



HUTT

January 31, 2020

The Honorable Gretchen Whitmer
Governor
P.O. Box 30013
Lansing, MI 48909

1362 Lincoln Avenue
Holland Michigan 49423
T. 800.841.9431
F. 616.928.3357

Dear Governor, Whitmer,

On behalf of Hutt Trucking Co., Inc., I would like to express our appreciation for the workforce development services provided by West Michigan Works! We are a small/mid-sized logistics and transportation company with 2 locations in Holland and Hudsonville. We've been fortunate to have been awarded funds that are helping to support the ongoing growth we are experiencing since October 2017, when we opened our newly reconstructed 120 square ft. state of the art warehouse freezer facility located in Hudsonville. We specialize in deep frozen storage, mainly ice cream.

This year we were not initially selected for the 2019 awards but were notified in June that we had an opportunity to resubmit our application. Knowing there was a more aggressive timeframe (June -September), we revised our original plan and centered it specifically around new hires. Our original application included 20 new staff members and our revision was 14.

As other businesses in West Michigan we struggle to recruit talent with the skillsets required to perform the essential functions of our jobs. Not only is it difficult to find qualified candidates, we are also faced with the challenge of finding people who are willing to withstand our work environment – 8 hours in a 20 below sub-zero freezer and to find truck drivers, in an industry with a shortage of 100K+ across the nation. This grant has aided us, to offset the cost of additional training when hiring candidates who have potential but lack the primary skills.

We connected with West Michigan Works! because we needed assistance with resources to enable us to expand our network to find talent. We took advantage of the On the Job Training program for new hires, as well as developing relationships with other organizations through connections with West Michigan Works, job fair events. We have attended seminars and events in connection with West Michigan Works and the West Michigan Chamber to be able to tap into resources that work with specialized groups. While we continue to tap into as many resources as possible, we appreciate the support received from Michigan Works and plan to continue to build that relationship.

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Our goal was to hire 14 employees between June 1 – September 10. We exceed that target by hiring 15 new staff members, with the help and guidance of West Michigan Works. Of those 15 new hires, Hutt recruited 8 in targeted populations (3 Military Veterans and 5 Older Workers).

Sincerely,

Jennifer A. Reinink

Jennifer A. Reinink, SPHR-SCP, SPHR
Director of Human Resources
Hutt Trucking Co., Inc.
(616) 928-2321

