

MAY 15, 2023



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF
**LABOR & ECONOMIC
OPPORTUNITY**

MI IMPACT GRANT

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS:
12:00PM (NOON) ON JUNE 23, 2023**

OVERVIEW

The MI Impact Grant program supports Governor Whitmer's economic vision outlined in the "[MI New Economy](#)" agenda that set a goal of lifting 100,000 families out of working poverty during the next five years. It also supports the recommendations of the [Michigan Poverty Task Force](#), whose goal is to address the disparities that affect Michiganders abilities to afford necessities such as housing, child care, food, health care and transportation.

The Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity (LEO) will provide \$15 million in funding to support the critical work nonprofits do each day to provide meaningful and sustained relief in the communities they serve and provide a lasting impact. This funding is supported through the American Rescue Plan Act, Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) program, which had the goal to build a strong, resilient, and equitable recovery by making investments that support long-term growth and opportunity. Additional information can be found at <https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/coronavirus/assistance-for-state-local-and-tribal-governments/state-and-local-fiscal-recovery-funds>.

PURPOSE

LEO is accepting applications for innovative programs that provide, or expand, programming with the intent of lifting people out of poverty and above the [ALICE](#) (Asset Limited Income Constrained, Employed) threshold, especially as it pertains to the effects COVID had on this population. SLFRF is available to address the "long-standing disparities in health and economic outcomes in underserved communities, that amplified and exacerbated the impacts of the pandemic, also present continued barriers to full and equitable recovery."

LEO seeks to partner with nonprofits that share the state's commitment, and has demonstrated expertise, in engaging and supporting disproportionately impacted communities. LEO anticipates awarding multiple grants, for amounts between \$1,000,000 to \$2,000,000, for the time period of August 24, 2023 - August 24, 2025.

LEO is requesting proposals from nonprofits that have demonstrated experience and success in providing programming and resources to support the communities they serve, while prioritizing equitable outcomes. The proposals must advance initiatives that:

1. Improve outcomes for low-income families transitioning to self-sufficiency. This may be accomplished through a variety of means, including cash assistance programs, assistance with food, and/or other transitional programs.
2. Provide services for those without bank accounts. This may be accomplished by providing low or no cost financial services or providing financial literacy programming.
3. Provide assistance to unemployed or underemployed workers. This may be accomplished through job training, subsidized employment, employment supports or incentives.
4. Expand services to foster youth or families involved in the child welfare system, including educational supports.
5. Support strong, healthy communities through neighborhood features that promote health and safety. This can be accomplished through programs to increase access to healthy food, revitalize public spaces, and provide access to neighborhood-based entrepreneurial supports.

6. Provide mental health services for underserved communities. Programs may include programs that divert people with behavioral health needs away from the justice system.

Proposals that support housing and educational programs will not be considered for this funding, as they are being addressed through other SLFRF funding sources available through other state departments.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Impact Grant applicants must meet the following criteria to be eligible:

- Be a nonprofit, operating in Michigan, certified as a 501(c)3 or 501 (c)19 by the Internal Revenue Service. Recipients are required to provide an IRS letter of determination of nonprofit status.
- Provide expanded services to meet the needs of individuals in poverty and to lift families above the ALICE threshold.
- Demonstrate financial stability and capacity to manage additional funds.
- Be compliant with state and federal regulatory bodies including the IRS, Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA), and Michigan Attorney General.
- Must have been in operation prior to January 1, 2019.

Noneligible Applicants

The following organizations are not eligible for the MI Impact Grant:

- For-profit entities
- Organizations that are 501(c)(4)s or 501(c)(6)s
- K-12 schools, including charter, public and private
- Higher Education Institutions
- Municipalities, municipal subdivisions, and other government agencies
- Hospitals
- Trade associations
- Credit unions
- Insurance trusts
- Fraternal orders
- Religious Programming (faith-based nonprofits may request funding to support services that are not religious based programming and do not discriminate based on religion)

Ineligible Costs

- Capital expenditures
- Corporate debts
- Contingencies
- Contributions and donations
- Entertainment costs
- Fines and penalties
- Legislative expenses
- Any religious activity
- Political/advocacy activity

The nonprofit must possess the capacity to carry out their responsibilities to coordinate and perform grant administrative activities, communicate program goals, and demonstrate an innovative approach to improving outcomes for the target population. Throughout the duration of the grant, the organization will work closely with LEO, as all final decisions about the program's strategic direction and vision will be made with the approval of the LEO Grant Administrator.

SCOPE OF SERVICES

Utilizing no more than 7.5% of the award for administration of this grant, LEO seeks to secure nonprofits to create or expand innovative programming intended to lift people out of poverty. Proposals should include:

1. A detailed overview of the proposed program, including:
 - Describe the problem the program is targeting and how this program attempts to address it. Detail how this solution is innovative and any evidence that it will be successful and can be scaled and sustainable.
 - SLFRF requires that responses to the pandemic must be related and reasonably proportional to the extent and type of harm experienced. Describe how the proposed program will be designed to address the harm that was exacerbated by the pandemic, while also being reasonably proportional.
 - Identify how the program fits into the larger effort of the Michigan Poverty Task Force.
 - Description of tactics to ensure that programs are tailored to the meet the specific needs of the families and communities they serve
 - Develop and provide blueprint on program design features that include the following:
 - Overall engagement strategies
 - Partnerships
 - Reaching underserved, underrepresented and marginalized families and communities
 - Describe how the program is aligned with best practices in the field
 - Detailed project timeline outlining proposed deliverables, tasks, and timeframes
 - If applicable, describe a plan to sustain the program beyond the term of the grant funds.
2. Program outreach and promotion
 - Raise awareness of program
 - Develop promotional material
 - Host outreach events
3. Administration of program
 - Commit to regular administrative updates to LEO:
 - Provide LEO with updated program information to be used for marketing materials
 - Process special information requests from LEO, such as metrics and success stories
 - Participate in scheduled update calls with LEO
 - Provide an outcomes reporting plan:
 - Describe plan to collect and evaluate data to assess program impact and effectiveness
 - Commit to providing monthly written summary of progress, outlining work accomplished during the previous reporting period
 - Participate in a third-party evaluation and support efforts to assess outcomes, identify scaling opportunities, and make program improvements

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

To demonstrate grant success, Respondents must be able to track and report monthly on the following anticipated performance measures:

Anticipated Performance Measures
What is the number of impacted and/or disproportionately impacted population served?
What is the number of families served that fall below the ALICE threshold?
How many families are served with this funding?
How much funding is going to geographically disadvantaged areas as defined by Executive Directive 2019 – 08?

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

To ensure quality execution of this grant, the organization is responsible for participating in scheduled check-in calls and submitting Monthly Narrative Progress Reports and Monthly Financial Reports to LEO. Report templates will be provided.

RFP PROCESS AND TERMS AND CONDITIONS

TIMELINE FOR GRANT PROPOSAL AND AWARD

Proposals must be submitted by 12:00 PM (NOON) on June 23, 2023 via EGrAMS

Contact: Denise Flannery, Program Manager
Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity
LEO-PovertyTaskForce@michigan.gov

All respondents will be contacted regarding their status and/or potential grant award per the following schedule:

DATE	ACTIVITY
May 15, 2023	RFP Posted
May 24, 2023	Pre-Bid Informational Webinar
May 31, 2023	EGRAMS Technical Assistance Webinar
June 23, 2023	Deadline for Submission
August 15, 2023	Awardee Notified
August 24, 2023 – August 24, 2025	Grant Period

PRE-BID WEBINARS

A pre-bid webinar to provide an overview of the grant opportunity will be held on Wednesday, May 24 at 1pm. To register in advance for the webinar, please go to:

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_aHEVqSi5T9SvePC97yfEyw

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

A pre-bid webinar to provide an overview of utilizing EGrAMS grant management system will be held on Wednesday, May 31 at 1pm. To register in advance for the webinar, please go to:

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_K_qc9IEPTCqkRuKxE1jpGA

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

PROPOSALS

To be considered, respondents must submit a complete response to this RFP by noon June 23, 2023. Respondent's proposal must be submitted in the EGrAMS grant management system. There should be no attachments, enclosures, or exhibits other than those required in the RFP or considered by the Respondent to be essential to a complete understanding of the proposal.

Each response should be prepared simply and economically, providing a straightforward, concise description of the respondent's ability to meet the requirements of the RFP. Emphasis should be on completeness and clarity of content.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Respondents will be rated on evidence of the capacity, commitment, and experience to carry out program management responsibilities; the ability to provide match and/or in-kind support; the experience of the selected Organization; and a plan for decision-making and internal communications.

Responses to this RFP will be evaluated based upon a three-step selection process. The proposal must address the requirements described in the scope of services.

The first step is an evaluation of which proposals satisfactorily meet the requirements of this RFP.

Step I – Evaluation for Compliance

- a) *Proposal Content* – Proposals will be screened for technical compliance to include but not limited to:
- Proposal, Budget, and Budget Narrative clearly identified.
 - Proposal signed electronically by an official of the respondent authorized to bind the respondent to its provisions.
 - Proposals satisfy the form and content requirements of this RFP.

Step II – Criteria for Satisfactory Proposals

- a) During the second step of the selection process, proposals will be considered by a Joint Evaluation Committee ("JEC") comprised of individuals selected by LEO. Only those proposals that satisfy the requirements described in this RFP, as determined at the sole discretion of the JEC, will be considered for evaluation in Step II. The JEC reserves the right to request additional information from any Respondent.
- b) *Competence, Experience and Staffing Capacity* – The proposal should indicate the ability of the Respondent to meet the requirements of this RFP, especially the quality, and recent projects similar to that described in this RFP. The proposal should indicate the competence of the personnel whom the Respondent intends to assign to the project, including education and experience, with particular reference to experience on projects similar to that described in this RFP.
- c) *Delivery of Scope of Services* – The proposal should indicate the ability of the Respondent to execute the Scope of Services as described above.
- d) During the JEC's review, Respondents may be required to make oral presentations of their proposals to the JEC. These presentations provide an opportunity for the Respondents to clarify the proposals. LEO will schedule these presentations, if required by the JEC.

Step III – Criteria for Satisfactory Budget/Budget Narrative

- a) Based on what is in the best interest of the State of Michigan, LEO will award the Grant considering value, quality, and the ability to meet the objectives of this RFP, of proposals that were approved as a result of this three-step evaluation process.
- b) LEO reserves the right to consider economic impact on the State when evaluating proposal budgets. This includes, but is not limited to, job creation, job retention, tax revenue implications, and other economic considerations.
- c) The award recommendation will be made to the responsive and responsible Respondents who offer the best value to LEO and the State of Michigan. The Respondents offering the best proposal that meets the objectives of the RFP will determine best value.
- d) LEO reserves the right to award to another “best value” Respondent in case the original Respondent does not accept the award, or to multiple Respondents.