



Challenge #3: Growing Green Lending APPLICATION

Open: February 2, 2026

Response Due: 11:59PM EST, Sunday, March 22, 2026

A digital version of this application will be available at Michigan.gov/MHCChallenge

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To request this material in an alternative format, contact EGLE-Accessibility@Michigan.gov or 800-662-9278.

Submission Requirements

Applicants must submit all of the following documents by the application deadline:

- **Application**
 - Answer each question in the application.
 - Submit your responses as a **Word document (.doc/.docx) or PDF (.pdf)**.
 - All questions are required. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed.
- **Project Timeline**
 - Submit as a **Word document (.doc/.docx) or PDF (.pdf)**.
- **Project Budget**
 - Submit as an **Excel file (.xls/.xlsx) or PDF (.pdf)**.

Formatting Guidelines

- Label each document with your **organization name and project title**.
- Ensure file names indicate the content (e.g., *OrgName_Application.pdf*; *OrgName_Timeline.docx*; *OrgName_Budget.xlsx*).

Submission Instructions

- Submit all required documents together in a single email to: NeuenfeldtH@Michigan.gov.
- Applications must be received no later than **Sunday, March 22, 2026, at 11:59 PM**.

Important Notes

- Only complete applications will be considered.
- The source of this grant funding is federal, and grant awardees must agree to meet federal requirements. Applicants should review federal compliance requirements before applying. For an overview of the requirements, please [see this link](#).
- This funding cannot support capitalization for any financial product, including, but not limited to loans, loan funds, loan loss reserves, or interest rate buy-downs.
- This funding cannot also not support the direct purchase, installation, or construction of clean energy equipment or facilities. Funds must support activities that enable or expand green lending capacity.
- If you have questions regarding the application, please contact Haley Neuenfeldt at NeuenfeldtH@Michigan.gov.
- Applicants that are new to the Growing Green Lending Challenge are encouraged to review background materials available at Michigan.gov/MHCChallenge prior to submitting an application.

Applicant Information

1. **Project Title:**
2. **Organization Name:**
3. **Are you the lead applicant (Yes/No)?**

(If no, please share the lead applicant organization name and why you are the submitting entity.)

4. **Contact Information**

- a. **Contact Person:**
- b. **Contact Person Title:**
- c. **Address:**
- d. **Email:**
- e. **Phone Number:**

5. **Type of entity:**

- a. For-profit
- b. Nonprofit
- c. Tribal government
- d. Local government
- e. State government
- f. Municipal or cooperative utility
- g. Educational entity (K-12 school, college, university)
- h. Other (please explain): _____

6. **List of Application Partner Organizations:**

(Please list only formal partners in the proposal you are submitting for this application. If the lead applicant is not a Michigan-based financial institution, one or more partner organizations must be a Michigan-based financial institution.)

- a. Partner 1:
- b. Partner 2:
- c. Partner 3:

Project Description

7. **Executive Summary** (*Suggested length: 150-200 words*)

Briefly summarize your project. Include the main objectives, target community, alignment with the MI Healthy Climate Plan, and how this project will have a catalytic or transformational impact on green lending and Michigan's climate goals.

8. **Background and Rationale** (*Suggested length: 300-400 words. Applicants may respond concisely; bullet points are acceptable.*)

Describe the specific problem or gap your project seeks to address, including barriers to accessing green capital. Explain why this challenge is important to address in order to expand and strengthen green lending in Michigan. Provide context on current conditions, market dynamics, or policy considerations that make this project timely and necessary. Focus on the problem and context; detailed descriptions of your solution, partnerships, and impacts should be addressed in later sections.

9. **Project Model** (*Suggested length: 400-600 words. Applicants may respond concisely; bullet points are acceptable.*)

Describe your proposed project and how it will support green lending in Michigan. Focus on your design, operations, and the roles of partners.

Please address the following:

- a) **Project structure:** Describe main components and how they work together.
- b) **Roles of partners:** Describe decision-making authority, contributions (financial, in-kind, expertise), and collaboration strategy. If your organization is not a Michigan-based financial institution, please explain how a Michigan-based financial institution will actively participate in and benefit from the project.
- c) **Impact on financing:** Explain how your project helps lenders, borrowers, or communities access, structure, or use clean energy financing. Include specific tools, products, or processes.
- d) **Innovation:** Explain how your approach differs from existing programs and highlight quantifiable or measurable improvements.
- e) **Statewide contribution:** Explain how the project builds green lending capacity beyond immediate participants.
- f) **Program alignment:** Map your project to one or more Growing Green Lending Program objectives and explain how your project advances them.

Project Impacts

10. Project Goals and Objectives

Start by reviewing the Challenge #3 Program Objectives below. Then, for each objective your project addresses, define your specific project objective, list sub-goals, and identify measurable impacts to show how your project will advance that goal.

Challenge #3 Program Objectives:

- Enhance Access to Green Capital
- Foster Innovative Partnerships and Strategies
- Strengthen Michigan’s Clean Energy Project Pipeline
- Leverage Additional Capital to Accelerate Investment
- Support the Clean Energy Transition for Underserved Communities

Step-by-Step:

1. **Select the Challenge #3 objectives** your project addresses.
2. **Project Objective:** For each selected Challenge objective, describe your project’s specific objective that advances it.
3. **Sub-Goals and Measurable Impacts:** For each project objective, list 1–3 sub-goals and the measurable impacts that show progress. Include metrics and how you will track them.

Example Table Format:

Challenge #3 Objective	Project Objective	Sub-Goal	Measurable Impact / Metric	Tracking Method
Enhance Access to Green Capital	Expand community lenders’ ability to offer green loans	Train 5 lenders on green lending products	5 lenders offering new green loans	Attendance logs and post-training survey
Support Underserved Communities	Improve borrower readiness in low-income neighborhoods	Conduct 3 financial prep workshops	50 households prepared to apply for loan	Workshop registration and pre/post assessment

Project Activities

11. Project Timeline Worksheet:

Applicants must submit a detailed project timeline using the provided Project Timeline Template. Include milestones linked to measurable outcomes. To ensure your timeline is clear, complete, and reviewable, please follow the instructions in the Project Timeline Template.

12. Project Timeline Narrative *(Suggested length: 250-400 words. Applicants may respond concisely; bullet points are acceptable.)*

The Timeline Narrative complements your worksheet by explaining the reasoning and context behind your schedule. Explain key dependencies, responsible parties, expected deliverables, and how each milestone contributes to measurable project outcomes.

Project Budget

13. Total Grant Request: \$ _____

14. Total Additional Funding: \$ _____

Identify other funding supporting this project and indicate the type (local, state, private, internal, federal, not yet secured, other), specific funding source, and amounts.

15. Project Budget Worksheet

Applicants must submit a detailed project budget using the Project Budget Template provided. To ensure your budget is clear, complete, and reviewable, please follow the instructions in the Project Budget Template.

16. Project Budget Narrative *(Suggested length: 250-400 words. Applicants may respond concisely; bullet points are acceptable.)*

The Budget Narrative complements your worksheet by explaining the reasoning and context behind your budget. For each budget item, provide:

- **Purpose and Need:** Explain why the cost is necessary for the project and how each budget item supports specific project objectives and measurable outcomes.
- **Cost Basis:** Describe how the amount was calculated and note any assumptions.
- **Roles (if applicable):** Identify staff roles, hours, and contractual scope.

- **External Factors:** Discuss any conditions (e.g., approvals, contractor availability, funding schedules) that could affect budget.
- **Connection to Project Goals:** Explain how the expense supports project activities and outcomes.

Team Experience

17. Team Experience *(Suggested length: 150-300 words. Applicants may respond concisely; bullet points are acceptable.)*

Briefly describe your organization's relevant experience in green lending, clean-energy finance, technical assistance, or related projects. Include examples of previous successful initiatives. (Focus on experience relevant to this project; organizational background may be summarized briefly.)

Attachments

18. Please attach the following:

- **Application (required)**
 - a. Submit your responses as a Word document (.doc/.docx) or PDF (.pdf).
- **Project Timeline (required)**
 - a. Submit your responses as a Word document (.doc/.docx) or PDF (.pdf).
- **Project Budget (required)**
 - a. Submit as an Excel file (.xls/.xlsx) or PDF (.pdf).
- **Organizational capacity statement or resume of project lead(s) (optional)**
 - a. Submit your responses as a Word document (.doc/.docx) or PDF (.pdf).
- **Letters of support or partnership commitments (optional)**
 - a. Submit your responses as a Word document (.doc/.docx) or PDF (.pdf).
- **A-133 (if applicable)**
 - a. Most recent copy of the A-133 or outside audit OR the most recent financial statements (balance sheet and income statement). Applicants that receive cumulative federal funding of over \$750,000, or that receive a single state award over \$500,000 are required to provide an A-133 single audit.