



## **WATERWAYS GRANT-IN-AID FOR INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS**

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### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

Waterways Grant-In-Aid for Infrastructure Improvements is provided to local units of government (cities, villages, townships, and counties) and public universities for contracted final engineering and construction improvements, including development and/or expansion of recreational boating facilities. This includes both marinas/harbors (primarily transient facilities) and boating access sites.

### **LEGISLATIVE HISTORY**

This program was created through enactment of state of Michigan Public Act 320 of 1947, which created the Michigan State Waterways Commission (MSWC). This program is administered through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

### **GRANT GUIDELINES**

Grant assistance is provided at a base level of 50% of the estimated project cost. Requests for less than 50% state funding may be given additional preference in the selection process. Any funding requests above 50% state funding are determined based on a formal review by DNR staff of the community's certified financial audits filed with the Department of Treasury for the past three years. Infrastructure improvements can include final engineering and contingency costs, as well as costs normally associated with construction of these facilities. In return, the local unit must provide the land free-of-charge and agree to operate and maintain the completed facility. Any final engineering or construction work is to be performed by a professional, licensed in the state of Michigan, whose place of business is located in the state of Michigan.

Applications for funding are accepted at all times but must be received by the program manager by 5 PM EST, APRIL 1 of the application year, for funding consideration. Grant applicants must exhibit satisfactory performance on past Michigan DNR grants for proposal consideration.

### **GRANT PROCESS**

Upon receipt of an inquiry from a local unit, the program manager discusses with or visits the local unit and reviews the proposed project to determine available assistance. A preliminary engineering study may be required to determine the design, cost, and feasibility of constructing the proposed facilities (see *Waterways Grant-in-Aid for Preliminary Engineering, IC 4751-1*). The local community then submits a grant application for infrastructure improvements to the Michigan DNR, Parks and Recreation Division. After the April 1 deadline, a standard facility tier review occurs. If the proposed project complies with planning goals for the program, the application is then approved by the Parks and Recreation Division, and the program manager discusses the next step with the local unit. Project funding proposals are taken to the MSWC typically during the spring of each year for review and input. If approved, smaller grants are processed. For larger grants, Waterways Commission approval, DNR Director approval, and specific appropriation by the Legislature may be required. If approved and the project becomes part of a legislative bill, grant monies are typically unavailable until after October 1, two fiscal years later.

Infrastructure improvements are conducted by the local unit with matching grant monies. All projects funded through the MSWC must comply with the most recent provisions of the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended, and all other applicable state and federal requirements.

### **FUNDING SOURCE**

The restricted Waterways Fund consists of revenues derived from 2% of state gasoline taxes and 51% of watercraft registration fees. The level of funding available varies from year to year. Federal Dingell-Johnson funds, from the Sport Fish Restoration Act, may be used to augment project funding.

### **PROGRAM CONTACTS:**

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