



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

GARY MCDOWELL
DIRECTOR

October 14, 2022

Dear Farmland Preservation Representative:

The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development along with the Agricultural Preservation Fund Board are pleased to announce the FY 2023 grant funding application cycle for the Michigan Agricultural Preservation Fund. This application cycle is only open to those local farmland preservation programs that have been qualified by the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD). There are 24 local programs qualified to apply for grants this cycle.

Approximately \$2 million grant dollars are available to be awarded to assist local farmland preservation programs in purchasing development rights to preserve locally important farmland.

A program can submit multiple farms to be preserved, however, only one may be granted per program based on the number of programs submitting applications.

Again this year, up to \$250,000 will be set aside for a new program to be awarded funds to close on a property/farm. A new program is defined as a program with three or less agricultural easements that were completed through the Local Grants Program and/or the Federal Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP-ALE).

Applications are to be submitted via email to MDARD-PDR@Michigan.gov no later than the cycle closing date of 4:00 p.m. (EST) on Monday, December 26, 2022. All complete applications received by the deadline will be reviewed and scored by the Michigan Agricultural Preservation Fund Board. Announcements for awarded grants are expected to take place by March of 2023.

The grant application, Policies and Procedures (use this as your guide with the application), and the list of qualified local farmland preservation programs can be found online at www.Michigan.gov/Farmland under the Agricultural Preservation Fund.

Please contact Elizabeth Brost (MDARD) if you have any questions regarding the application, submission process, or the Policies and Procedures.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Elizabeth Brost'.

Elizabeth Brost
Conservation Easement Coordinator
Farmland Preservation Program
517-243-7949