

Rural Development Fund Grants

Michigan's Land-based Industry
Economic Development Program



Rural Development Fund Grants

The Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development (MDARD) and the Rural Development Fund Board, funded by the Rural Development Fund Act[†], have designed an economic development program to focus on Michigan rural communities and their most pressing needs.

\$100,000
MAXIMUM GRANT
WITH **30%**
FUNDING
MATCH REQUIRED



The Rural Development Fund Grant Program is a **cost reimbursement grant opportunity** for projects that address expansion and the sustainability of land-based industries that benefit rural communities and micropolitan statistical areas.

What Type of Projects Qualify?

Do you have a great idea to improve your community? The first step is to qualify as an approved project type. Funding will be focused on the following four types of projects in rural areas:

PROJECT TYPE	EXAMPLES
INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT	Roadways, bridges, renewable energy, wastewater, rural housing, broadband, etc.
RURAL CAPACITY BUILDING	Museums, local and regional tourism campaigns, feasibility studies, etc.
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT	Business expansion ensuring long-term creation or retention of jobs with a strong local and/or regional impact. For this year, projects with a focus on livestock processing are encouraged.
TALENT DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING	Local and regional workforce development programs, workforce training, rural housing projects, childcare, etc.

Need help determining if your idea qualifies? Find grant guidelines, program information, and project review criteria at michigan.gov/mdardgrants.

Qualifying Land-based Industries



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE



FORESTRY



MINING



OIL AND GAS PRODUCTION



TOURISM

Who is Eligible to Apply?

- **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**

What Organizations or Activities are Ineligible?

- **State agencies**
- **Indirect costs**
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 of proposal-related activities.
- **Projects that include telecommunications facilities**
Applies only to facilities owned or operated by an educational institution or an affiliate, a local unit of government, or any other government entity.
- **The construction of telecommunication facilities or wireless telecommunication facilities**
Applies only to facilities in areas where broadband services of at least three mbps downstream and 768 kbps upstream are available.

† The Rural Development Fund grants are funded by the Nonferrous Metallic Minerals Extraction Severance Tax. The Rural Development Fund was created under PA 411 of 2012. Revenue from the severance tax is in accordance with PA 410 of 2012.

What Counties are Eligible?

Your rural county is eligible with a population of 70,000 or less, or if you live in a micropolitan statistical area. A micropolitan statistical area, as defined by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), are labor market and statistical areas in the United States centered on an urban cluster (urban area) with a population of at least 10,000 but fewer than 50,000 people.

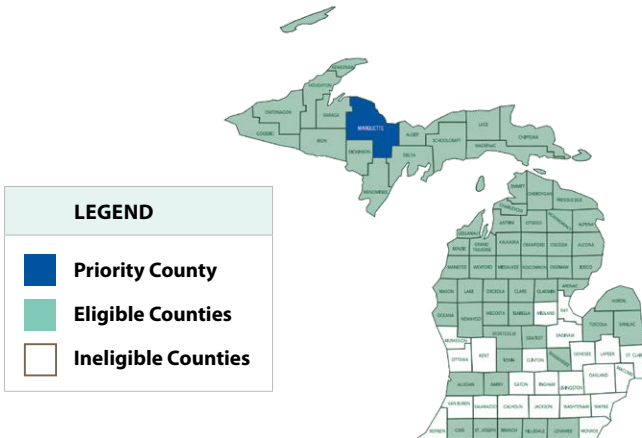
Note: Per the Rural Development Fund Act criteria, preference must be given to projects in Marquette County. Applicants must be located in an eligible county in order to apply. Applicants not located in an eligible county will not be considered for funding.

ELIGIBLE COUNTIES

- | | | | |
|--------------|------------------|---------------|----------------|
| • Alcona | • Crawford | • Kalkaska | • Newaygo |
| • Alger | • Delta | • Keweenaw | • Oceana |
| • Allegan | • Dickinson | • Lake | • Ogemaw |
| • Alpena | • Emmet | • Leelanau | • Ontonagon |
| • Antrim | • Gladwin | • Lenawee | • Osceola |
| • Arenac | • Gogebic | • Luce | • Oscoda |
| • Baraga | • Grand Traverse | • Mackinac | • Otsego |
| • Barry | • Gratiot | • Manistee | • Presque Isle |
| • Benzie | • Hillsdale | • Marquette | • Roscommon |
| • Branch | • Houghton | • Mason | • Saint Joseph |
| • Cass | • Huron | • Mecosta | • Sanilac |
| • Charlevoix | • Ionia | • Menominee | • Schoolcraft |
| • Cheboygan | • Iosco | • Missaukee | • Shiawassee |
| • Chippewa | • Iron | • Montcalm | • Tuscola |
| • Clare | • Isabella | • Montmorency | • Wexford |

INELIGIBLE COUNTIES

- | | | | |
|-----------|--------------|---------------|-------------|
| • Bay | • Jackson | • Monroe | • Washtenaw |
| • Berrien | • Kalamazoo | • Muskegon | • Wayne |
| • Calhoun | • Kent | • Oakland | |
| • Clinton | • Lapeer | • Ottawa | |
| • Eaton | • Livingston | • Saginaw | |
| • Genesee | • Macomb | • Saint Clair | |
| • Ingham | • Midland | • Van Buren | |



It's Time to Get Funded!

Inquiries can be emailed to mda-grants@michigan.gov.

Grant guidelines, program information, and project review criteria can be found at michigan.gov/mdardgrants.



Website: michigan.gov/mdard
Toll Free: (800) 292-3939

