

Operation Care

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), under certain circumstances, permits non-profit organizations to utilize highway rest areas, roadside park facilities and scenic turnouts for the purposes of dispensing refreshments to motorists.

Requests sponsored by the Michigan State Police (MSP) and MDOT are part of the Operation CARE program. The MSP initially screens each permit application. Upon receipt of each permit application from the MSP, MDOT may issue a permit. These permitted activities generally occur over the 3 major holidays each year; Memorial Day, Independence Day, and Labor Day. Permit applicants may request the use of any rest area or roadside park.

Eligibility Requirements

In order for an organization to be eligible for a permit to use an MDOT rest area, roadside park, or scenic turnout facility, for the purpose of serving non-alcoholic refreshments to the motoring public, the following conditions shall be met:

- A permit may only be granted to an approved non-profit, charitable, or service-type organization undertaking public service-type work. This includes governmental agencies. Permits shall not be granted to individuals or to organizations whose purpose is to make a profit or raise monies for anything other than public service.
- The use of the facility shall be for the express purpose of improving the safety of highway travel and transportation. The use shall not be for the purpose of raising funds. However, it is recognized that donations offered, without solicitation, may be used for the purpose of supporting the public service activities of that organization.
- In order for an organization to be considered an eligible permit applicant, for the use of MDOT roadside facilities, it shall demonstrate a continued effort of public service. Compliance with the standard conditions of MDOT for the use of those facilities shall be required.

Permit Requirements

Permit issuance is subject to the following:

- Each permit duration shall not extend beyond the current calendar year.
- The collection of donations shall not be prohibited, but shall conform to the provisions of the standard conditions.
- No insurance shall be required from the permit applicant on behalf of MDOT in these activities. As a condition of the permit, it shall be noted that the permit actually provides that the permit applicant “save harmless” MDOT. Nevertheless, an organization may voluntarily determine that it is in their best interest to name MDOT as a protected insured.

All construction permit applications are submitted and purchased through the [Michigan Business OneStop](#) online service.

For more information on the Construction Permit process or Michigan Business OneStop, please visit:

https://www.michigan.gov/mdot/0,1607,7-151-9623_26662_26679_27267_48606-182161--,00.html

For more information on Operation Care, please visit:

<http://mdotcf.state.mi.us/public/webforms/public/UP-03.pdf>