



MI Funding Hub

April 2025 Newsletter

Subject Line: April Showers Bring MI Funding Hub

April Webinar

The April webinar will be held on **Thursday, April 24, at 10:00 a.m.** Join us for an engaging session with guest speakers, grant updates, and more!

[Register for the April webinar.](#)

Grant Basics: The Funding Is Yours, Now What?

An evaluation plan is key to understanding the impact of your grant program and demonstrating the value of your grant investments to the right stakeholders.

Start by identifying what it is that you need to evaluate. What are your project objectives? What do you want to say about the impact of your initiative at the end of the grant? Does the funder have evaluation requirements? These questions help identify the indicators demonstrating that the grant objectives were achieved that report on funder requirements. The questions you and your funder want to answer about the grant also help determine the type of data you may need to collect, whether qualitative data, quantitative data, or both. They also guide you to the right data collection methods for your needs. Surveys are useful for collecting pre- and post program data, and for quick data from large groups. Focus groups are effective for more targeted and detailed stakeholder feedback. Know where to go to get the data you need. If you want to learn more, continue reading the grant guide on [the MI Funding Hub website](#).

Check Out These Grant Opportunities

[Letter of Intent to Reserve MI Neighborhood CDBG Funds](#)

Letter of Intent Deadline: Thursday, April 17

Awards: Up to \$1.5 million

Description: “MSHDA's Neighborhood Development Division (NDD) allocates Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds through the MI Neighborhood Program. This grant funding is provided to non-entitlement units of general local government—including cities, towns, townships, villages, and counties—that do not receive direct CDBG allocations from [the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development] (see [CDBG Municipalities Map](#) to determine eligibility.)”



[DTE Community Empowerment Awards](#)

Application Deadline: Friday, May 16

Awards: Up to \$50,000

Description: "The Community Empowerment Awards is a DTE Foundation initiative dedicated to uplifting, recognizing and supporting organizations that make significant contributions to community development and empowerment."

[Transportation Economic Development Fund- Category F Cities in Rural Counties](#)

Application Deadline: Thursday, May 1

Awards: Up to \$375,000

Description: "To provide funding for transportation projects that:

- Improve access to the state all-season system;
- Improve safety and all-season capabilities on routes having high commercial traffic; and
- Are coordinated with the secondary all-season system (TEDF Category D) or provide all-season routes within an urban area."

Events and Resources

[Local Leaders Webinar Series: Floodplains 101](#)

Date and Time: Tuesday, April 15, 10:00 a.m.

Description: "Is there a waterbody that runs through, or near your community? In Michigan, more than 1,000 communities participate in the [Federal Emergency Management Agency] National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and an even greater number have unmapped flood zones, yet every waterbody has the potential to flood. This webinar is an opportunity to learn about floodplain management, the flood provisions in Michigan Building Codes, and EGLE's Floodplain Authority found in state regulations. We will discuss what a floodplain is, what activities require a permit, floodplain development administrative responsibilities, and reviewing an Elevation Certificate. This course is designed for anyone involved in development within your community such as supervisors, clerks, building officials and inspectors, engineers, and surveyors."



[MI Healthy Climate Conference 2025](#)

Dates: Tuesday, April 22–Wednesday, April 23

Description: “Join [the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE)] on the ‘Road to 2030’ at the 2025 MI Healthy Climate Conference on April 22-23 in Detroit! We are hosting this 1.5-day event to report on the progress of the MI Healthy Climate Plan, build connections and empower collaboration, mobilize opportunities, and prioritize our next steps towards reaching the goals of the Plan. This conference is expected to draw more than 800 attendees from local, state, federal, and tribal governments, universities, nonprofits, community groups, and businesses.”

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

Bethel Skinker, P.E., Senior Project Engineer, OHM Advisors



Spotlight

Bethel retired from EGLE as district supervisor with the Drinking Water and Environmental Health Division in September 2022 and joined OHM Advisors as a senior project engineer in January 2023. She started working as a district engineer and worked her way up to the Lansing district supervisor. Her 27 years of experience with EGLE included assisting community water suppliers in compliance with state and federal drinking water regulations, guiding them on how to get back into compliance when in violation, directing them to funding sources for capital improvements, reviewing and scoring project plans for funding, performing water system evaluations, reviewing construction plans and specifications, and issuing permits. She is very enthusiastic in using these skills with her new role as partner with MI Funding Hub and the communities being served.

Working with OHM Advisors for a year and a half now, Bethel has acquired additional experience outside of the regulatory sphere, which has enhanced her perspectives on how to guide and support



communities toward funding opportunities and providing technical assistance relating to drinking water and wastewater, contamination, recycling, and other funding sources.

Why do you work in community advancement?

I collaborated with several communities during my time with EGLE and I can tell which communities need improvements. It is very painful to see communities struggling to meet regulations and protect public health while not being able to provide the quality of life their residents need. My passion to serve and respond to the needs of communities inspires me to advocate for community advancement.

What is one thing you wish communities seeking funding knew?

There are more funding opportunities now available that can help communities address their needs and improve their quality of life. The one thing I wish communities seeking funding knew is that MI Funding Hub is a wonderful place to start. Once you sign up for coaching, you will get excellent help on how to successfully seek available funding and learn essential information on how to develop strong grant or loan funding applications.