



## March 2025 Newsletter

Subject Line: Spring into MI Funding Hub

### March Webinar

The March webinar will be held on **Thursday, March 27, 2025**. Join us for an engaging session with guest speakers, grant updates, and more!

[Register for the March webinar.](#)

### Grant Basics: The Funding Is Yours, Now What?

Upon being awarded grant funding to support your initiative (congratulations!), you must shift focus quickly to effective program implementation and grant close out. A well-coordinated system for managing the grant is key to your continued success.

The grant agreement is the guiding document that details the requirements. Review the agreement in detail to ensure your team understands the requirements, the intended outcomes, restrictions on activities and how the grant funds can be spent, and reporting and compliance requirements and timelines. Successful implementation requires cross-team coordination. The program team will implement activities, supply data, and develop reports. The finance team manages the grant budget, and tracks and reports on expenditures. The evaluation team monitors program outcomes, recommends program adjustments, and contributes to reporting. If you want to learn more, continue reading the grant guide on [the MI Funding Hub website](#).

### Check Out These Grant Opportunities

#### [County Fairs Capital Improvement Grants](#)

**Application Deadline:** Friday, March 14

**Description:** “The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development is offering this grant opportunity to county fairs. This program will assist in the promotion of building improvements or other capital improvements at county fairgrounds within the state.”



**Application Deadline:** Monday, March 31

**Awards:** \$100,000

**Description:** “Energy Services will continue the expansion of the Clean Energy for Low- to Moderate- Income Communities Accelerator (CELICA) pilot projects and MI Solarize into a program called MI Solar Access. MI Solar Access will involve an electric utility or nonprofit organization that is willing to implement a community solar array pilot program or energy storage system within a municipal or cooperative electric utility territory, and a small or medium sized business interested in the MI Solarize program. The MI Solar Access Program will potentially increase strategies for energy savings and access to solar energy for communities. This program will support households move toward energy self-sufficiency and climate resiliency by assisting them with reducing their electricity usage, energy burden, climate preparedness, and access to renewable energy.”

### Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant

**Application Deadline:** Tuesday, April 1

**Description:** “Projects provide for natural resource protection and outdoor recreation. By law, no less than 25 percent of the trust fund amount available for annual appropriation can be used for acquisition of public land and no less than 25 percent of the trust fund can be used for development of public recreation facilities.”

## Events and Resources

### Michigan Municipal League Capital Conference 2025

**Dates:** Tuesday, March 18–Wednesday, March 19

**Description:** “The Michigan Municipal League’s CapCon brings together local officials, city managers, mayors, council members and legislators. CapCon 2025 attendees will gain meaningful information and tangible tools to advocate, engage and influence the legislative process to support and shape the future of our communities and Michigan.”

### Local Leaders Webinar Series: Odors: How to Deal with Them in Your Community

**Date and Time:** Tuesday, March 18, 10:00 a.m.

**Description:** “Odor complaints are one of the most frequently received complaints EGLE air pollution investigators receive. There are state regulations that deal with nuisance odors, but what should you do if you experience odors in your community? Are there local ordinances to address the problem? How does local zoning come into play? Join us to answer these questions and learn when to ask your district air pollution investigators for help.”

### Catalyst Communities: Rural Readiness: Building Capacity for Rural Solutions

**Date and Time:** Thursday, March 20, 11:00 a.m.



**Description:** “The Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity, Office of Rural Prosperity offers programs and resources to help rural communities plan, collaborate, build capacity, and prepare for change. In this webinar, Sarah Lucas, Director of the Office of Rural Prosperity, will talk about the office’s programs, as well as best practices and success stories of innovative communities throughout Michigan that are using new models locally and regionally to build capacity and prepare for opportunity.”

## 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

**Meagan O’Brien, Consultant at Public Sector Consultants**



### *Spotlight*

As a consultant with PSC, Meagan uses her research and implementation skills to assist clients in turning ideas into reality, supports and facilitates meetings and community conversations, and adds her ecological expertise to many projects. She also serves as grant manager for the Access and Stewardship programs for the Great Lakes Fishery Trust, a multimillion-dollar nonprofit managed by PSC.

Before joining PSC, Meagan supported research at Michigan State University—where she earned a BS in Environmental Studies and Sustainability—contributing to data analysis initiatives and developing recommendations for park management.

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

Everyone deserves to live somewhere they can lead a safe and healthy life. I want to help local leaders access resources to build stronger, more connected communities that can provide residents with that opportunity. I like that MI Funding Hub offers an accessible database, technical assistance, and one-on-one work with municipalities.



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

I wish they knew the value in leveraging partnerships both as they apply for grants and carry out the program. Michigan is full of so many great community organizations and nonprofits that cities and townships can work with to expand their capacity. Sharing the time burden with these groups helps communities get what they're looking for out of the funding they're seeking.