnect program. An institution on low-performing status shall not charge Michigan reconnect grant students for the gap between tuition cost and reduced state reimbursement.

(C) In the year immediately following an institution placed on low-performing status achieving its annual completion-rate target, that institution must be returned to full program-standing status and receive a 100% state reimbursement for the cost of last-dollar tuition grants to Michigan reconnect grant students.

(l) By not later than June 1 each year, beginning in 2021, provide a written report detailing the progress of the Michigan reconnect grant program to the chairpersons of the standing committees and the appropriations subcommittees of the house of representatives and senate having jurisdiction over legislation or oversight of appropriations pertaining to workforce development. The report must be made available to the public on the department's website and, at minimum, must include all of the following information for the immediately preceding academic year:

(i) The total amount of Michigan reconnect grants awarded to Michigan reconnect grant students.

(ii) The total amount of funding used for oversight and implementation of the Michigan reconnect grant program, including, but not limited to, total funding used for each of the following:

(A) Full-time equated positions.

(B) System improvements.

(C) Training costs.

(iii) The total amount of funding used for program support services, including, but not limited to, total funding used for each of the following:

(A) Full-time equated positions.

(B) Case management.

(C) Technical assistance.

(iv) The total amount of funding used for marketing.

(v) The total number of navigators employed by the department; the total number of navigators assigned to each eligible institution; and the number of Michigan reconnect grant students assigned to each navigator, organized by eligible institution.

(vi) The total number of eligible institutions to which Michigan reconnect grants were paid for credit to student accounts under section 17 of the Michigan reconnect grant recipient act, 2020 PA 68, MCL 390.1717; a list of the names of those eligible institutions; and the total number and amount of Michigan reconnect grants that were awarded, organized by eligible institution.

(vii) The amount of credit awarded for prior learning by eligible institutions to be reimbursed at a rate of \$80.00 per credit hour for credit awarded to Michigan reconnect grant students for Advanced Placement, CLEP, DSST, military training, industry credentials, work-based learning, portfolio assessment, and other types of credit for prior learning as determined by the department.

(viii) The total number of individuals who applied for Michigan reconnect grants; the total number of individuals awarded those grants; the mean and median grant amounts; and the total number of grant recipients who earned either an associate degree or industry-recognized certificate or credential.

(ix) Any other relevant information, as determined by the department.

History: 2020, Act 84, Imd. Eff. Apr. 2, 2020 ;-- Am. 2022, Act 251, Eff. Mar. 29, 2023

Compiler's Notes: For the transfer of responsibilities of the Office of Sixty by 30 from the department of labor and economic opportunity to MiLEAP, see E.R.O. No. 2023-2, compiled at MCL 388.1283.