FY 2025 Annual Report on the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund

In accordance with provisions of Section 405, Public Act 121 of 2024, the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs submits the following information concerning operations of the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund (MVTF) from October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025. Specific data to report for FY25 identified in the Public Act is included in Enclosures 1 through 4.

Emergency Grant Program

The Board of Trustees appointed by the Governor administers the Emergency Grant Program(EGP) which makes available grants to honorably discharged wartime era veterans and their dependents with unforeseen, short-term financial emergent needs. “Emergent need” has been defined as “an unforeseen circumstance causing a temporary or short-term financial emergency or hardship that a grant will resolve.” Additionally, the applicant must demonstrate the ability to maintain financial obligations in the future.

History

The MVTF was established in 1946 with a corpus of $50 million to help World War II veterans overcome unexpected expenses ranging from utility bills to home repairs to mortgage assistance and to get back on their feet financially. Veterans of subsequent conflict eras have also been made eligible for the EGP.

Between 1946 and 1996, on occasion, the legislature utilized portions of the MVTF for purposes not related to the initial establishment of the MVTF. In 1996, constitutional protections were added to the Trust Fund corpus. As a result, the Board of Trustees now has sole fiscal authority over the MVTF, and the corpus has recovered its original value as of 2010 and has grown through careful investments ending the fiscal year at about $79 million. The Board endeavors to continue to grow the corpus to safeguard the trust fund for future generations of veterans.

Fund Allocation

In accordance with Section 5, Public Act 9 of 1946-MCL 35.605 funds are allocated in the following manner. Initially, the Trustees approve and budget the administrative operating expenses of the fund from the anticipated earnings. Previously, the MVTF would distribute emergency grant funds by allocating 50 percent of the emergency grant budget to the 83 counties based on the ratio of the county’s war era veterans to the state’s total war era veteran population. A U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs report served as the source document and funds were distributed to the counties on a quarterly basis. The Board of Trustees has determined that current technologies which enable the State office to make grant payments has made the disbursement of funds to the county treasurers’ offices unnecessary and inefficient. The Trustees hold a 50 percent reserve for payment of grants once the initial allocation for county and regional/district grant payments has been expended in support of individual grants.

Unexpended funds remaining at the end of the fiscal year are reinvested into the corpus.

Applications and grants

County and regional/district committees composed of veterans appointed by the Board of Trustees assess the merits of each application and vote to approve or deny according to policies established by the Board of Trustees. Approved applications are paid by the MVTF State office to the vendor providing the service to the applicant (no money is paid directly to an applicant). Applicants who receive notification that their application was denied are provided instructions for how they may appeal the decision to the Board of Trustees.

EMERGENCY GRANT PROGRAM 5-YEAR COMPARISON					
	Applications Total	**Approved**	**% Approved** *(Withdrawn applications not included)*	**Amount Requested**	**Grants Distributed**
FY 2020-21	760	426	74%	$2,177,095	$1,303,008
FY 2021-22	1,298	482	79%	$2,656,635	$1,513,467
FY 2022-23	1,495	592	76%	$2,752,766	$1,515,538
FY 2023-24	857	541	78%	$3,748,902	$1,763,835
FY 2024-25	911	557	78%	$4,467,646	$2,017,443

The MVTF has no direct control over the number of applications it receives in any given year. It is generally true that the MVTF has experienced increased applications when the economy is doing

poorly, and the number of applications decreases when the economy is performing well. In addition, there is reason to believe that many veterans receive assistance from other resources without applying to the MVTF. The Michigan Veterans Resource Service Center (MVRSC has a mission to facilitate access for veterans to all available resources whether they be federal, state, or county; private or government; non-profit or corporate. The MVTF's relationship with the MVRSC is discussed in greater detail below. Further, the establishment of county emergency assistance funds, made possible by the County Veterans Service Fund Grants, has diminished the utilization of the EGP in some counties.

Regional/District Model Administrative Operations

The 27 counties in the Regional Model leverage available technology to increase access to the EGP while reducing the reliance on authorized agents and service agreements at the county level. It consolidates several county level committees into regional committees with representatives from each county and an application review process and voting that is completed online weekly. This process eliminates the need and cost of the physical meetings associated with the County Model. Upon completion of the committee's review of the applications, the MVTF State office staff sends out notifications of decisions and makes the appropriate grant payments.

The Regional Model relies on a collaborative relationship with the MVAA's MVRSC to receive phone calls for emergency assistance and then triage the request to the best available resource for that veteran's situation. This collaboration leads to a broader consideration of all available resources (federal, state, local, private, etc.) and facilitates coordination to address the needs of the veteran which may be more complex than what was initially identified. The Regional Model recognizes that the EGP is a great resource whose impact can be amplified when applying the MVAA's philosophy of "No Wrong Door" for serving and caring for our veterans, by guiding them to the best resource for their situation.

County Model Administrative Operations

Applications from the 56 counties in the County Model continue to be taken by an authorized agent and submitted to the county MVTF committee for a vote. However, instead of contacting vendors to coordinate payments, creating and processing vouchers, and balancing a separate MVTF account, counties now simply forward the completed application with the local committee decision to the State office to make payments and file for record-keeping.

By removing fiscal responsibilities and the administrative requirement for counties to maintain a separate MVTF account to pay emergency grants, the workload previously contracted through service agreements with the counties has been significantly reduced. With this change, counties are no longer burdened with the responsibilities of managing the EGP. Rather, they simply assist their veterans in need to access a resource that a committee of their local veterans may approve to provide emergency assistance.

While this model has the advantage of maintaining local control over the committee, it is becoming increasingly more difficult to man the committees with eligible veterans available to serve as committee members. This is especially true in the more rural counties where the veteran population is declining rapidly. We are looking at possible solutions for this problem and will be addressing it in coming years. The most obvious solution is to put more counties into the Regional Model. However, this solution is not without its challenges, as well, and is more costly as it will require the hiring of an additional staff member. We are hopeful that the pending improvements to our online Salesforce application may facilitate an IT solution or make another solution rise to the surface.

MVTF EXPENDITURES 5-YEAR COMPARISON					
Fiscal Year	**FY 2020-21**	**FY 2021-22**	**FY 2022-23**	**FY 2023-24**	**FY 2024-25**
Treasury/Security Lending Fees	$102,637	$125,061	$270,193	$129,164	$144,518
State Admin Costs	$94,867	$88,631	$109,502	$54,110	$54,723
State Program Costs	$690,762	$836,296	$835,891	$926,751	$940,241
County Program Costs	$34,334	$48,073	$67,240	$48,480	$39,899
Special Program Grants	$484,640	$308,000	$151,100	$159,500	$198,058
Grants	$1,303,008	$1,513,467	$1,515,538	$1,763,835	$2,017,443

Accountability and Transparency

In May 2019, the Office of Auditor General released its latest audit which credited the MVTF with achieving a 25 percent reduction in "administrative expenses" over the previous two years. This achievement came because of cost saving measures tested in the Regional Model Pilot conducted in 2016 and fully implemented in FY 2018.

In addition to exploring cost-savings, the Director and the Board set about to align more closely the MVTF's financial reporting with that of other trust funds within Michigan state government. A comparison revealed that while other State-chartered trust funds either separated program costs from administrative costs or elected not to report any administrative costs, the MVTF was unintentionally inflating its administrative costs by reporting all expenses as administrative costs. In consultation with the DTMB Office of Internal Auditors, the MVTF has now begun to separate program costs from administrative costs in its reporting.

Financial Condition of MVTF Corpus

An amendment to the State Constitution in August 2002 allows the State of Michigan's trusts to contain equity and corporate bond holdings. This permits the State Treasurer, acting in accordance with the authority of Article IX, Section 37 of the State Constitution, to work in conjunction with the Board to maintain the corpus at or above its original value of $50 million, to provide earnings with which to fund the EGP (both program expenses and administrative expenses) and additional projects or programs that the Board chooses to fund in accordance with its constitutional powers. Additionally, the Board has a goal to grow the corpus so that it remains a viable source of benefits for future generations of Michigan veterans.

Corpus (in millions)	**FY20-21**	**FY21-22**	**FY22-23**	**FY23-24**	**FY24-25**
Beginning balance	$65.4	$72.8	$64.2	$67.6	$75.0
Ending balance	$72.8	$64.2	$67.6	$75.0	$79.3

As stewards of the MVTF, the Board of Trustees works closely with the Treasury Department to increase the earnings potential of the corpus without exposing it to unacceptable risks. In 2016, at the request of the Board, Treasury adjusted the investment strategy to accept a slightly increased level of investment risk to achieve greater gains to the corpus and improve its financial position in anticipation of the demands that will be placed upon it in the future. As a result, the corpus has grown over the last several years with strong stock market gains.

CORPUS VALUE				
(as of September 30,2025)	**Cost/Book Value**	**% of total**	**Market Value**	**% of total**
Short Term Investments	$6,614,275	10.07	$6,614,275	8.34
Total Fixed Income	$20,265,515	30.86	$19,216,265	24.24
Equities	$17,178,259	26.16	$23,945,016	30.2
Real Estate	$3,732,839	5.68	$4,184,694	5.28
Alternative Investments	$17,880,261	27.23	$25,323,956	31.94
Total	$65,671,149	100	$79,284,207	100

Actions to Preserve the Fund

Over the years, the Board has recognized that veterans are most vulnerable and less able to rebound from financial setbacks in their senior years. Recognizing that a large group of post-Vietnam peacetime era veterans had recently begun to enter that age demographic, the Board approved the 65+ Peacetime Emergency Grant Program in 2021 to provide limited emergency assistance to this demographic.

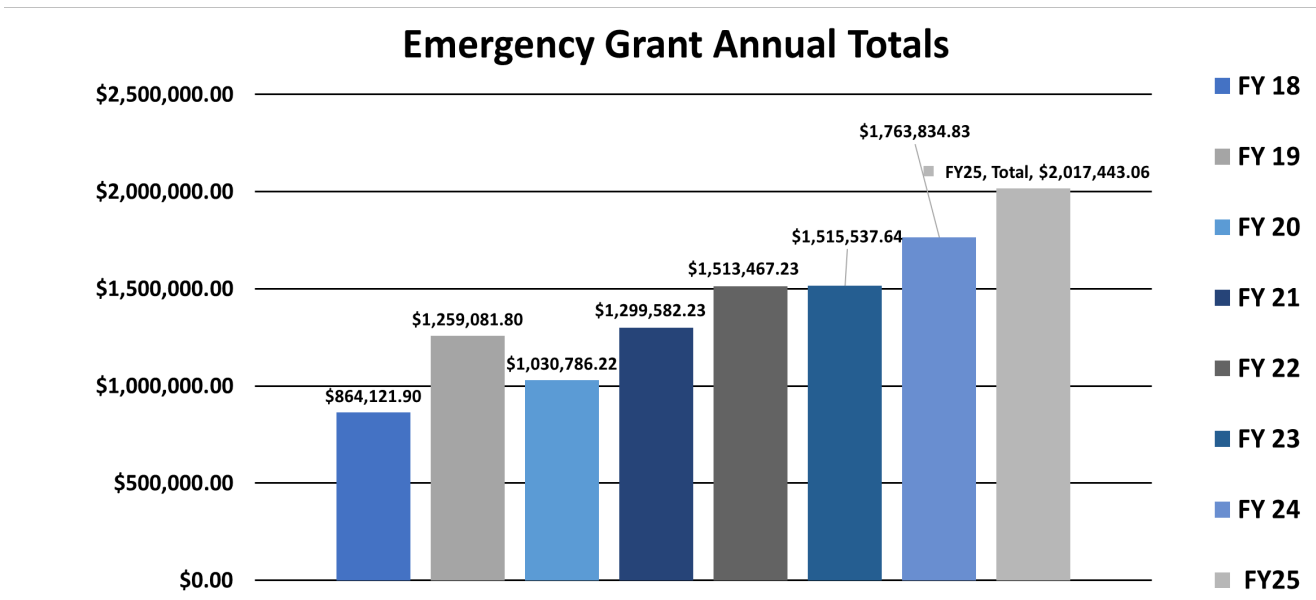
This initiative has enabled the MVTF to centralize all payment processing in the State office eliminating costly and redundant processes established decades ago that also placed additional administrative burdens on the counties. In addition, the MVTF converted the 166 spreadsheets it was using to administer the EGP into one database and converted to a completely paperless system of record retention by leveraging the MVAA's chosen customer relationship management platform, Salesforce, to manage applications, committee voting, grant payments, and veteran contact information. In fiscal year 2024, the MVTF deployed a new online application for county agents to use. This Salesforce based system simplifies the taking and processing of applications and automates notices of decision, letters of acknowledgement, application tracking, payment notifications, and reporting. As we continue to deploy further functionality, we believe this tool will continue to increase the MVTF's efficiency and improve the service we provide to veterans.

The Trust Fund of the Future

The EGP has been experiencing a declining number of applications over the last several years. There are a number of factors contributing to the declining application count including the increased resources available through the Federal VA, county emergency assistance funds, non-profits and private or commercial entities. Most significant is the nearly complete loss of our World War II and Korean War veterans along with the aging and depleting ranks of our Vietnam-era veterans with their diminished life expectancy rates largely attributed to Agent Orange related illnesses. Even as

the number of veterans decline, it is important to remember that nearly every veteran that has been released from active duty in the last 30 years is eligible for the EGP and the last wartime era veteran eligible to apply to the EGP has not been born yet. As the younger generations of veterans age and the MVAA continues its aggressive information campaign to ensure that every Michigan veteran knows about the benefits for which they are entitled, we fully anticipate that utilization of the EGP will likely increase in the future and especially as the economy continues to struggle.

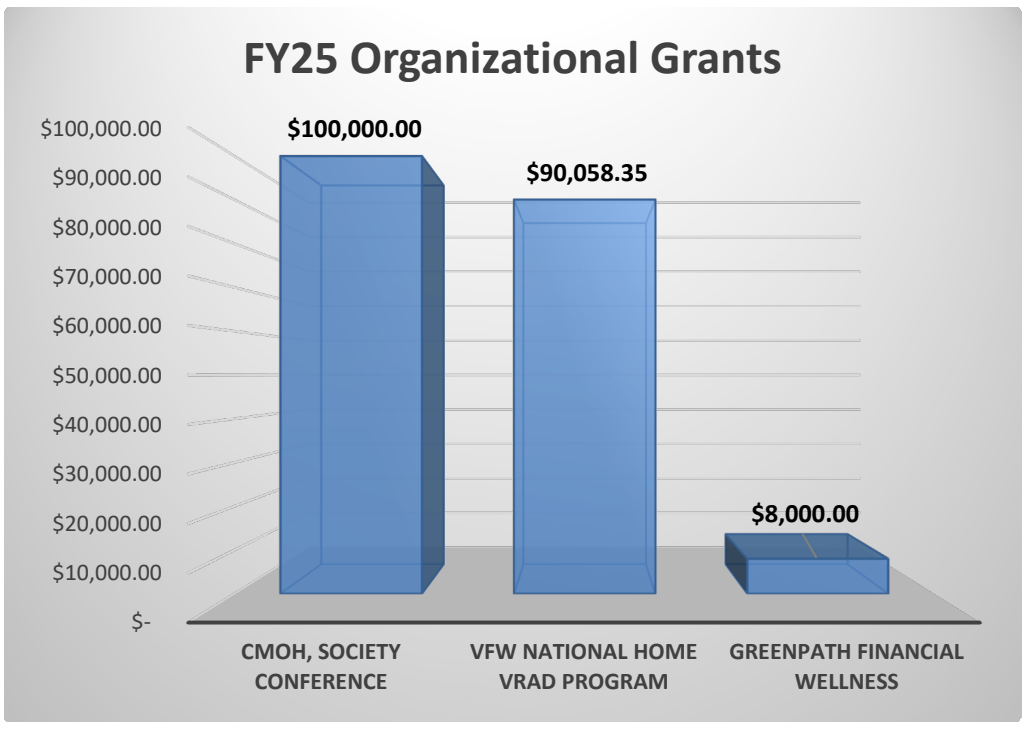
With the increased earnings of the corpus and the declining number of applications, the Board of Trustees has seized on an opportunity to provide larger grants when the need is merited. Ten years ago, the largest grants approved by the Board were less than $9,000 and the average amount of an approved application was $1,000. Today, the Board approves some applications in excess of $20,000 (i.e. roof and septic system repairs) and the average amount for an approved application is nearly $3,500.



Programs & Partnerships

Over the years, the Board has recognized that veterans are most vulnerable and less able to rebound from financial setbacks in their senior years. Recognizing that a large group of post-Vietnam peacetime era veterans had recently begun to enter that age demographic, the Board approved the 65+ Peacetime Emergency Grant Program in 2021 to provide limited emergency assistance to this demographic.

Many veterans and dependents could have averted the financial crisis that prompted their EGP application by becoming educated about budget matters and getting help to manage their finances responsibly. To this end, in 2019, the Board of Trustees partnered with GreenPath Financial Wellness, a Michigan non-profit, to provide a dedicated phone line for all Michigan veterans (including peacetime veterans) seeking to improve their financial situation and making available their suite of educational resources and trained counselors. For those that take advantage of it, this partnership can help them to achieve and maintain financial wellness and self-sufficiency.



In 2025, we have also worked to rebuild our partnership with Habitat For Humanity which had languished some over the last several years due to changes made at the state level in the Habitat For Humanity leadership. However, our collaboration efforts have been renewed and we anticipate that this will be a very rewarding partnership going forward that will expand our ability to assist veterans with home repair issues especially those with a higher degree of complexity.

In its strategic plan, the Board of Trustees has identified goals for how the MVTF can shape and

positively impact the veteran community of the future. The Board recognizes the need to exercise vigilant oversight of the corpus and to be diligent to assess and address the needs of future generations of veterans while prioritizing the function and operations of the EGP. The Board believes that the MVTF of the future will have a greater impact by developing, supporting, and leveraging partnerships with organizations that are experiencing success in helping veterans and their families to thrive. To this end, in 2025, the MVTF partnered with MDARD and the VFW National Home in Eaton Rapids to create a Veterans Regenerative Agriculture Demonstration (VRAD) Farm program that is teaching and preparing veterans for careers in agriculture. Many of these careers are especially well suited for veterans struggling with Post-Traumatic Stress (PTS) where working outdoors in a more independent environment can be rejuvenating and minimize the anxieties that are often triggered by more socially focused work environments.

A strategic goal laid out by the Board is to assist in developing veteran leaders who will be able to advocate for and assume leadership responsibilities in the veteran community. With this in mind, the Board of Trustees approved a sponsorship opportunity for the upcoming Congressional Medal of Honor Society Annual Conference to be held in Detroit. The Board sees this as an opportunity to bring together veterans (especially younger veterans) to connect and network in the veteran space and to come away inspired to use their influence to advocate and lead on veterans' issues.

Please feel free to request additional information about the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund.

Sincerely,

Lindell L. Holm

Lindell L. Holm
Director, Michigan Veterans Trust Fund

Enclosures

1. Grant Application & Assistance Data by Category and County
2. EGP Applications Map
3. EGP Grant Dollars Map
4. EGP Data Dashboard

Grants Paid

Applications

County	Home Repair	Shelter	Transportation	Util	Med	Misc	Total	Approved	Disapproved	Ineligible	Partial	Withdrawn	Total
Alcona	$14,306						$14,306	2				1	3
Alger	$4,213						$4,213	1				1	2
Allegan	$1,334	$6,240	$1,207	$936			$9,717	3	1			3	7
Alpena	$5,028	$670	$633	$3,300			$9,632	4	1			1	6
Antrim	$2,206	$2,571	$3,870	$7,816		$300	$16,763	10			3	1	14
Arenac	$7,721						$7,721	1	1			1	3
Baraga												1	1
Barry												1	1
Bay	$16,935	$2,293					$19,228	2					2
Benzie	$3,500						$3,500		1			1	2
Berrien	$11,120	$19,581	$3,018	$11,649	$54	$208	$45,630	19	6	1	2		28
Branch	$25,637				$2,335		$27,972	3	1			2	6
Calhoun	$11,213	$28,937	$9,932	$20,264	$2,700	$1,313	$74,359	33	20	1	5	2	61
Cass									2				2
Charlevoix	$6,625	$1,749					$8,374	2	1	1			4
Cheboygan	$40,666	$502	$5,461	$252			$46,881	2	1		2	1	6
Chippewa	$11,339						$11,339	2	5			3	10
Clare									1				1
Clinton	$13,659	$8,147					$21,806	3				3	6
Crawford	$16,362						$16,362	3					3
Delta	$15,660						$15,660	1					1
Dickinson			$2,832				$2,832	1	1				2
Eaton		$24,820		$1,992			$26,812	2	1		2	2	7
Emmet		$5,200					$5,200	1			1		2
Genesee		$6,654	$876	$2,848	$3,124		$13,501	5	6		1	7	19
Gladwin	$4,622	$1,850	$2,647	$1,702			$10,821	5	3			2	10
Gogebic	$4,830		$665	$4,842	$334		$10,670	4				1	5
Grand Traverse	$11,650		$917	$588			$13,155	3	2			4	9
Gratiot	$1,750	$7,707	$3,039	$956			$13,452	5	1			5	11
Hillsdale			$606	$3,968			$4,574	2	1	1			4
Houghton	$27,425	$3,855	$2,333	$8,054		$142	$41,809	10	2			1	13

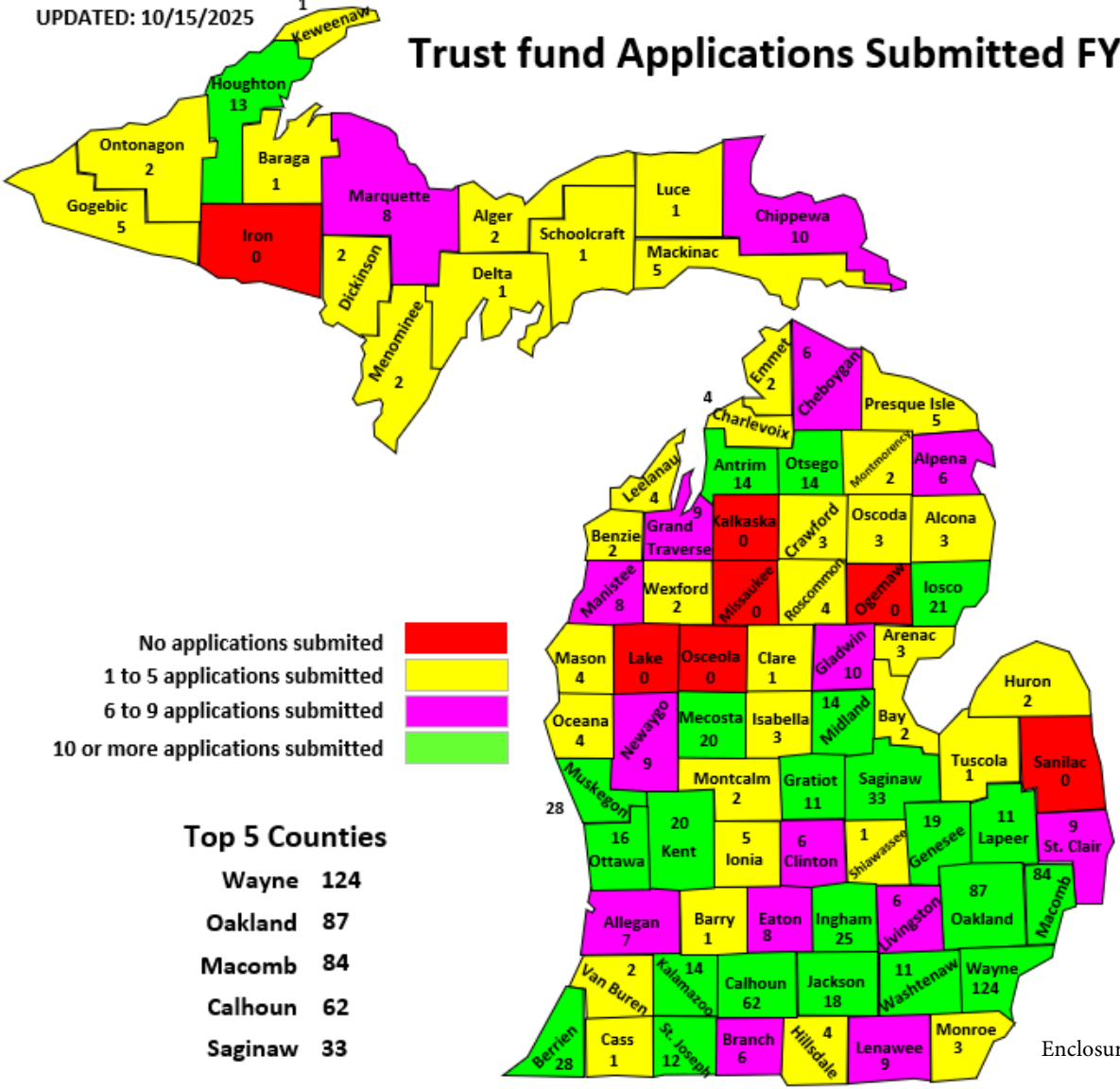
Enclosure (1)

Huron	$3,398		$1,800				$5,198	2					2
Ingham	$1,170	$24,266	$9,755	$7,813			$43,005	15	1		1	8	25
Ionia	$12,400	$3,385		$115			$15,900	2	1			2	5
Iosco	$40,240	$13,020	$238	$4,135			$57,633	12	3			6	21
Iron													
Isabella	$3,500			$1,922			$5,422	2				1	3
Jackson	$9,215	$26,922	$1,809	$10,726			$48,672	12				6	18
Kalamazoo	$22,125	$1,477		$6,453			$30,055	6	6		2	1	15
Kalkaska													
Kent	$7,000	$17,431	$6,346	$10,643	$431		$41,851	12	2	1		5	20
Keweenaw		$1,960		$2,304			$4,264	1					1
Lake													
Lapeer	$3,500	$19,021	$284	$8,500			$31,304	7	1			3	11
Leelanau									2			2	4
Lenawee		$7,849	$6,939	$7,241			$22,029	8				1	9
Livingston				$863	$10,000		$10,863	3	1			2	6
Luce												1	1
Mackinac	$2,348			$1,825			$4,172	2	1		1	1	5
Macomb	$11,646	$70,133	$19,536	$20,588		$2,226	$124,130	40	27	1	3	13	84
Manistee			$1,044	$632			$1,676	1	3			4	8
Marquette		$1,555	$610	$1,191	$3,947		$7,302	5	1			2	8
Mason	$8,793						$8,793	1	1		1	1	4
Mecosta	$4,780	$15,014	$9,207	$8,774	$500	$1,138	$39,413	17	1	1		1	20
Menominee	$4,900						$4,900	1	1				2
Midland	$46,048	$10,272	$278	$2,172			$58,770.28	11	2			1	14
Missaukee													
Monroe		$1,988	$2,723	$955			$5,666.00	2	1				3
Montcalm		$5,000	$546	$1,124			$6,670.00	3					2
Montmorency	$16,600						$16,600.00	2	1				2
Muskegon	$48,193	$25,948	$2,085	$1,680			$77,905.58	16	2		2	8	27
Newaygo			$4,577		$10,000		$14,577.00	2	3			4	9
Oakland	$25,000	$122,726	$25,155	$35,866			$208,746.96	62	5	5	5	10	87
Oceana	$15,137	$13,680					$28,816.50	3			1		4
Ogemaw													

Ontonagon		$2,900					$2,900.40	1				1	2
Osceola													
Oscoda	$26,690	$6,790					$33,479.56	2				1	3
Otsego	$44,653	$6,150	$3,992	$2,968			$57,761.25	12	2				14
Ottawa	$13,909	$5,657	$1,719	$5,899			$27,183.75	9	3			4	16
Presque Isle	$686	$1,750					$2,436.00	2	2			1	5
Roscommon	$24,432						$24,431.52	2				2	4
Saginaw	$29,400	$9,117	$4,978	$5,876			$49,371.74	16	7		2	8	33
Sanilac													
Schoolcraft	$3,500						$3,500.00	1					1
Shiawassee												1	1
St. Clair	$17,895	$3,349	$5,000	$903			$27,146.99	4	2	1	1	1	9
St. Joseph	$24,063	$4,279	$4,073	$3,672			$36,087.24	9			1	2	12
Tuscola												1	1
Van Buren		$1,797	$3,500	$173			$5,469.71	2					2
Washtenaw	$5,061	$9,603	$4,495	$1,505			$20,664.33	6	1		1	3	11
Wayne	$137,979	$89,424	$21,050	$42,769		$4,069	$295,290.24	71	14	6	3	30	124
Wexford	$11,100						$11,100.00	1	1				2
Grand Total	$883,158	$643,237	$179,774	$268,453	$33,425	$9,397	$2,017,443.06	517	156	19	40	182	911

UPDATED: 10/15/2025

Trust fund Applications Submitted FY25



No applications submited

1 to 5 applications submitted

6 to 9 applications submitted

10 or more applications submitted

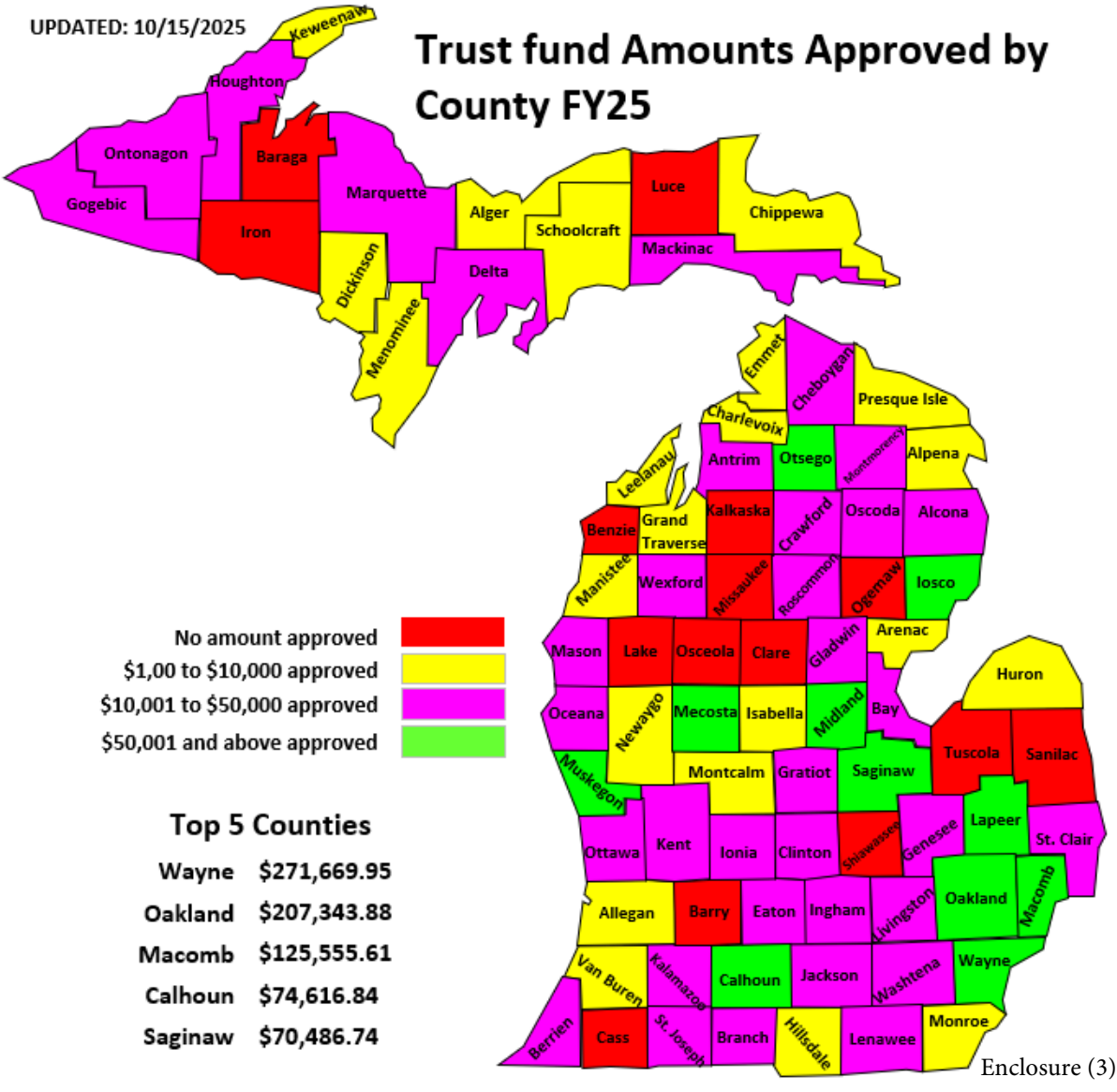
Top 5 Counties

Wayne	124
Oakland	87
Macomb	84
Calhoun	62
Saginaw	33

Enclosure (2)

UPDATED: 10/15/2025

Trust fund Amounts Approved by County FY25



Top 5 Counties

Wayne	$271,669.95
Oakland	$207,343.88
Macomb	$125,555.61
Calhoun	$74,616.84
Saginaw	$70,486.74

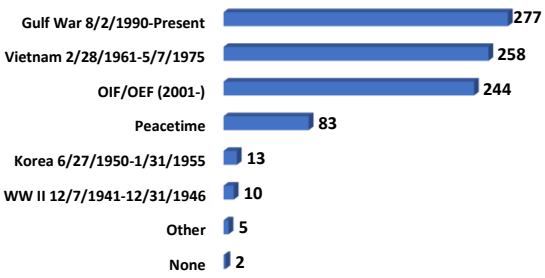
Enclosure (3)

Updated: 3 Dec 2025

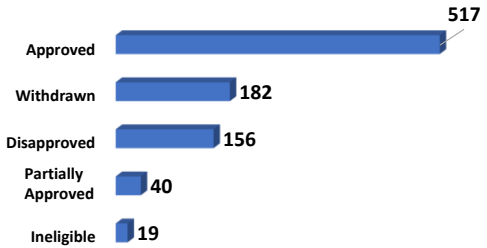
Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Quick Glance Dashboard FY 25

Total Applications

Period of Service



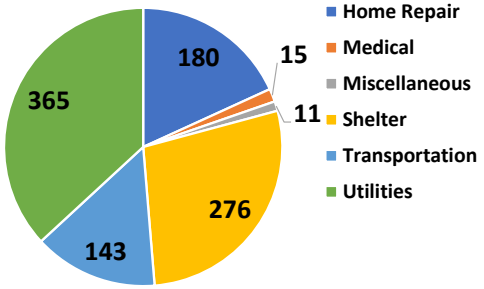
Application Final Status Totals



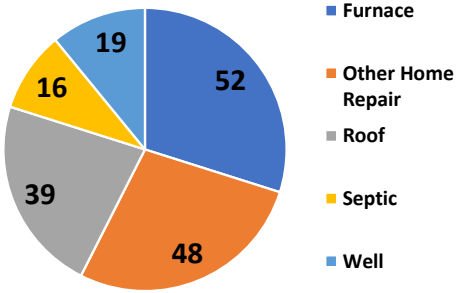
Average Amount Approved

Grants Approved

Grants Approved by Category

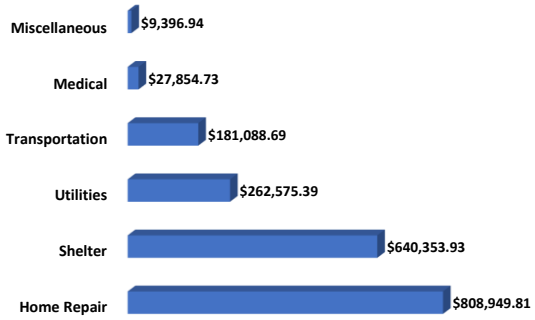


Grants Home Repair Category

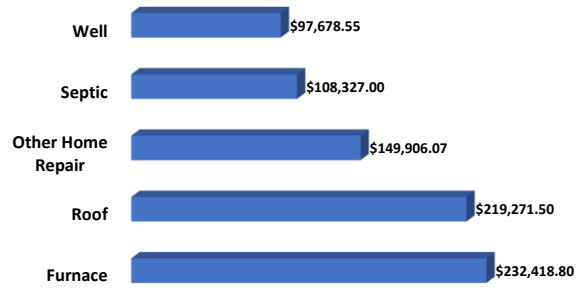


Total Veteran and Dependants

Grant Catergory Totals



Home Repair Categories Totals



Amount Requested Salesforce

$4,467,645.67

Amount Approved Salesforce

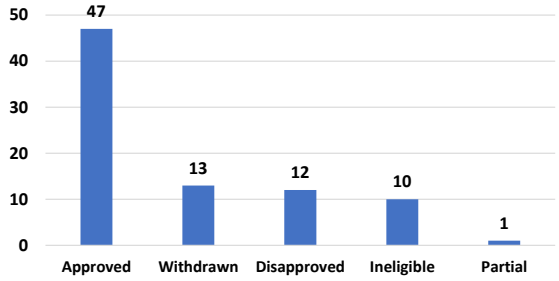
$1,941,027.42

Total Grants Paid Sigma

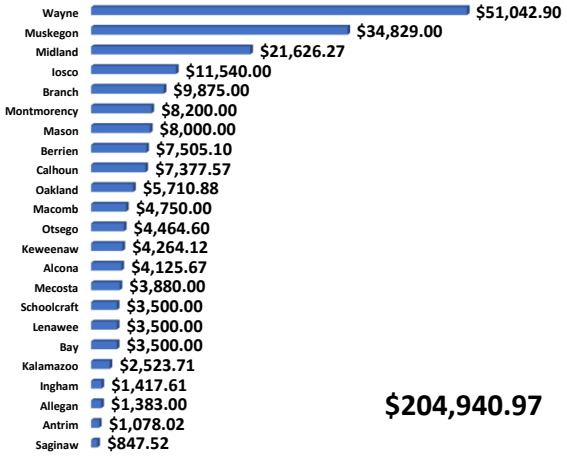
$2.017.443.06

Enclosure (4)

65 + P Applications

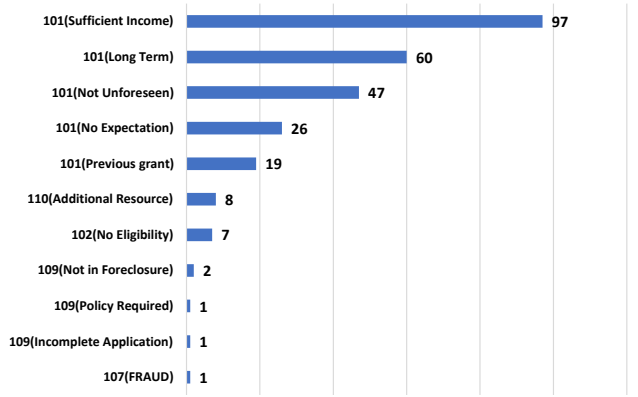


65+P Program Totals

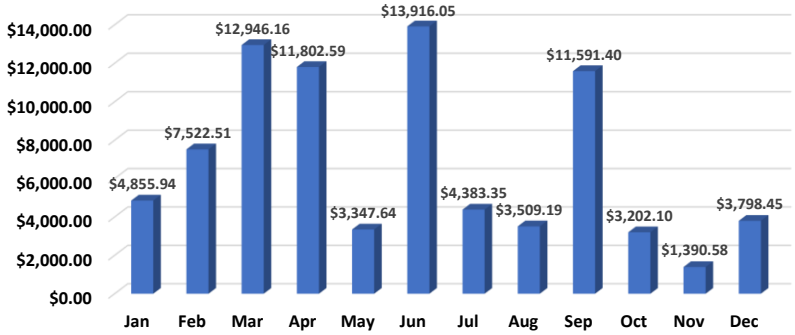


$204,940.97

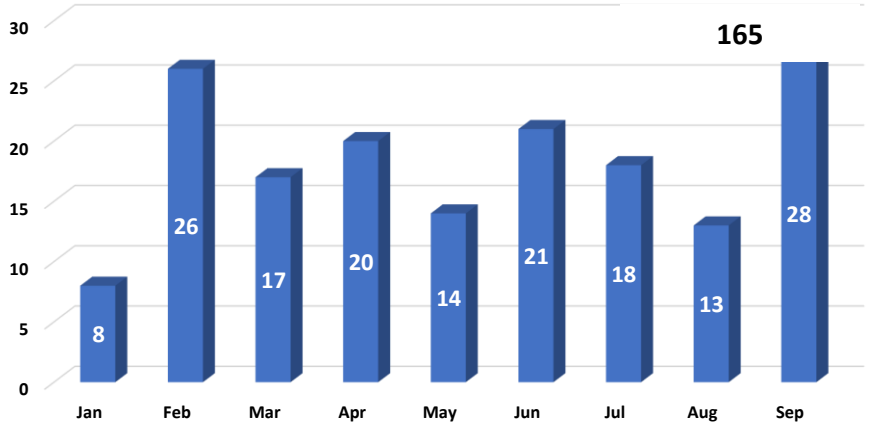
Final Reason (Board of Trustees)



Consumers Energy

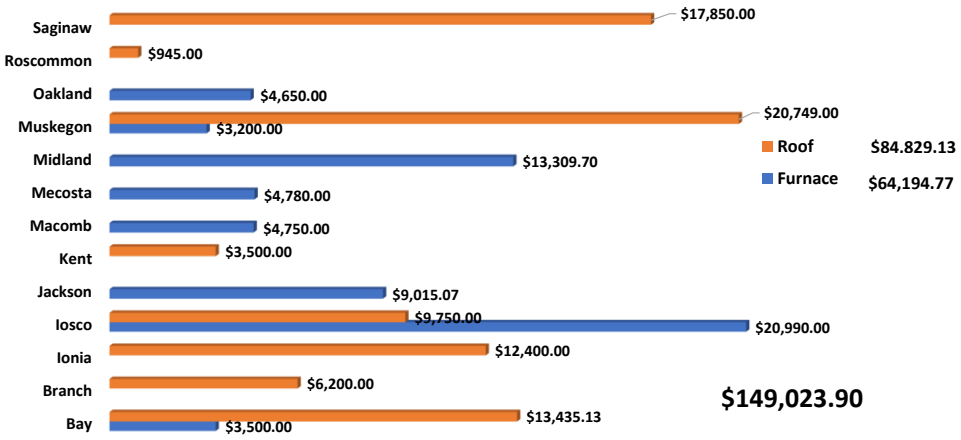


Consumers Energy Veterans and Dependants Assisted

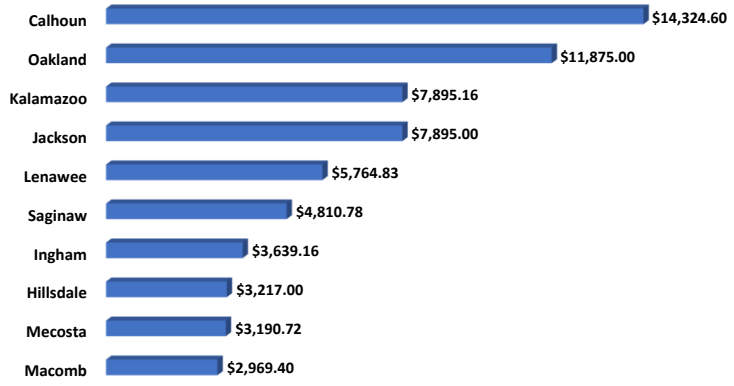


Enclosure (4)

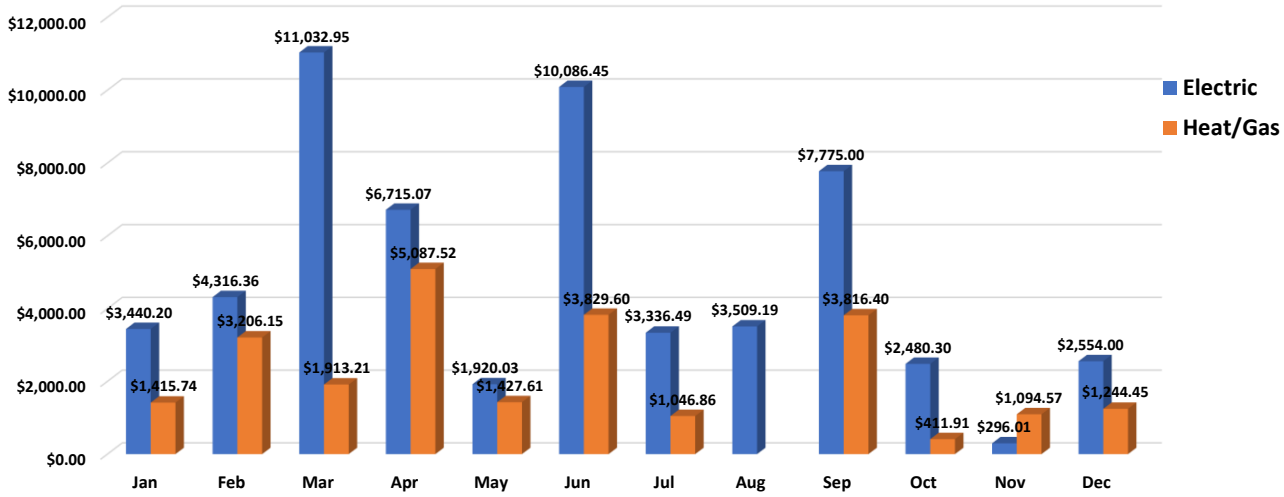
Roofs & Furnaces with Consumers



Top 10 Consumers Energy

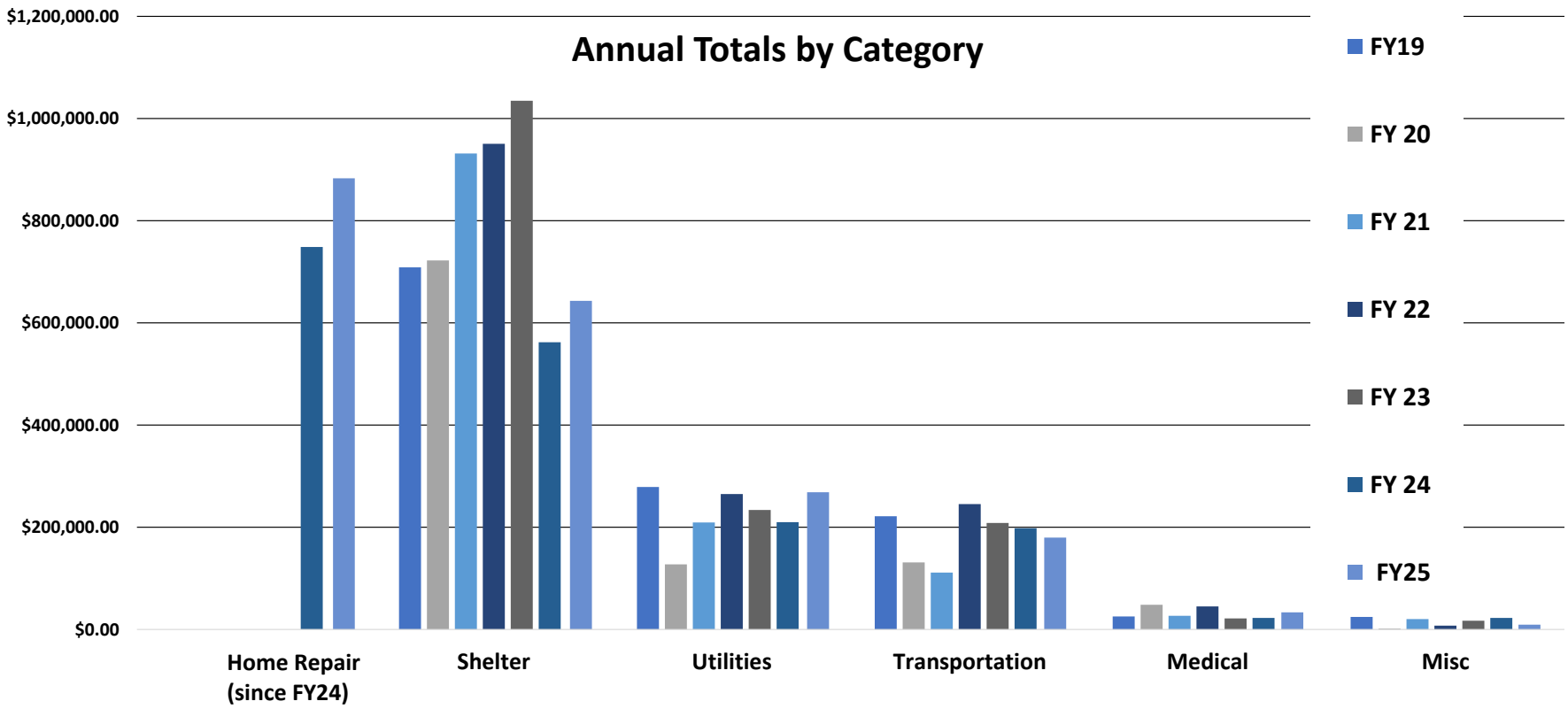


Consumers Electric and Heat/Gas Totals



Consumers Energy Total

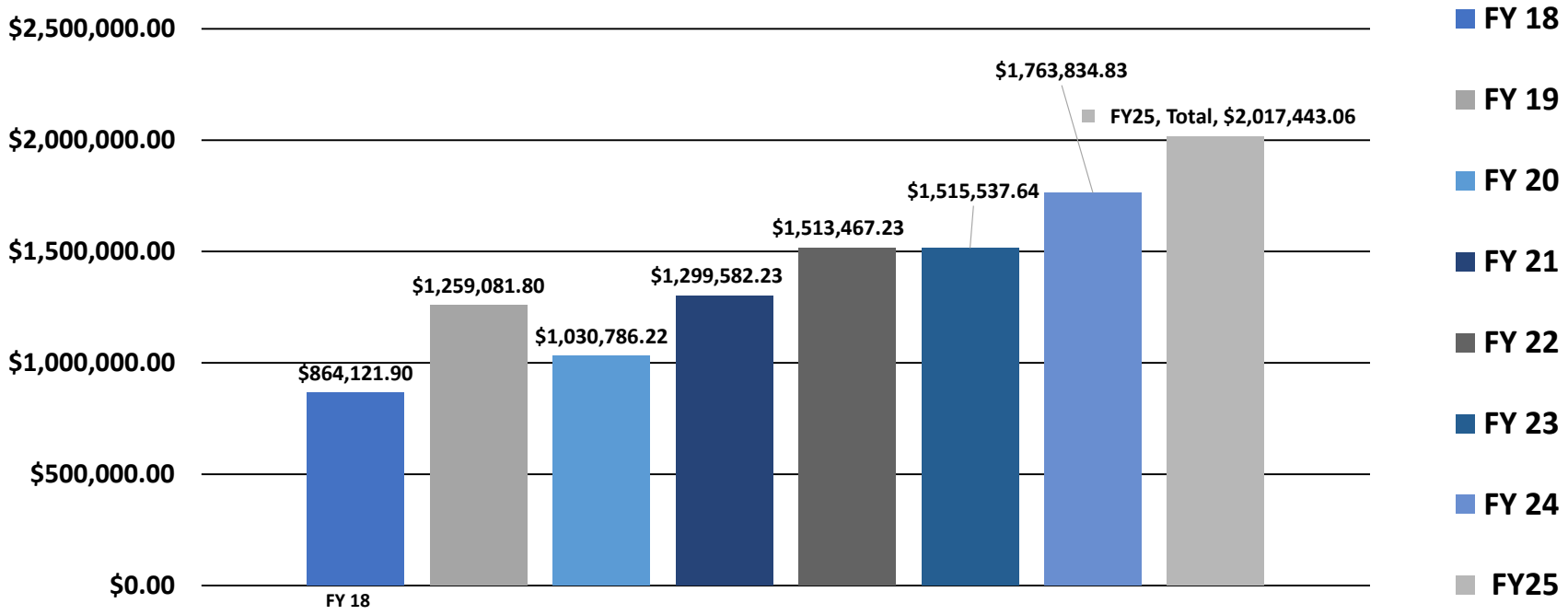
Enclosure (4)


Annual Totals by Category
$1,200,000.00
$1,000,000.00
$800,000.00
$600,000.00
$400,000.00
$200,000.00
$0.00
FY19
FY 20
FY 21
FY 22
FY 23
FY 24
FY25
Home Repair (since FY24)
Shelter
Utilities
Transportation
Medical
Misc

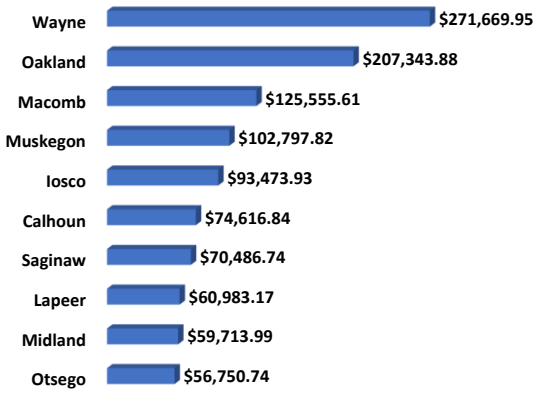
Enclosure (4)

FY 18

Emergency Grant Annual Totals



Top 10 Counties



Habitat For Humanity Totals

$2,700.00

Enclosure (4)