



# 2025 Rural Development Fund Grant Webinar



**Tracey Barnes, Amy Bearss, Sasha Eliason, Kayla Chingman,  
Muneeb Khan  
Agriculture Development Division, Grant Programs**

# Agenda

- Program Guidelines Overview
- Application Form Review
- Question & Answer via Chat

\* Today's webinar is being recorded.



# Grants & Funding Opportunities

 > Business Development > Grants & Funding Opportunities

## Current Funding Opportunities

Search for a funding opportunity below.

Sign up to receive email updates about Michigan agriculture grants!

Show 25  entries

Search...



| Title   | Division                  | Applicants  | Description   |
|---|---------------------------|---|---|
| <a href="#">Agricultural Preservation Fund Grants</a> | Environmental Stewardship | Farm owners   | The Agricultural Preservation Fund and associated Agricultural Preservation Fund Board provides grants to eligible local units of government and their qualified Purchase of Development Rights programs (PDRs)   |
| <a href="#">Animal Welfare Fund Grants</a>            | Animal Industry           | Shelters  | The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development offers this grant opportunity to animal shelters for programs that increase sterilization rates among dogs and cats prior to adoption, provide anti-cruelty training for animal law enforcement agencies, offer proper animal care programs, and assist shelters with the unreimbursed costs of care for animals involved in law violations. |
| <a href="#">Rural Development Fund Grants</a>         | Agricultural Development  | Individuals, organizations, businesses, local units of government, federally recognized tribes, and educational institutions in the eligible counties in Michigan | The MDARD Agriculture Development Division provides grant opportunities to promote the sustainability of land-based industries and support infrastructure that benefits rural communities.  |

[www.michigan.gov/mdardgrants](http://www.michigan.gov/mdardgrants)



# Rural Development Fund Grant Website

## Overview

The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development provides grant opportunities to promote the sustainability of land-based industries and support infrastructure that benefits rural communities.

[Learn about the Michigan Rural Development Fund Board](#)

## Grant Program Status

The 2025 Grant Cycle Request will open on October 10, 2024. All applications must be submitted on the new MiAgGrants site under a [Citizen](#) or [Business Account](#). Find support and learn more about [the MiAgGrants and MiLogin partnership](#).

## 2025 Rural Development Fund Grant Applications

[Citizen Account](#): An individual using State of Michigan online services for their own personal transaction. [Learn how to create a MiLogin Citizen Account](#) (PDF).

[Business Account](#): An individual using State of Michigan online services on behalf of a business, organization, or corporation.

## Grant Documents

[2025 Rural Development Fund Grant Guidelines](#)

[Rural Development Fund Fact Sheet](#)

# Grant Timeline

## Proposal

Release Request for Proposals

October 10, 2024

[Informational Webinar Presentation](#)  
[Informational Webinar Recording](#)

October 24, 2024 at 10:00am EST

Proposals Due

December 5, 2024 at 5pm EST

## JEC

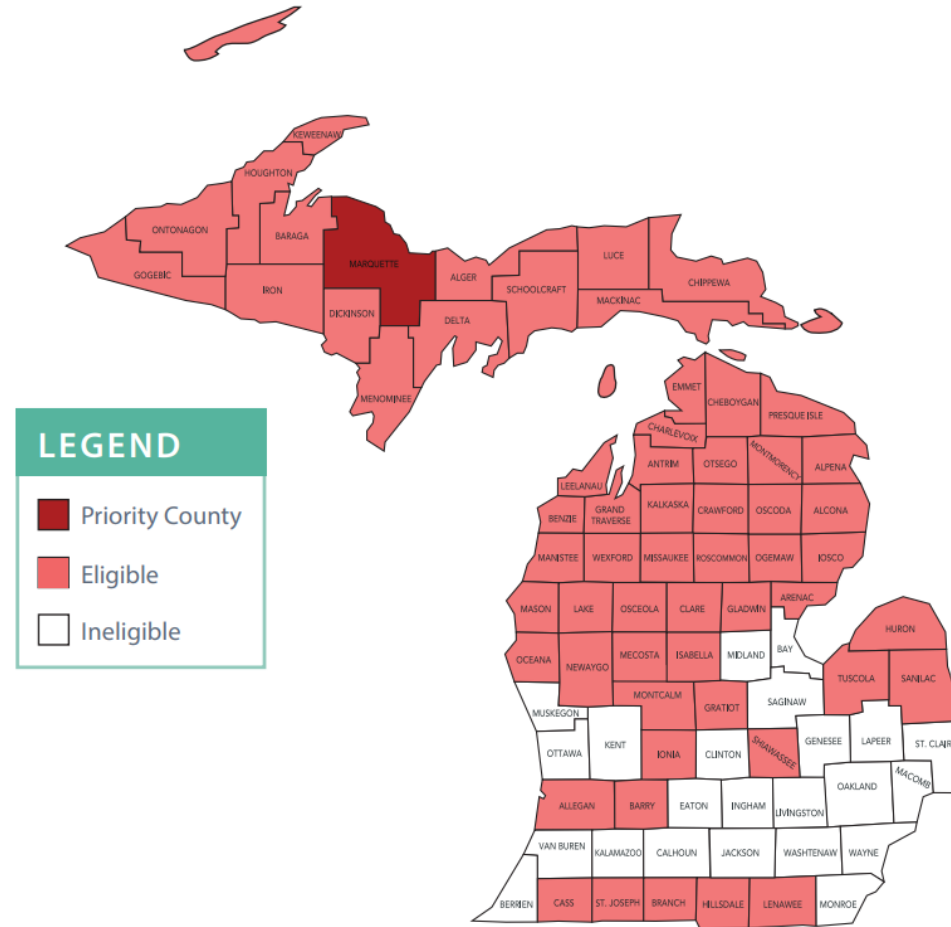
Evaluation Meeting

January 2025

## Award

Announce Award Funding

April 2025



# Land Based Industries

## Qualifying Land-based Industries



# Eligible Entities & Project Types

- **Individuals**
- **Organizations**
- **Businesses**
- **Local units of government**  
Includes county, city, township, village, school district; any authority composed of counties, cities, townships, villages and school districts; or combination of these entities.
- **Federally-recognized tribes**
- **Educational institutions**

## Funding will be focused on the following types of projects in rural areas:

- **Infrastructure Development**
  - Examples of projects could be roadways, bridges, renewable energy, wastewater, rural housing, broadband, etc.
- **Rural Capacity Building**
  - Examples of projects include museums, local and regional tourism campaigns, technical assistance programs, shared service models, feasibility studies, etc.
- **Business Development**
  - Examples for projects include business expansion ensuring long-term creation or retention of jobs with a strong local and/or regional impact.
- **Talent Development and Training**
  - Examples of projects include local and regional workforce development programs, workforce training, rural housing projects, childcare, etc.



# Grant Criteria

- \$100,000 maximum request
- 30% match required
- Project and Applicant need to be from an eligible county
- One application per applicant
- Requires three letters of support

# Application Recommendations

- Project & Expenses cannot begin before the grant term.
- Equipment only downpayments and purchases are allowed after October 10, 2024. (equipment \$5,000 or more per item)
- Plan of Work and Budget should align.

# Application – MiAgGrants Demo

- [www.michigan.gov/miaggrants](http://www.michigan.gov/miaggrants)
- Technical and Resource Support Page at [MDARD - MiAgGrants Grant Management System \(michigan.gov\)](#)
- [KhanM16@michigan.gov](mailto:KhanM16@michigan.gov)

# Grants are Cost- Reimbursement

Items needed for reporting:

- Routine Report Updated
- Invoice to MDARD for expenses
- Completed Financial Reporting
- All supporting financials
  - Financials - proof of payments such as, receipts, invoices with zero balance, and canceled checks
  - Salary documentation may be from payroll software center or timesheets w/supervisor signature
- Final Site Visit





# Application Review Process

- Competitive Review
- JEC – scoring and review meeting
- Scoring Based off a 100- point scale
  - A well-defined and focused project – 15 points
  - Overall impact of the project on the food and agriculture industry in the state of Michigan. Product sourced and produced in Michigan and capacity building/grower connection/increase in supply of locally available products – 20 points
  - Measurable outcomes – 15 points
  - Strong budget, expenditures correlate with the work plan and scope of the project – 15 points
  - The amount of match provided – 10 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
  - The sustainability of the project, the near-term and long-term impact, including jobs and investment in Michigan – 3 required support letters – 10 points
  - Priority – Marquette County – 10 points

# Thank you!

Email:

[mda-grants@michigan.gov](mailto:mda-grants@michigan.gov)

