



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY  
WATER RESOURCES DIVISION

## 2023-2024 Dam Risk Reduction Grant Program Handbook



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## Introduction

In May 2020, heavy rainfall in the areas surrounding Gladwin and Midland Counties led to the catastrophic failure of the Edenville and Sanford Dams. The resulting torrent of water caused evacuation of residents and damage to property estimated to a total of \$200 million. In response to this disaster and with recent appropriations provided by the Michigan legislature, EGLE has taken steps to expand the state's Dam Safety Program, including creation of the Dam Risk Reduction Grant Program. This grant program aims to provide private owners with the needed resources for proper management of existing dams and reduce the overall risk of dam failure in Michigan.

## Schedule

The Anticipated Schedule is as Follows:

Request for Pre-Proposals Begins	November 6, 2023
Pre-Proposal Dues	December 4, 2023
Invitation to Submit Grant Application Packet Begins	December 15, 2023
Grant Application Packet Due	January 31, 2024
EGLE Review & Selection Process Complete and Awards Announced	April 15, 2024
Project Period Begins	Upon Execution of Grant Agreement
Project Schedule	Follows work plan and 2-year schedule

## Goals

The Dam Risk Reduction Grant program is designed to address the following goals:

- Reduce or eliminate risk associated with dams.
- Ensure regulated dams are in compliance with Part 315, Dam Safety; and Part 307, Inland Lake Levels, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended (NREPA).
- Develop strong relationships with private dam owners or operators and provide resources as needed.
- Protect environmental and human health threatened by aging dam infrastructure.

## Program Eligibility and Requirements

Entities that own or operate a dam in the state of Michigan are eligible to apply. The applicant should be the entity that will hold the vendor contracts, if applicable. Federally regulated hydropower dams are ineligible for grant funding.

Applicants must demonstrate that their project will reduce or eliminate risk associated with the dam. Applicants must be in compliance with the safety requirements of Part 315 and Part 307 of the NREPA. If not in compliance, the proposed project must be part of an approvable compliance plan provided EGLE.

## Grant Limits and Match Commitments Requirements

All applications will require a minimum of 10 percent matching funds. The grant award start date is anticipated as early as April 15, 2024, and projects will be expected to be completed within a 2-year schedule.

The total grant award will be based on reasonably estimated costs and documentation provided by the grantee at grant application. The grant will function on a reimbursement basis where work is reported quarterly and expenses are based on costs incurred and paid and associated invoices or other appropriate supporting documentation are submitted to EGLE, prior to grant funds being reimbursed to the grantee.

EGLE may offer grant amounts other than those requested and request changes to the proposed work plan. Submitted application information is not confidential. Grant applications are considered public information under the Freedom of Information Act, 1976 PA 442, as amended.

### Eligible Projects

Funding is restricted to projects that significantly reduce or eliminate risk associated with dams. Eligibility of activities will be project-specific and determined on a case-by-case basis. Eligible activities under the grant may include, but are not limited to:

- Planning, feasibility studies, or design, of projects that reduce or eliminate risk of dam failure.
- Repair, alteration, or removal of dams.
- Post project monitoring and corrective actions.

### Ineligible Projects

Ineligible activities under the grant include, but are not limited to:

- Minor repairs or maintenance that do not significantly reduce the risk of dam failure.
- Repair or removal projects at federally regulated hydropower dams.
- Lake dredging.

### Applying For Dam Risk Reduction Grant

The Dam Risk Reduction Program application process has been broken down into a two-step process:

- Submittal of a pre-proposal on a form provided by EGLE.
- Submittal of an application on a form provided by EGLE, if invited to do so.

Applicants that complete each step in a correct and timely manner will be considered for funding. Missing or incomplete information may result in non-consideration for a given project.

## Pre-Proposal Process

Pre-proposals are to be submitted in PDF form to [ManuszakM@Michigan.gov](mailto:ManuszakM@Michigan.gov) and must be received no later than **December 4, 2023**.

Pre-proposals must include the following information:

- Project title including the name of the dam name, dam ID number, and hazard potential
- Name, address, phone number, and email address of applicant
- A list of project partners
- Total project cost
- Amount of grant funding requested
- Proposed match funds
- Proposed match source(s)
- Anticipated project schedule including start and completion dates
- Project description including project goals, deliverables, and explanation of risk(s) reduced or eliminated by completion of the project
- Project location
- Benefits of the project
- Methods used to complete the project
- A description of how the project will achieve the goals of the Dam Risk Reduction Program

Pre-proposals will be batched and ranked using risk-based prioritization methods to determine the level of risk avoided or eliminated by completion of the project. Following review, EGLE will invite qualified applicants to submit full application packets according to this ranking and total amount of funding requested.

EGLE may request additional information for clarification purposes. EGLE may offer grant amounts other than those requested and request changes to the proposed work plan. Submitted application information is not confidential. Grant applications are considered public information under the Freedom of Information Act, 1976 PA 442, as amended.

## Application Submission

Invitations to submit full applications will be provided to qualified applicants by December 15, 2023.

The full application packet must be submitted via PDF to Mason Manuszak, Dam Safety Unit (DSU), Field Operations Support Section (FOSS), Water Resources Division (WRD), at [ManuszakM@Michigan.gov](mailto:ManuszakM@Michigan.gov) by January 31, 2024.

Following the invite only application period, applications will be batched and ranked using the same risk-based prioritization methods to determine the level of risk avoided or eliminated by completion of the project. This prioritization considers but is not limited to hazard classification, public impact, owner cooperation, among other factors. The awarded Grants are planned to be announced as early as April 15, 2024.

Successful applicants will be required to submit supporting materials before the execution of a grant agreement. This includes an **Asset Management Plan** if the proposed project is performing work to repair or rehabilitate a dam. Additionally, all successful applicants will be required to provide a **Financial Audit** from a time period within 24 months of the announcement of this funding opportunity.

Successful applicants will be required to enter into a grant agreement with EGLE. A grant agreement consists of standard “boilerplate” language and the applicant’s project description, work plan, timeline, and budget information.

### Additional Information and Contact Information

For questions about this grant opportunity, contact Mason Manuszak at 989-370-1528 or [ManuszakM@Michigan.gov](mailto:ManuszakM@Michigan.gov) or Luke Trumble , Supervisor, Dam Safety Unit, Field Operations Support Section, WRD, at 517-420-8923 or [TrumbleL@Michigan.gov](mailto:TrumbleL@Michigan.gov).

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