



May 2024 Newsletter

May Webinar:

Please join us for the MI Funding Hub May webinar on **May 23, 2024**. We will have guest speakers including **Kristin Brady** from the **Michigan Infrastructure Office (MIO)** and **Kate Hutchens** from the **Office of the Environmental Justice Public Advocate**. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn more about MIO's Technical Assistance Center, which assists communities through the search and application process for funding opportunities to attain their goals. The **Office of the Environmental Justice Public Advocate** will provide an overview of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Community Change Grants.

[Click here](#) to learn more about the MIO Technical Assistance Center.

[Register for the May Webinar.](#)

Featured Grant Opportunities

Community Change Grants

Deadline: November 21, 2024

Awards: Up to \$20 million

"The EPA's new Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grants program (Community Change Grants) has announced a Notice of Funding Opportunity for approximately \$2 billion dollars in Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) funds in environmental and climate justice activities to benefit disadvantaged communities through projects that reduce pollution, increase community climate resilience, and build community capacity to address environmental and climate justice challenges."

MI Neighborhood

Application Rounds:

Round 3 5/02 – 5/15 Reservation memos distributed on 6/10

Round 4 5/16 – 5/31 Reservation memos distributed on 7/02

Round 5 6/01 – 6/15 Reservation memos distributed on 7/15

Round 6 6/15 – 7/01 Reservation memos distributed on 7/31

Awards: Up to \$2 million per agency.

MI Neighborhood is a blend of \$60 million in funding as a response to the regional action plans' strategic alignment with the Statewide Housing Plan. This new application streamlines access to three primary activities: public amenities, rehabilitation, and new units.



Michigan Shared Streets and Spaces Grant Program (SSSG)

Deadline: June 7, 2024

Awards: \$200,000

“The SSSG program is designed to help incorporated cities and transit authorities reconceive their streets not only as thoroughfares for vehicles, but also as civic spaces with a range of uses for all of us, no matter our age, ability, or preferred ways of getting around.”

Justice40 Cohorts Open for Registration

What is Justice 40 and is your community eligible to tap into its benefits? The Michigan Municipal League (MML) will be answering this and many other questions at the first Justice 40 Cohort session on **May 30, 2024**. This first session will provide a deep dive into Justice 40 and how to use the Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool to determine your community eligibility. There will be two sessions to follow that will address topics such as community partnerships, grant writing technical assistance, and more. All sessions are virtual. [Register today!](#)

Recapping April Webinar

MI Funding Hub officially launched April 10! Thank you to those who attended our webinar on April 25. For anyone who missed it or needs a refresher here is a quick recap:

- MML provided a brief demonstration of how to use the new MI Funding Hub database.
- OHM Advisors discussed how to use their technical support services. Their services can be reached at helpdesk@mifundinghub.org.
- We hosted guest speakers from the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) and Michigan Saves. They highlighted a few funding opportunities including.
 - EGLE Highlighted Opportunities:
 - [Community Energy Management](#)
 - [Renewables Ready Communities Award](#)
 - Michigan Saves Highlighted Opportunity:
 - [Investment Tax Credit Bridge Loan for Nonprofit and Governmental Entities](#)
- MML discussed the Justice40 capacity-building cohorts that are open for [registration](#). The cohorts will help communities determine their eligibility and obtain technical assistance for funding opportunities.

For your viewing, here is a [link](#) to a recording of the webinar.



Events and Resources

Justice40 Cohort Webinar

The first session is scheduled for **May 30, 2024**. The second session will be held on **June 13, 2024**, and the third session on **June 27, 2024**. [Register here.](#)

MI Healthy Climate Conference

Please join us at the MI Healthy Climate Conference. At an open house hosted by the Office of the Environmental Justice Public Advocate, there will be opportunities to connect with other communities seeking to collaborate on funding efforts, connect with funders, and learn about technical assistance. There will also be many opportunities to learn and connect with environmental programs statewide. You can find more information and registration instructions [here](#).

OHM Technical Advisors Spotlight

Thank you to our technical assistance experts at OHM Advisors who are actively helping communities get connected with funding for their projects. They are ready to assist you with your questions and needs at helpdesk@mifundinghub.org. Let's get to know the faces behind the screen. Introducing our monthly MI Funding Hub Technical Assistance Expert Spotlight. This month we bring to you:

Vince Ranger, Senior Technical Specialist at OHM Advisors



Vince joined OHM in 2022 after three decades in various planning and development roles with the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT). In a unique role with OHM Advisors' municipal engineering group, he uses his extensive expertise navigating federal and state grant programs to assist the firm's clients in developing potential grant-funded projects.

Learn more about Vince...

As an Urban Project Development Specialist for MDOT's Office of Economic Development, Vince spent nearly twenty years helping southeast Michigan local governments identify transportation development opportunities and related funding sources to bring those projects to fruition.



Vince has been instrumental in shared-use path and trailways development projects such as the Michigan Airline and Huron Valley Trails, the Macomb Orchard Trail, the St. Clair County Bridge-to-Bay Trail, the Washtenaw County Border-to-Border Trail, and the Detroit Riverwalk.

Q: Why do you work in community advancement?

I enjoy working with communities to develop projects that will improve their quality of life and spur economic development. I'm particularly interested in providing safe multimodal transportation opportunities in urban areas to improve access for all users. I'm very excited that OHM is collaborating with the MML to make the MI Funding Hub as robust and helpful as possible.

Q: "What is one thing you wish communities seeking funding knew?"

Talk to your community, make a plan, write it down. There's a lot of funding opportunities out there, but projects that can demonstrate public engagement and provide planning documents stand out as the most competitive.