

# Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development One-Time Farm Stress Grant Program

## 2022 Program Guidelines

The Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development (MDARD) is offering a grant opportunity to existing Michigan farm stress programming to expand or sustain stress assistance programs for individuals who are engaged in farming, ranching, and other agriculture-related occupation. The program funds can be used to initiate, expand, or sustain programs that provide professional agricultural behavioral health counseling and referral for other forms of assistance.

### Process:

Proposal	
Release Request for Proposals	April 4, 2022
Proposals Due	May 6, 2022, by 3 p.m. (EST)
JEC	
JEC Scoring and Meeting	May/June 2022
Award	
Announce Award Funding	June/July 2022

### Funding Areas:

Funding will be focused on existing Michigan farm stress programming to expand or sustain stress assistance programs for individuals who are engaged in farming, ranching, and other agriculture-related occupation. The program funds can be used to initiate, expand, or sustain programs that provide professional agricultural behavioral health counseling and referral for other forms of assistance.

The purpose of this funding is to actively address issues of farm stress and mental health during farm business programming that includes farm resource management, such as preventing or easing the process of farm loss, consolidation, and farm succession. The funding can be used to provide education, resources and referrals to farmers, family members, and agribusiness professionals with online options (presentations and trainings) to build communication skills and learn how to identify and manage stress.

The project should clearly outline how the effort will expand or sustain the existing stress assistance programs as described above and include:

1. a description of each activity and the estimated amount of funding to support each program and activity carried out through such a program.
2. an estimated timeline for the operation of each of those programs and activities.
3. the estimated amount of funding to support each program and/or activity, along with the overall total amount of funding sought.

**Grant Criteria:**

- One grant will be awarded for **\$225,000**.
- Applicants are not required to provide a match.
- The grant period will be from September 1, 2022, to August 31, 2024.
- Only one proposal per applicant will be considered.
- Applicants must use the provided application form, and all sections must be complete to be considered for review.
- Applicant must have existing farm stress programming.
- All applicants must be registered as a vendor in the SIGMA Vendor Self Service with the State of Michigan prior to submitting an application. Registration can be completed here: <http://www.michigan.gov/SIGMAVSS>
- This grant is a **cost-reimbursement** program. Grantees are responsible for costs until proper reports/invoices/receipts are received and reviewed.
- Grantees will be eligible for reimbursement up to four (4) times at specified dates, during the 24-month grant cycle, with the final reimbursement provided at the completion of the project.
- Each grantee will be required to submit written reports and appropriate financial documentation to MDARD for payment. Grantees may also be required to report on the outcomes and impact of their grant for a period of time (up to three years) after the grant period ends.
- Applications must be submitted via one email to [mda-grants@michigan.gov](mailto:mda-grants@michigan.gov) by 3 p.m. on May 6, 2022. Include in the subject line the name of your organization. If you do not receive a confirmation of receipt from our office after 48 hours, please call 517-614-7065.
- All Grantees must be registered and in good standing with the LARA Corporations Division, register here: [Corporations Division - Login Page https://cofs.lara.state.mi.us/corpweb/LoginSystem/ExternalLogin.aspx](https://cofs.lara.state.mi.us/corpweb/LoginSystem/ExternalLogin.aspx).

Grant funds **cannot** be used to pay for:

- Land acquisition
- Purchase of a building or facility
- Structural repair of building or facility
- Indirect costs are **not** allowed under this grant program. Indirect costs are defined as the expenses of doing business that are not readily identified within the project but are necessary for the general operation of the organization and the implementation proposal related activities.
- Equipment installed or activities performed outside of the State of Michigan.

- Acquisition costs of general-purpose equipment or lease agreements to own (i.e., lease-to-own, or rent-to-own). *General Purpose Equipment* means equipment that is not limited to technical grant activities. Examples include office equipment and furnishings, modular offices, telephone networks, information technology equipment and systems, air conditioning equipment, reproduction and printing equipment, and motor vehicles.

### **Project Review:**

Projects will be scored on a 100-point scale with a variety of factors, including, but not limited to:

- A well-defined and focused project– 20 points
- Overall impact of the project on the food and agriculture industry in the state of Michigan – 25 points
- Meaningful, measurable, and realistic outcomes – 20 points
- Strong budget, expenditures correlate with the work plan and scope of the project – 20 points
- Does the plan of work contain appropriate activities for the project and are they detailed to show how the objectives will be met in a timely manner – 15 points

MDARD will convene a Joint Evaluation Committee comprised of individuals with an interest in, and knowledge about Michigan’s food and agriculture industry. The committee will score proposals, and recommendations will be made to the MDARD Director.

All communications and inquiries concerning this RFP should be sent via e-mail to: [mda-grants@michigan.gov](mailto:mda-grants@michigan.gov).

MDARD reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to reject an application if it:

- Does not meet the program requirements including scope, eligibility, and allowable grant dollar use
- Is received after the deadline
- Is incomplete or missing any of the required forms, narrative, and budget
- Does not follow the outlined application requirements

---

### **Equal Opportunity**

The State of Michigan and the Department of Agriculture & Rural Development prohibit discrimination on the basis of religion, race, color, national origin, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, height, weight, marital status, partisan considerations, or a disability or genetic information that is unrelated to the person's ability to perform the duties of a particular job or position.

To file a complaint of discrimination, please contact: MDARD Office of Legal Affairs, 525 West Allegan, Lansing, MI 48909, or call 517-284-5729.

You may also contact the Michigan Department of Civil Rights at:  
Phone: 313-456-3700 Fax: 313-456-3701 Toll-Free: 800-482-3604  
TTY: 877-878-8464 Email: [MDCRServiceCenter@michigan.gov](mailto:MDCRServiceCenter@michigan.gov)