



FACT SHEET

- /// ReSkillMS is a new program designed to help individuals adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic find jobs with better wages and also help support employers who want to hire and train new employees on the job.
- /// Governor Reeves' Commission for Economic Recovery made a recommendation earlier this year to use CARES Act funding for workforce training to help Mississippians economically harmed by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- /// This recommendation was submitted to the State Workforce Investment Board (SWIB) which presented a proposal to the Mississippi Legislature, where \$55 Million was subsequently appropriated to these efforts. A large portion of this money was set aside for the state's community colleges to expand capacity in high demand programs as necessary because of the pandemic and to offer free short term training for individuals to get in a better career pathway. Approximately \$5 Million of these funds are to be utilized for reimbursement of wages to employers willing to hire Mississippians and train them on the job. Mississippi Workforce leaders at the Mississippi Department of Employment Security (MDES), the state's four local workforce areas and the SWIB coordinated to create ReSkillMS, the program to which the funds are to be distributed to help individuals and employers across the state.
- /// Individual states, including Mississippi, share in the CARES Act's \$150 billion Coronavirus Relief Fund to alleviate the impacts of the pandemic. The state of Mississippi received \$1.25 billion, a portion of which is being used by the Mississippi Legislature to fund ReSkillMS.
- /// ReSkillMS was created to provide workforce training that helps Mississippians find job opportunities quickly with higher pay than their pre-COVID-19 occupation. The program also helps employers ready to fill skilled positions with the workforce they need by training individuals on the job.
- /// The ReSkillMS program encourages employers to hire employees immediately and train them on the job. This process is encouraged by providing employer incentives. The funding incentive reimburses employers for a portion of wages during the training period for new hires.
- /// Mississippians seeking jobs are aided by this component of the program because they find employment more quickly with higher wages due to the on-the-job training which places them in a higher earning position over the long term. The program will reimburse 50% of wages for jobs that pay up to \$15/hour and 75% of wages that pay over \$15/hour. Wages are reimbursed for the first 320 hours of training.
- /// Mississippians seeking to find new career pathways through the ReSkillMS initiative may visit <https://www.reskillms.com/> for more information. The site also includes a link for employers to sign up for participating in the hiring/training portion of the program.