Michigan
Department of
AGRICULTURE

MICHIGAN AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION FUND BOARD
REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION:
LOCAL PURCHASE OF DELEVOPMENT RIGHTS PROGRAM

Submit all required information to:
Michigan Dept. of Agriculture, ESD
Farmland Preservation
Attn: Ag. Preservation Fund
PO Box 30449
Lansing, MI 48909

The following is a list of requirements for local Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) programs to become certified. Please attach all of the required program elements indicated for your unit of government below along with a cover letter indicating:

- **LOCAL PDR PROGRAM INFORMATION**
  - **NAME**
  - **ADDRESS**
  - **CONTACT PERSON AND PHONE NUMBER**

- **UNIT OF GOVERNMENT INFORMATION:**
  - **NAME**
  - **ADDRESS**
  - **CONTACT PERSON AND PHONE NUMBER**

MDA will accept the qualification information for every unit of government individually or for all units participating in one local program sent together under one application. For multiple units participating in one program that send in a joint application, be sure to include the *Unit of Government Information* requested above for every unit that is requesting to be qualified to participate in the local program.

QUALIFICATION:
MDA will qualify a local program as meeting the requirements when all program elements are submitted and reviewed. If all program elements are submitted and meet the requirements of the Agricultural Preservation Fund Board, you will receive a letter from the MDA indicating that your local program is qualified and those units of government who have met the requirements to participate in the local program. MDA will not qualify partial programs or individual program elements until the local program has been qualified.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS:
The Board has determined that the best approach to issuing grants to local units of government for purchase of development rights programs is to defer to local government scoring systems rather than to review individual parcels submitted by the applicants. Grants will be made based on points awarded considering various public policy objectives. All local PDR programs shall, at a minimum, include items (a) through (e) listed below in their parcel scoring system and selection process.

(a) Farmland that has a productive capacity suited for the production of feed, food and fiber.

(b) Farmland that would complement and is part of a documented, long-range effort or plan for land preservation by the local unit of government in which the farmland is located.
(c) Farmland that is located within an area that complements other land protection efforts by creating a block of farmland that is subject to an agricultural conservation easement under this part or part 361, or a development rights agreement under part 361, or in which development rights have been acquired under part 361.
(d) Farmland in which a greater portion of matching funds or a larger percentage of the agricultural conservation easement value is provided by a local unit of government or sources other than the fund.
(e) Farmland that will help to enhance other local open space initiatives in the community such as connecting an open space or wildlife habitat corridor, or in preserving unique habitats/natural features that benefit local conservation efforts. (This provision is not in statute but was adopted by the Board.)

PLEASE ATTACH COPIES OF THE FOLLOWING PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

FOR LOCAL PDR PROGRAM QUALIFICATION:
Please submit a copy of the following program elements for qualification:

1. A copy of the Purchase of Development Rights Ordinance, which includes the application procedure and the method to determine the value of development rights.

2. The local Scoring System that will be used to determine priority parcels.

3. Plan for Monitoring and easement maintenance.

FOR GOVERNMENT UNITS PARTICIPATING IN A LOCAL PROGRAM:
Please submit a copy of the following planning elements for qualification:

A copy of the Comprehensive Land Use Plan for participating units of government with zoning authority and a letter from the local PDR program board indicating that the comprehensive plan is consistent with the goals of the local PDR program.

1) The comprehensive land use plan has been adopted within the last 10 years and reviewed and/or updated within the last 5 years.
2) The comprehensive land use plan of the applying entity contains an agricultural preservation component, consisting of:
    a) A future land use map indicating the areas intended for agricultural preservation,
    b) Text describing the strategies intended to be used in order to preserve the agricultural land, including Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) but should include other techniques.
    c) Language indicating why farmland should be preserved in the community (cost of services studies, economic benefit to the community etc.)
    d) A description of how and why the preservation area was selected.

Resolutions from the participating units of government stating their intent to participate in the local program.

LOCAL PDR PROGRAM QUALIFICATION CHECKLIST

LOCAL PROGRAM QUALIFICATION ELEMENTS:

- [ ] Cover letter with contact information for the local PDR program
- [ ] Approved PDR Ordinance
- [ ] Scoring system
- [ ] Monitoring Plan

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PLANNING ELEMENTS:

- [ ] Cover letter with contact information for the unit of government
- [ ] Comprehensive Plan
- [ ] Letter from local PDR board indicating the plan meets the goals of the program
- [ ] Resolution to participate in the local PDR program

SEND ALL INFORMATION TO:

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