



## February 2025 Newsletter

Subject Line: You Have Big Goals This Year. Let Us Help.

### An Update Regarding the February Webinar

The MI Funding Team regrets to inform you that the February 27, 2025 MI Funding Hub webinar has been canceled. Our team has been working hard to ensure a valuable and informative experience for all participants, but unfortunately, circumstances beyond our control have necessitated this cancellation.

Please plan to join us at next month's webinar on **March 27, 2025**.

Registration for that event is already open through [our Zoom registration portal](#).

As always, we invite you to stay in touch with us by [subscribing to our newsletter](#), searching the [database at MIFundingHub.org](#), or [reaching out to the Help Desk](#). We hope to connect with you again soon!

### Grant Basics: Before You Press Submit on That Proposal, Did You Conduct a Thorough Review?

As your grant team prepares to submit your proposal, you want to ensure a rigorous review process to position your proposal for success. A good review and submission process includes robust editing, screening for completion, and a generous time frame for submission.

First, review the grant application and ensure that your team has completed all of the required materials for the proposal. Reviewers screen applications for completion first. Be sure all components are completed to ensure your proposal passes the first stage of review. Once you're confident that all required materials have been prepared, it's time to engage your grant team to conduct a robust review of the application materials ... continue reading the grant guide on [the MI Funding Hub website](#).



## Smart City Technology in Michigan Communities

NextEnergy has been piloting a program called [MiNextCities](#), an initiative that supports Michigan cities in exploring and adopting technologies that improve community services and quality of life for residents. This program has been able to help communities get over the hurdles created by the capacity constraints municipalities often face when seeking to research, identify, fund, and deploy new technologies.

Through partnerships with the cities of Dearborn, Flint, and Marquette, smart city technologies like air quality and flood monitoring, electric vehicles for municipal use, and residential decarbonization have been implemented. These solutions were carefully selected to align with each city's priorities.

NextEnergy prioritized community engagement in this process—ensuring residents were informed and empowered to provide meaningful feedback. As the program progresses, NextEnergy is interested in learning more about what challenges or opportunities other cities are facing and is eager to share insights from this work to help other municipalities considering the integration of technologies that promote equity and efficiency in their communities. Feel free to explore the [new readiness assessment tool](#) to get the conversation started!

## Check Out These Grant Opportunities

### [Employer-Assisted Housing Fund](#)

**Funding Pool Opens:** Monday, February 24

**Description:** “The Employer-Assisted Housing Fund, administered by the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA), is a housing development investment tool that will bring employers, local units of government, housing development professionals, and the State of Michigan together to produce much needed housing solutions for income-eligible households. Utilizing MSHDA’s Missing Middle program infrastructure (underwriting standards, online portal, staffing, and income targets of up to 120% of Area Median Income (AMI) this program will incentivize employers to address the housing needs of their employees and others who meet income eligibility by matching their own investment with resources that only the State of Michigan can provide.”



## Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program

**Preregistration Deadline:** Monday, March 10

**Application Deadline:** Wednesday, April 9

**Description:** “The Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity’s (LEO) Michigan High-Speed Internet Office (MIHI) is advancing efforts to bridge the digital divide with the announcement of the project application period for the Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) program. Starting **January 9**, internet service providers, communities and eligible participants will have the opportunity to submit project applications to bring high-speed internet to unserved and underserved locations across Michigan.”

## Events and Resources

### Road Trippin’: How the Michigan Department of Transportation Manages Michigan’s Highways

**Date and Time:** Tuesday, February 25, at 9:00 a.m.

**Description:** “Picture it—you’re driving along I-75 on a Friday afternoon, either heading out on a vacation or heading home for the weekend. The sun is shining, the air is warm, and traffic is moving. Life is good—But do you notice what’s happening in the landscape around you? Is the grass mowed along the highway? What kinds of plants are growing? Is litter strewn about? If you suddenly got a flat tire, would you have a spot to pull over? Join us as we talk with Carla Ahlschwede of the Michigan Department of Transportation to learn more about how they keep our highways safe and the role MDOT plays in Michigan’s Invasive Species Program by keeping the rights-of-way clear of invasive species.”

### Local Leaders Webinar Series: Intro to EGLE - How do you know who, or what, is regulated in your community

**Date and Time:** Wednesday, February 26, at 11:00 a.m.

**Description:** “Join the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) for this free monthly webinar series, to learn how to address environmental issues in your community. Each month, EGLE will host a 1-hour webinar that will tackle a topic of interest to local officials and community leaders throughout the state. Topics will include odors, wetlands, inland lakes, septic systems, contaminated property, illegal dumping, and more.”

## Interested in Sharing Your Feedback?

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 useful and what you would like to see from this program. Please provide your feedback [in this survey](#).



## MI Funding Hub Team Spotlight

**Cresson Sloten, P.E., Senior Project Manager at OHM Advisors**



### *Spotlight*

Cresson joined OHM in 2021 after more than three decades in various roles with the City of Ann Arbor. As a senior project manager with OHM Advisors' municipal engineering group, he uses his extensive expertise to help clients with their private and publicly funded infrastructure projects, as well as their strategic and technical infrastructure planning efforts.

Through his 33+ year career with the City of Ann Arbor in their engineering, systems planning, and public works groups, including seven years as the City's systems planning unit manager, Cresson has significant background in private development reviews and construction oversight, in addition to capital improvement project design, bidding, and project management. Cresson also worked extensively on the City's infrastructure planning, including master planning, capital improvements planning and programming, and infrastructure asset management across its municipal utilities, transportation, and solid waste systems, including coordinating these efforts with other local and regional agencies and stakeholders.

### *Why do you work in community advancement?*

I truly enjoy working with communities to develop and deliver projects that will improve the quality of life for the people who live, work, and visit those communities. I feel that locally derived projects are typically the most positively impactful projects for that community.

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

Be prepared and strategic. Understanding your community's assets, their condition and needs, and what it will take to address those needs in a well-documented and understandable manner puts you in the best position to obtain outside funding for those projects.