



October 2024 Newsletter

October Webinar:

Bone-jour! Please join us for the MI Funding Hub webinar on **Thursday, October 24, 2024**. We will have guest speakers **Alan Higgins** from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation's **State Historical Preservation Office** and **Tim Klont** from the **Michigan State Housing Development Authority**. Our guests will provide insight into available funding opportunities through their offices.

[Don't Ghost Us! Register for the October Webinar.](#)

Give Us Pumpkin to Talk About: What Do You Think of MI Funding Hub?

Our goal is to support municipalities in their search for federal and state funding by providing a searchable grants database and accessible technical assistance. Help us help you! Tell us what content has been most helpful and what you would like to see from this program. Please provide your feedback [in this survey](#).

Don't Get Spooked! Winning Grant Applications Start with Determining Alignment and Capacity

Deciding whether to pursue a grant opportunity begins with assessing whether the proposal is aligned to your municipality's needs and priorities and your team's capacity to apply for and implement the grant. Identifying tightly aligned grant opportunities will allow your team to confidently pursue the right funding opportunities.

To assess alignment with a new grant opportunity, coordinate with your grant team to review the full grant application and requirements, including the grant goals and guidelines. During this step, you want to ensure that the grant objectives match your municipality's priorities. Use your strategic plan, department input, and resident feedback to check for alignment. Let data be your guide. Pay attention to what your data says about your municipality's areas of greatest need and where grant resources can have the most impact.

Next, you want to assess your staff's capacity to apply for and implement the grant. Does the grant support an existing priority or identified future priority for your municipality? Can we successfully address each component of the grant requirements? Do we have capacity to implement the grant from a programmatic and fiscal perspective? Your assessment should include a review of the grant timeline, narrative details (e.g. Is this a 100-page application due in seven days?) and any additional requirements you may need to ensure your application's success.

Designing a successful grant proposal calls for dedicated staff time across your grant team to draft, review, revise and submit the proposal on time. Once you've determined that the grant opportunity is the right fit for your municipality, you will want to build an implementation plan to evaluate your team's ability to execute the grant within the timeline and budget. This will help you identify additional resources and partnerships that you may need to execute the grant.



The key to submitting a successful proposal comes down to understanding the grant objectives, assessing alignment with your municipality's needs and priorities, and ensuring capacity to apply for and implement the grant. This checkpoint will ensure that the time and resources spent applying for the grant have the highest payoff for your municipality.

Trick or Treat: Featured Grant Opportunities

Rural Readiness Grant Program

Deadline: Letter of intent due October 7, 2024

Awards: Up to \$50,000

"The Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity (LEO) Office of Rural Prosperity (ORP) is offering the Rural Readiness Grant Program (RRGP), a funding opportunity designed to empower community-specific solutions that build capacity and readiness in rural communities and regions across Michigan."

SEC 74 Clean School Bus Grant

Deadline: October 12, 2024

Awards: Up to 70 percent of the cost of an electric school bus, charging station and infrastructure

"Michigan Department of Education (MDE) in collaboration with the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) and Michigan Association of Pupil Transportation (MAPT) opened applications for the 74(b) Clean Bus Energy Grant, a \$125 million program aimed at helping Michigan school districts replace aging diesel school buses with cleaner alternatives."

Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grants Program

Deadline: November 21, 2024

Awards: Up to \$20 million

"There will be two tracks of funding under this opportunity. Track I will fund approximately 150 large, transformational community-driven investment grants of \$10 million - \$20 million. Track II will fund approximately 20 meaningful engagement grants of \$1 million - \$3 million. Grants cannot exceed 3-years in duration. Please review the NOFO for further information about the exciting opportunities under the Community Change Grants program and details about the application process."

If You've Got It, Haunt It: Events and Resources

Catalyst Communities— "Net Zero" for Local Governments: Braiding Technologies to Deliver Efficient, Renewable Buildings

Date: October 10, 2024, 11 a.m.–12 p.m.



Description: “Learn about strategies to holistically improve the energy efficiency of local government buildings to reduce carbon, improve the health and safety of occupants, AND save your community money by significantly reducing monthly utility bills. Experts from skilled trade associations will explain how the integrated “net zero” approach to renovations and new construction projects can work for local governments, offering advice on getting started and engaging with relevant skilled trades professionals in your region. They will also share how you can turn this approach into persuasive funding proposals that will make these projects even bigger financial winners for your community.” [Register to attend.](#)

October Safe Routes to School Basics Training Webinar

Date: October 14, 2024, 10 a.m.

Description: “The Safe Routes to School Basics webinar will provide you with general information about the SRTS program. It will discuss the following: What is Safe Routes to School? How the six Es framework helps affect change in your school community The SRTS Action Planning Steps Federal Funding Available resources” [Register here.](#)

[Additional information on upcoming or past events can be found here.](#)



MI Funding Hub Team Spotlight

Melissa Milton-Pung, Policy Research Labs Program Manager at MML



Spotlight

Melissa Milton-Pung is a Policy Research Labs program manager at the Michigan Municipal League and current president of the Michigan Historic Preservation Network. As a Federally-qualified architectural historian, her expertise is in place-based economic development initiatives, historic rehabilitation, and heritage tourism. She is an experienced grant writer and administrator, with a focus on municipal and non-profit partnerships. Her career grant pool is roughly \$20 million.

Prior to joining the League in 2017, Melissa spent more than a decade as economic development & historic preservation project manager for Washtenaw County (Ann Arbor) and worked in cultural resource consulting. She also worked as an economic development finance professional with Grow America, formerly the National Development Council. She holds a BA in Public History from Western Michigan University and a Master of Historic Preservation from the University of Kentucky College of Architecture, where her research created the Commonwealth's first historic property tax credit. Melissa is also adjunct faculty in Historic Preservation at Eastern Michigan University.

Why do you work in community advancement?

I believe strongly that every resident has the right to a great place to live in Michigan. Our role in public service is to increase the quality of life for Michigan residents, and connecting municipalities with funding sources helps them offer programs and services that achieve that end. I want my work to help people feel like they belong no matter where they are from or who they are.

What is one thing you wish communities seeking funding knew?

I wish that communities knew they probably already have the components of a good grant application hidden within their files. You can put together a compelling narrative pretty quickly from many of the plans and programs you already have in place. It's having the organization and drive to get that grant out there that helps you increase your confidence in seeking funding.