



August 12, 2019

The Honorable Gretchen Whitmer
Governor
PO Box 30013
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Governor Whitmer,

On behalf of Weather Shield Roofing Systems, I would like to express our appreciation for the workforce development services provided by West Michigan Works! Weather Shield is a commercial re-roofing contractor that has been in business for over 30 years. We are located in Grand Rapids and our primary focus has been the West Michigan area. We have an Operations department that installs commercial flat re-roofing jobs and a Service department that responds to leak calls and does preventative maintenance to lengthen the life of a roof.

We first connected with West Michigan Works! at the recommendation of another contractor. We had (and have) been having issues finding people to fill roofing positions – from entry level to the higher levels in the field. West Michigan Works! introduced us to the Going Pro Talent Fund. They helped us successfully navigate the grant process and all the requirements and guidelines after we were awarded over \$12,000 for training. This helped us reach our goal of maximizing productivity within our existing workforce as we continued to have difficulty hiring new employees.

Weather Shield has benefitted by working with West Michigan Works! because they are always willing and eager to help with job postings, training provider recommendations, and many other resources that we didn't even know were available to us. Their assistance this past year with the Going Pro Talent Fund was truly invaluable as we are already seeing an improvement from the trainings our employees have participated in through the grant.

Regards,

Jenna Wassink
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