



## November 2024 Newsletter

### November Webinar:

Please join us for the MI Funding Hub webinar on **Thursday, November 21, 2024**. We will have guest speakers from the **City of Lansing, the Capital Region Community Foundation** and **others** to discuss their experiences with leveraging public-private funding partnerships and how they secured philanthropic funding.

[Register for the November Webinar.](#)

### We Have Much to Be Thankful for: Celebrating Three Silver Davey Awards

We are pleased to announce that the MI Funding Hub website has [won three separate Davey Awards in the website category](#) including:

- Best Visual Appeal Aesthetic, Silver
- Government, Silver
- Best Home Page, Silver

Thank you to the CRIMSON Agency for the award-winning design! The Davey Awards are international awards focused exclusively on honoring outstanding creative work from the best small teams/agencies from across the world. The awards are sanctioned and judged by the Academy of Interactive & Visual Arts (AIVA). Over 4,000 entries were judged this year based on a standard of excellence as determined by the AIVA to evaluate distinction in creative work in various categories.

### Keep the Giving Going: Share Your thoughts.

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](#).

Here's a sample of what people are saying about MI Funding Hub:

"Sault Ste. Marie was in need of assistance with project financing and grant applications for several projects, and the MI Water Navigator/MI Funding Hub program came through for us. Their Helpdesk connected us to valuable grant opportunities and provided expert advice that will significantly boost our application scores. The FREE support we received would have easily cost thousands of dollars if we had used a private consultant. Working with MI Funding Hub was the easiest process we've ever experienced, and their team was incredibly helpful throughout!"



## Don't Delay Your (Document) Harvest: Anticipating Grant Requirements

Understanding grant requirements and components is key to submitting a complete, winning proposal. Like putting together a puzzle, completing a grant proposal requires coordination and planning to gather, develop, and submit all proposal documents on time.

While there may be several requirements to manage, you can rely on your grant team to help identify, develop, and review the required documents. The early phases of the grant writing process involve identifying existing documentation, outlining what still needs to be developed, assigning responsibilities for each component, and estimating preparation timelines. Tracking tools such as spreadsheets, calendars, regularly scheduled grant team meetings, and reminder notifications can be used to ensure that you are able to monitor progress on each of the requirements and that all materials will be ready to submit on time. Finally, you want to ensure that the team member responsible for submitting the grant proposal is familiar with the grant portal and how to submit the required documents. Lean on resources like webinars, FAQ guides, and technical assistance staff to understand requirements and deadlines and to navigate these often cumbersome platforms. [Tune in to MI Funding Hub webinars](#), [check out the resource library](#), and reach out to our [Helpdesk](#) for tailored technical assistance. Additional resources may also be available in the grant's Notice of Funding Opportunity.

Grant applications can include requirements and documents that take additional time and resources to compile. Common grant components include a letter of support or resolution from your city council, financial documentation including audited financials, an organizational budget, and a project budget. Your project may need multiple external community partners to support program implementation or fiscal management. Plan for additional pre-submission collaboration to prepare application components with external collaborators. Remember that each document in your proposal has a purpose. You are building a case to the funders that your proposal aligns with the grant program objectives, that you have a proven record of executing projects on time and on budget, and that your project will yield big impacts.

The (sometimes long) list of grant components and requirements can be intimidating at first. Remember, you have a team, plan, and timeline in place to identify each of the components; to develop and review documents, data, and materials; and to submit a complete (and winning) proposal!

## How about These Apples? Featured Grant Opportunities

### [Revitalization and Placemaking Grant](#)

**Deadline:** January 2025

**Awards:** Up to \$1 million or 50% of eligible costs.

“The Revitalization and Placemaking program provides access to gap financing for place-based infrastructure development, real estate rehabilitation and development, and public space



improvements. Eligible applicants are individuals or entities working to rehabilitate vacant, underutilized, blighted and historic structures and the development of permanent place-based infrastructure associated with traditional downtowns, social-zones, outdoor dining and placed-based public spaces.”

### Healthy Community Zones

**Deadline:** November 20, 2024

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

“The Healthy Community Zones (HCZ) Initiative is coordinated by the Physical Activity and Nutrition Unit within the MDHHS Cardiovascular Health, Nutrition and Physical Activity Section. The initiative emphasizes community-led efforts to identify and change policies and environments that act as barriers to making healthy choices, repair the effects of policies, practices and systemic racism leading to health disparities and inequities, and build communities that support optimal and equitable health and well-being.” Funding is currently available for organizations in these three regions: Chippewa County, Saginaw County, and the City of Detroit.

### Transportation Economic Development Fund Category-A

**Letter of Interest Due:** November 13, 2024

“To promote increased economic potential and improve the quality of life through the support of job creation and retention in Michigan. Purpose: To provide funding for transportation projects to:

- Improve the network of highway services essential to economic competitiveness;
- Improve accessibility to target industries as a catalyst for economic growth;
- Support private initiatives that create or retain jobs; and
- Encourage economic development and redevelopment efforts that improve the health, safety, and welfare of Michigan citizens.”

## At Your Leaf-Sure: Events and Resources

### Michigan Coastal Management Program Webinar for the 2026 Grant Cycle

**Date:** November 7, 2024, 1 p.m.

**Description:** “This webinar is intended for all applicants interested in this funding opportunity and will cover application requirements, program objectives, and funding preference for all project types.” [Register here.](#)

### Revitalization and Placemaking (RAP) Program Informational Webinar

**Date:** November 13, 2024, 1:30 p.m.–2:30 p.m.

**Description:** “This RAP Program Application Webinar will include a RAP application overview and answers to questions. For those that cannot attend the webinar live, it will be recorded and will be



available on MiPlace.org after the webinar along with an updated Frequently Asked Questions document for your convenience." [Register here.](#)

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

## MI Funding Hub Team Spotlight

**Shanna Draheim, Director of Policy Development at the Michigan Municipal League**



### ***Spotlight***

Shanna Draheim joined the Michigan Municipal League in August 2016 as the director of policy development. In her role, she oversees special research initiatives and projects related to the strategic goals of the League and collaborates with members and other stakeholders to identify research needs and policy recommendations. Draheim brings significant expertise in community development, urban policy, environmental protection and sustainability, economic development, and clean energy policies.

Prior to joining the League, Draheim was a senior consultant with Public Sector Consultants, where she conducted research and managed projects for the firm and its clients on a wide range of public policy subjects. She also served as the head of Shepherd Advisors' Community Sustainability practice area for several years, and she worked for more than a decade for state and federal agencies in the environmental space, including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the National Science Foundation.

Draheim earned a BA from James Madison College at Michigan State University and an MA from Indiana University's School of Public and Environmental Affairs. She lives in East Lansing with her husband and three children, where she has held a seat on the City Council since 2015.

*Why do you work in community advancement?*

"Communities are on the front lines of improving quality of life for residents and making Michigan successful. I believe in the importance of creating thriving communities, not only to attract people to Michigan, but also to make life better for the people already living here. The day-to-day decisions local leaders make have a huge impact, and I am passionate about helping them find the right solutions."



*What is one thing you wish communities seeking funding knew?*

“The process can feel daunting, but it doesn’t have to be hard. Groups like the MI Funding Hub team offer tools and coaching to help communities succeed in accessing important funds. There are many grants that match communities’ needs, and local leaders should take advantage of those opportunities.”