





MIO TAC Technical Assistance Application General Guidance

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

Introduction

About the Michigan Infrastructure Office and MIO Technical Assistance Center

Finding the Right TAC Support Service

Eligibility for TAC Support Services

Overview of TAC Support Services

How to Apply for TAC Support Services

TAC Window Announcements

Criteria for Application Evaluation

FAQs

Key Contacts

List of Municipal Planning Organizations and Regional Planning Agencies

Guide to Online Application

Introduction

In 2022, the Governor signed P.A. 166 of 2022 to establish a technical assistance program within the Michigan Infrastructure Office (MIO). The purpose of the program is to provide technical assistance, planning, and matching grants to local units of government, planning organizations, and federally recognized Tribal nations to help draw federal infrastructure money to Michigan's communities.

This document provides guidance for accessing federal funding application support through the MIO Technical Assistance Center's opportunities.

About the Michigan Infrastructure Office and Technical Assistance Center

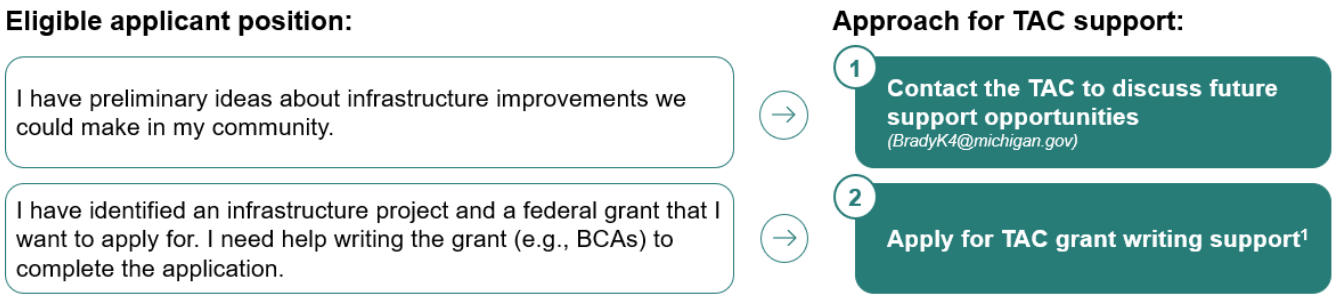
The Michigan Infrastructure Office (MIO) is responsible for organizing and executing Governor Whitmer's vision for infrastructure, coordinating across state government, marshaling resources, and partnering with local officials, federal partners, and outside stakeholders to ensure resources sent to Michigan through BIL, also known as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), are used efficiently and effectively.

The MIO Technical Assistance Center (TAC) provides a suite of resources to support Michigan communities in applying for federal grant funding. TAC is currently offering key support services: grant readiness assessment, grant writing, and Benefit Cost Analysis preparation when required. These services will be available by application to TAC in specified application windows.

This document explains this program in detail – **please read it in full**. The **FAQs** also cover a range of relevant questions. Reach out via the contact information provided in the **Key Contacts** section if you still have questions.

This program is administered by MIO with support from the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT).

Find the right TAC support offering



Applicants will be notified when preliminarily selected for grant writing support. Following initial selection, a consultant will be assigned that will conduct a readiness assessment to ensure the project is sufficiently scoped, competitive and ready for grant writing. If determined "not ready" to apply for the grant currently identified, the community may be offered alternative technical assistance options.

1. Applicants must be selected by planning organization where applicable (see Eligibility section)

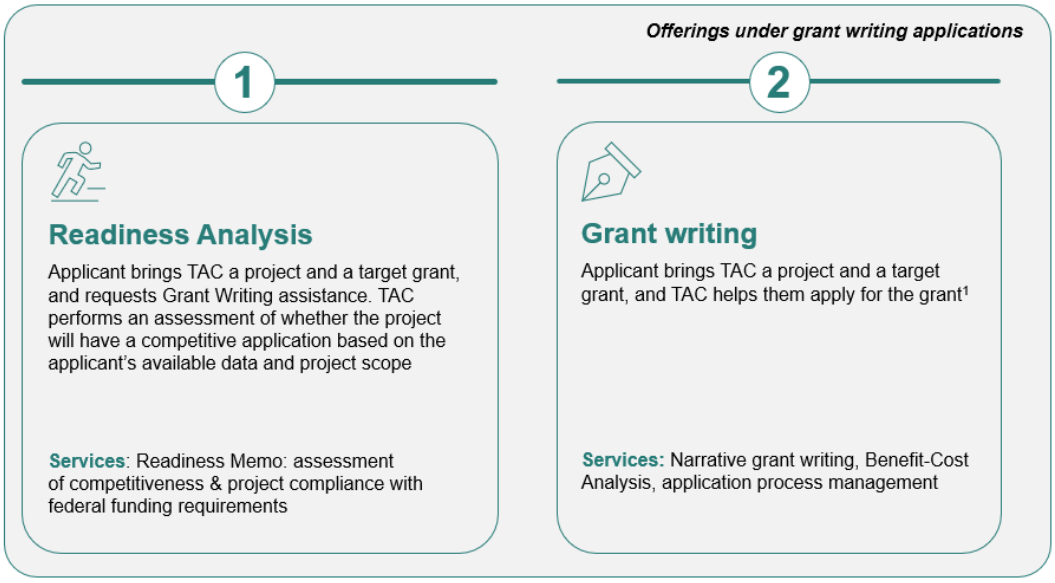
Eligibility for TAC Support Services

Eligible applicants for TAC support services include:

- Federally recognized Tribal nations
- Municipalities and local governments with the support of their MPO/RPA
    - Applications must include a letter of support from the applicant's Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) or Regional Planning Agency (RPA). MPOs and RPAs are responsible for prioritizing applications from their member communities. If you need help identifying the MPO or RPA to coordinate with, please see the **List of MPO/RPAs** section at the end of this document.
- Rural public transit authorities
    - With a letter of support from MDOT
- Urban public transit agencies
    - With a letter of support from their MPO. Please reach out to TAC directly with questions.
- School districts
- Utility Authorities and Community Water Systems

Overview of TAC Support Services

TAC is offering the following services to support communities through the grant application lifecycle



1. Applicants must be selected by planning organization where applicable (see Eligibility section)

1. **Readiness analysis**
    a. **Use case**: An eligible applicant has identified a project and a federal grant from the list of TAC eligible grants that they want to apply for. TAC will conduct a deep review of the proposed project and create an assessment of whether an applicant is ready to create a competitive application for the indicated grant.
    b. **Services could include**: Readiness memo, including assessment of project readiness and compliance with federal funding requirements

2. **Grant writing**
    a. **Use case**: An eligible applicant has identified a project and a federal grant from the list of TAC eligible grants that they want to apply for. They need grant writing support from TAC to complete the application. TAC will provide grant writing services to help them complete the application.
    b. **Services could include**: Narrative grant writing to craft a competitive application, Benefit-Cost Analysis to provide commonly required analysis on quantifiable benefits and costs of project, and application process management to help develop and keep effective grant writing timelines. If you are considering additional services, please contact TAC directly.

In order to support grant writing applications that are most likely to attain federal funding, the State will prioritize projects that it deems to be viable and competitive for the relevant funding opportunities. Projects that are not considered competitive (due to project readiness or other reasons) may be considered for other forms of technical support to help make the project more competitive for future funding rounds.

How to Apply for TAC Support Services

Eligible applicants seeking TAC services need to fill out a TAC support application for the support they are requesting, including a letter of support where applicable (please see the Eligibility section for more information). Planning organizations should work with their member localities to prioritize the projects and

grants they want to provide with letters of support. Applicants are allowed to apply for more than one type of support and can submit more than one application for each type of support.

TAC support applications will be accepted online **during designated application windows**, generally a 2–3-week period throughout the year that will be announced via email and the TAC website.

- For TAC **grant writing and benefit cost analysis:** TAC will announce a set of grants that are eligible for TAC support in each window and the number of projects TAC plans to support in the window. TAC will provide guidance on the criteria it will use to select which applications to provide with grant writing and/or benefit cost analysis support.

Applicant **MUST** select a combination of grant writing with grant writing process management or benefit cost analysis or both. (Grant identification is NOT an available service for windows targeted to specific grants, and it cannot be selected at the same time as the aforementioned services.)

After the window closes, TAC will review the applications for each type of support and choose a set of support recipients. Additional application windows will be offered throughout the year with dates to be determined. The next section of this document, **TAC Window 2026 Announcement** provides details on the application window.

TAC Window Announcement

MIO TAC will offer several windows with specific dates that applications will be accepted. Please see the MIO TAC website to learn more about the timeframes for TAC assistance.

The grant writing, or benefit cost analysis applications are both available through an online portal at this link: Online TAC Support 2026 Application.

Please see the **Guide to Online Application*** section below for more information on how the online application works.

- For **grant writing and/or benefit cost analysis,** applicants can apply for technical assistance support for grants listed on the MIO TAC website.

MIO TAC is offering technical assistance for grants we anticipate becoming available. Not all NOFOs are published at time of Window opening. We are selecting grants that we anticipate NOFOs being released. Potential applicants can review past NOFOs and TAC Fact Sheets but note that new NOFOs are expected to update criteria based on current federal priorities. As they are released, TAC will link applicable NOFOs on its website and update Fact Sheets.

Recent updates to NOFOs for other grants have included:

- Revisions to program names
- Removal of language, merit criteria, and application requirements around climate change and sustainability environmental justice; equity; and workforce development (e.g., BUILD, Large Bridge Projects)
- Updates to total funding amounts available
- Defining Historically Disadvantaged Communities using the same statutory definition for Areas of Persistent Poverty

- New language on applicant compliance with federal laws, regulations, executive orders, policies, guidelines, and requirements, "including cooperating with and not impeding U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and other Federal offices and components of the Department of Homeland Security in the enforcement of Federal Law"[1]
- Clarifying all grant agreements or contracts must include terms that are in compliance with Section 3(C)(iv) of EO *Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity*

1. **2025 BIP Large Bridge Project Grants Notice of Funding Amendments Note: Estimated based on prior year's NOFO. Subject to change with future announcements (e.g., agency announcements, actual NOFOs) Source: 2025 BUILD Notice of Funding Amendment, 2025 BIP Large Bridge Project Grants Notice of Funding Amendments**

TAC 2026 Windows throughout the year will be targeting Federal Grants to support Communities. Please refer to MIO TAC website for a list of federal grants available for TAC assistance, grants.gov and other source materials for the latest information on NOFOs

Fact Sheets providing an overview of the most recent information available for each grant are available on the MIO TAC Website linked here: TAC Fact Sheets (michigan.gov)

For each TAC Window, TAC expects to select up to:

- 10 projects for **grant writing** support

Please see the **Criteria** section for an overview of what TAC is looking for in the projects it selects.

TAC Windows Details

- TAC support applications will be accepted online **during designated application windows**, generally a 2–3-week period throughout the year that will be announced via email and the TAC website and in advanced of NOFOs release date.
- **Webinars may be offered for complex grant offerings and applicants may register through the webinar link which can be found on the website or contained in the email announcement when offered.**
  The webinar will provide an overview of updated TAC support services, the TAC Window 2026 application process, and grants offered for technical assistance. MIO TAC highly recommends applicants to register to learn details unique to grant offerings. For applicants who cannot attend the webinar, the video recording will be posted on the website after completion.

Criteria for Application Evaluation
TAC will weigh several criteria when deciding. The application will have questions that provide an opportunity for applicants to demonstrate their alignment with the criteria.

Grant writing and benefit cost analysis *support evaluation criteria*

1. **Project quality and project alignment with Federal Grant criteria**: Detailed, clear and compelling project description. Assess the project's fit with the requirements and goals of the federal grant targeted. Is the applicant eligible to apply? Is the project an eligible activity of the grant?

2. **State priorities**: Assess whether the project aligns with state priorities.
3. **Applicant need:** Assess whether applicant has demonstrated need for requested TAC support.
4. **Project readiness**: Assess the extent to which the project proposal has undergone pre-development work. Projects do not need to demonstrate full readiness to be competitive; TAC will use this information to understand the services needed.

FAQs

Application process

1. Q: I'm a local government unit, but not an MPO/RPA. How do I apply?
    a. To apply for TAC support you will need to coordinate with your local planning organization (MPO/RPA) and receive a letter of support from them confirming that they have reviewed and selected your project to be submitted to TAC. When you have received the letter of support, you will then use the application links in the ***TAC Window 2026*** section of the document to apply. Please see the list of MPOs/RPAs to find your local planning agency.
2. Q: I'm an MPO/RPA. Can I apply for TAC myself?
    a. No, but you will choose the projects and grants from your community to be considered by the TAC for technical assistance. MPOs/RPAs are asked to coordinate with member localities/organizations to prioritize projects that will then be submitted for consideration. Localities will be responsible for submission, and MPOs/RPAs should provide letters of support. MPOs/RPAs can help municipalities submit their application for technical assistance. They can also participate in the technical assistance process. But there must be a municipality or eligible community entity that is the applicant for the technical assistance, and that entity must be able to participate in the technical assistance process.
3. Q: I'm a rail operator. How do I apply?
    a. If you are working with a local government agency, please apply in coordination with their MPO/RPA. If you are not working with local government, please coordinate with the MDOT rail office.
4. Q: How often can an eligible entity apply for support? How many projects can I submit per cycle?
    a. You can apply in multiple windows and there is no cap on how many applications you can submit per window. We highly recommend to only submit applications for projects and grants that are top priorities across the region, and to ensure they align with the application criteria provided. If you need help prioritizing projects and grants, please contact us.
5. Q: Can I apply for more than one type of support service in a window?
    a. Yes.
6. Q: What if the grant I'm interested in isn't available in the list of eligible grants?
    a. Please reach out to TAC directly to discuss additional grants.
7. Q: What kind of grants do you support?
    a. TAC is currently providing support for federal infrastructure grants funded by IIJA/BIL and IRA. Please reach out to TAC directly to discuss additional grants.
8. Q: Do I need to pay anything out of pocket or up front?
    a. If you work directly with TAC, you will not pay for services out of pocket or up front.
9. Q: Is this Guidance fully replacing the previous guidance on technical assistance support?
    a. Yes, please use this document as the new technical assistance guidance moving forward.

TAC Services

10. Q: I know what grant I want to apply for, but I don't have a project in mind, what should I do?

a. Please develop a project idea that aligns with the TAC project criteria before applying for technical assistance or reach out directly to TAC to discuss future support offerings.

11. Q: Is reporting required if I receive TAC support?
    a. The TA provider will work with you to report progress to MIO TAC during the service delivery process.
    b. ***Each recipient will be asked to complete a feedback form at the completion of technical assistance, and each recipient will be expected to report if the grant was awarded or not.***

Key Contacts

Kristin Brady, Director
Technical Assistance Center
Michigan Infrastructure Office
BradyK4@michigan.gov

Scan to go to MIO TAC website:

List of MPOs/RPAs

Name of planning organization	Type	Counties (or municipalities)	Website
Battle Creek Area Transportation Study	**MPO**	**City of Battle Creek, Springfield City; Townships of Bedford, Emmett, Pennfield, Leroy**	https://www.bcatsmpo.org/
Bay County Area Transportation Study	**MPO**	**Bay City, Essexville, Bangor, Monitor, Hampton, Portsmouth, Kawkawlin, Frankenlust**	https://www.baycounty-mi.gov/Transportation/
Central Upper Peninsula Planning & Development Regional Commission	**RPA**	**Alger, Delta, Dickinson, Marquette, Menominee, Schoolcraft**	https://cuppad.org/
East Michigan Council of Governments	**RPA**	**Arenac, Bay, Clare, Gladwin, Gratiot, Huron, Iosco, Isabella, Midland, Ogemaw, Roscommon, Saginaw, Sanilac, Tuscola**	http://www.emcog.org/
Eastern Upper Peninsula Regional Planning & Development Commission	**RPA**	**Chippewa, Luce, Mackinac**	https://www.eup-planning.org/

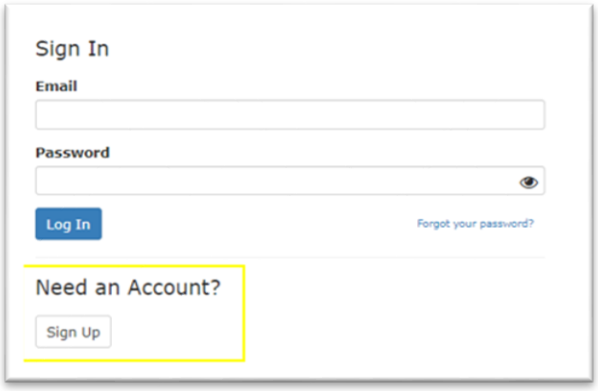
Genesee County Metropolitan Planning Commission	**MPO**	**Genesee County**	https://gcmpc.org/
GLS Region V Planning and Development Commission	**RPA**	**Genesee, Lapper, Shiawassee**	https://gcmpc.org/region-v-planning-and-development-commission
Grand Valley Metro Council	**MPO**	**Allegan, Barry, Ionia, Kent, Montcalm**	https://www.gvmc.org/about-mpo
Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study	**MPO**	**Cities of Kalamazoo, Portgage, Parchment, Galesburg; Counties of Kalamazoo, Van Buren**	https://www.katsmpo.org/
Macatawa Area Coordinating Council	**MPO**	**Holland, Zeeland**	https://www.the-macc.org/
Midland Area Transportation Study	**MPO**	**Midland County, City of Auburn, Williams Charter Township, Tittabawassee Township in Saginaw**	https://www.midlandmpo.org/
Networks Northwest	**RPA**	**Antrim, Benzie, Charlevoix, Emmet, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, Wexford**	https://www.networksnorthwest.org/
Northeast Michigan Council of Governments	**RPA**	**Alcona, Alpena, Cheboygan, Crawford, Montmorency, Oscoda, Otsego, Presque Isle**	https://www.discovernortheastmichigan.org/nemcog.asp
Region II Planning Commission	**RPA**	**Hillsdale, Jackson, Lenawee**	https://www.region2planning.com/
Saginaw Area Transportation Agency	**MPO**	**Saginaw County**	https://satampo.org/about-sata/
Southcentral Michigan Planning Council	**RPA**	**Barry, Branch, Calhoun, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph**	https://smpcregion3.org/
Southeast Michigan Council of Governments	**MPO and RPA**	**Livingston, Macomb, St. Clair, Monroe, Oakland, Washtenaw, Wayne**	https://www.semcog.org/about-semcog
Southwest Michigan Planning Commission	**RPA**	**Berrien County; Cass County; Van Buren County; Twin Cities Area Transportation Study; Niles, Buchanan and Cass Area Transportation Study**	https://www.swmpc.org/
Tri-County Regional Planning Commission	**MPO and RPA**	**Clinton, Eaton, Ingham**	https://www.mitcrpc.org/
West Michigan Metropolitan Planning Program	**MPO**	**Muskegon and Northern Ottawa County**	https://wmsrdc.org/program/transportation/services/
West Michigan Regional Planning Commission	**RPA**	**Allegan, Ionia, Kent, Mecosta, Montcalm, Osceola, Ottawa**	https://wmrpc.org/
West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development	**MPO AND RPA**	**Lake, Mason, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana**	https://wmsrdc.org/

Western Upper Peninsula Planning & Development Regional Commission	**RPA**	**Baraga, Gogebic, Houghton, Iron, Keweenaw, Ontonagon**	https://www.wuppdr.org/

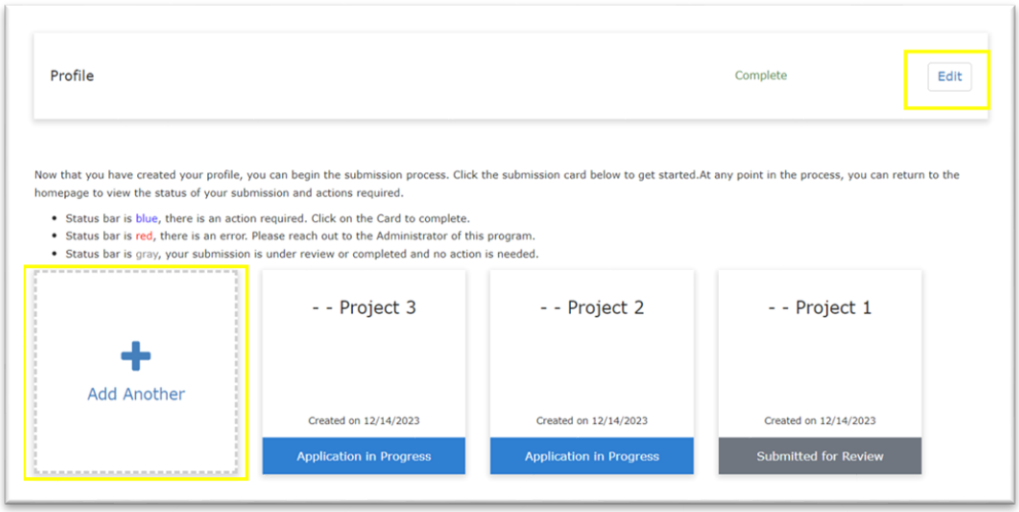
Guide to Online Application

WizeHive Online Application Portal

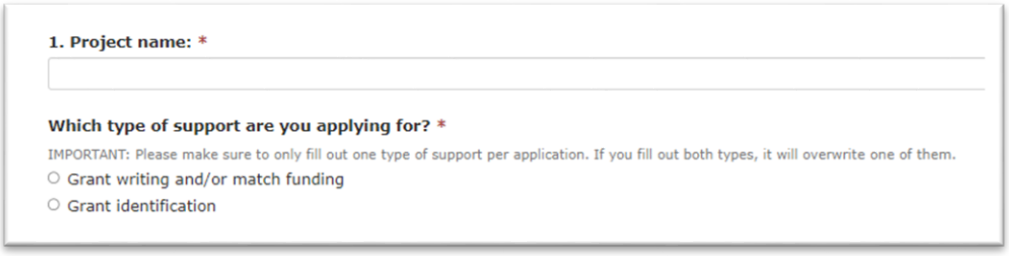
1. Go to the WizeHive MIO TAC web portal: Online TAC Support 2026 Application
2. Create a new account (once you have made the account, you will continue to use it to log in)



3. Create your profile. You can edit your profile at any time.
4. Your dashboard is where you can edit your profile and find all your applications. In the example below, the applicant has 3 applications. Start an application.



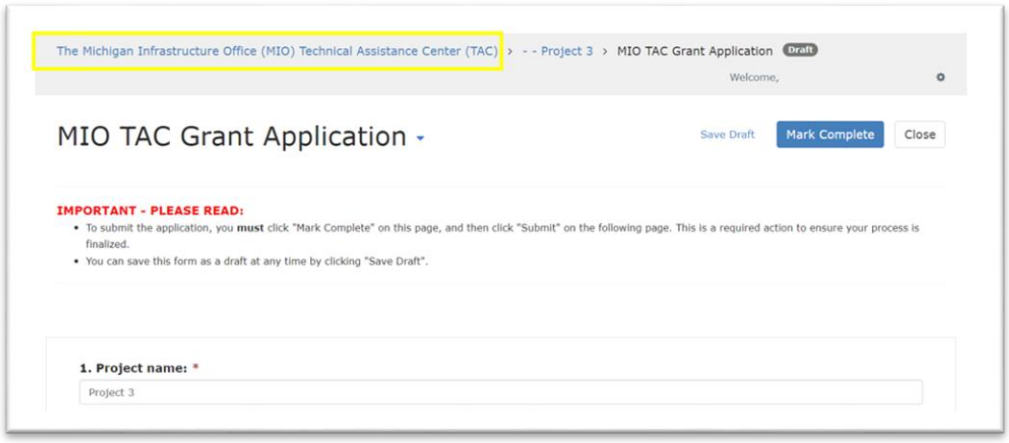
5. Start with the name of the project your application is about and identify the type of support you are applying for. You can apply for more than one type of support and/or more than one project, but each must be on different application. There is no cap on how many applications you can submit per window. Please note that grant identification is not an available service for windows targeted to specific grants.



6. Mandatory fields are marked with a red asterisk
7. Please list the supporting entity and include a letter of support for the specific project (see the **Eligibility** section of this document). ***A letter of support is required for all submissions***. Optional: list any co-applicants.
8. Fill out the rest of the form
9. You can save draft at any time using the "Save Draft" button; the application will not automatically save without clicking the button. **We recommend you save your draft frequently.**



10. If at any time you wish to return to your home dashboard, click the link at the top of the application page. The home dashboard is also where you can create a new application.

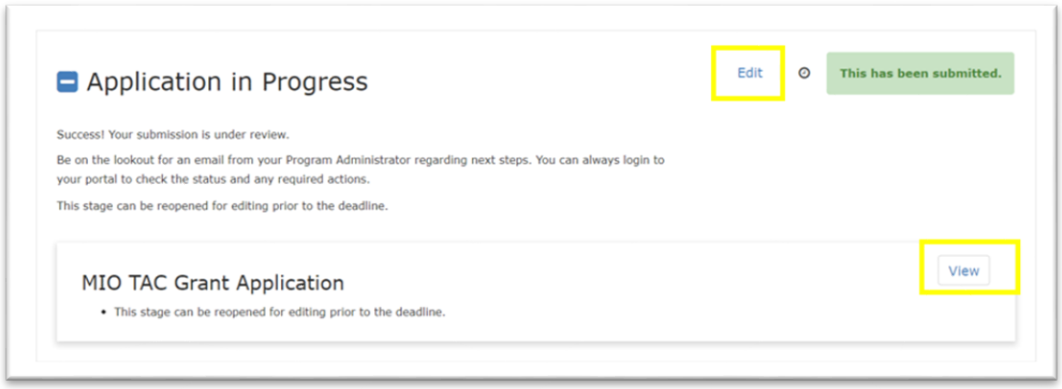


11. To submit the application, you must click the "mark complete" button at the top or bottom of the application page and then submit on the next page.

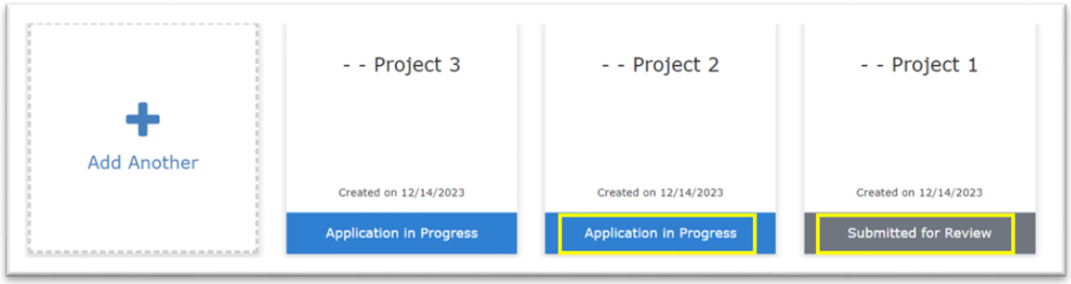




12. You will receive confirmation of submission. ***You can edit your application up until its submission. Once the application is submitted, you can longer edit.*** You can also view your completed application.



13. You can see the applications you have submitted and the application in progress on your dashboard. We currently do not have the functionality to delete applications, but you can begin an "in progress" application anew by deleting all the fields you have filled in. ***Applications not submitted will not be reviewed.***



14. If you have any questions, please reach out to Kris at BradyK4@michigan.gov