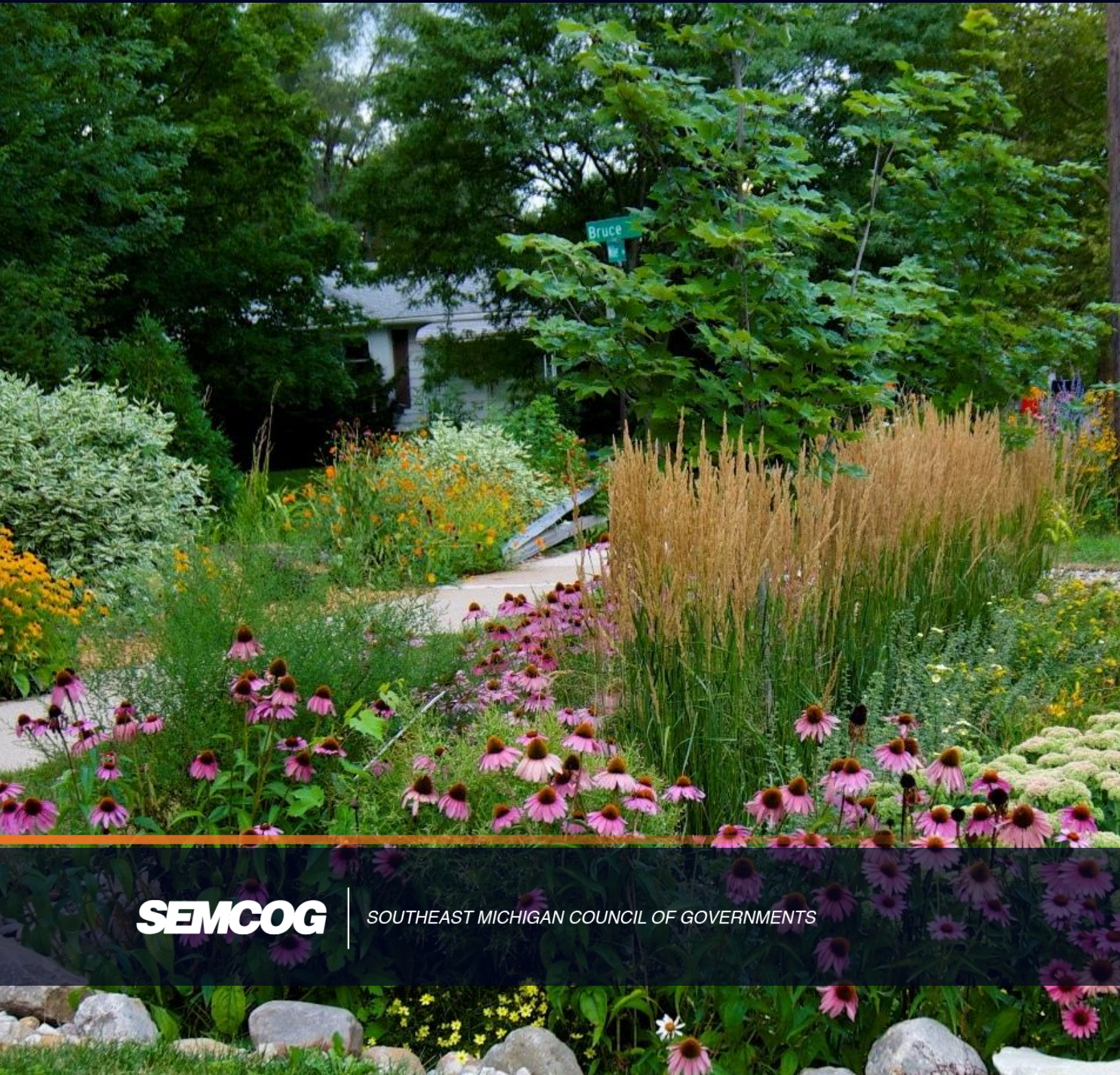


Southeast Michigan Climate Resiliency Funding Strategies



SEMCOG ... *Developing Regional Solutions*

Mission

SEMCOG, the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, is the only organization in Southeast Michigan that brings together all governments to develop regional solutions for both now and in the future. SEMCOG:

- Promotes informed decision making to improve Southeast Michigan and its local governments by providing insightful data analysis and direct assistance to member governments;
- Promotes the efficient use of tax dollars for infrastructure investment and governmental effectiveness;
- Develops regional solutions that go beyond the boundaries of individual local governments; and
- Advocates on behalf of Southeast Michigan in Lansing and Washington.

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Purpose of This Guide

This comprehensive guide has been created to provide users with detailed information and guidance on a wide selection of funding programs that support diverse activities and initiatives such as nature-based solutions, equity, climate change, stormwater management, and risk reduction. With a more detailed and thorough understanding of these programs, users will be empowered to make informed decisions and take advantage of the many funding opportunities available. Whether you are an individual or an organization, this guide is an essential resource that can help you explore new funding options and achieve your goals.

Navigating This Guide

This section provides a concise overview of the criteria pertaining to each climate resilience funding strategy accessible to the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG), along with its affiliated jurisdictions and partners. It serves to articulate the purpose of each subsection and clarify key terminologies utilized throughout this guide. Figure 1 provides an example of how information is summarized for each funding strategy throughout the guide. This information is further explained in the following sections.

Eligibility

Eligibility summarizes the types of applicants and sub-applicants, activities, and activity phases that are eligible to receive funding from the program.

Applicant Types

This subsection identifies which types of applicants and sub-applicants can receive funding through the program. Some programs, such as those administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), allow ineligible applicants to partner with eligible applications. Where applicable, this situation is noted in this subsection.

Project Types

Project types refer to the activities eligible for funding under each program. Many grant programs define activities differently according to their requirements. In recognition of these differences, this guide summarizes three types of activities:

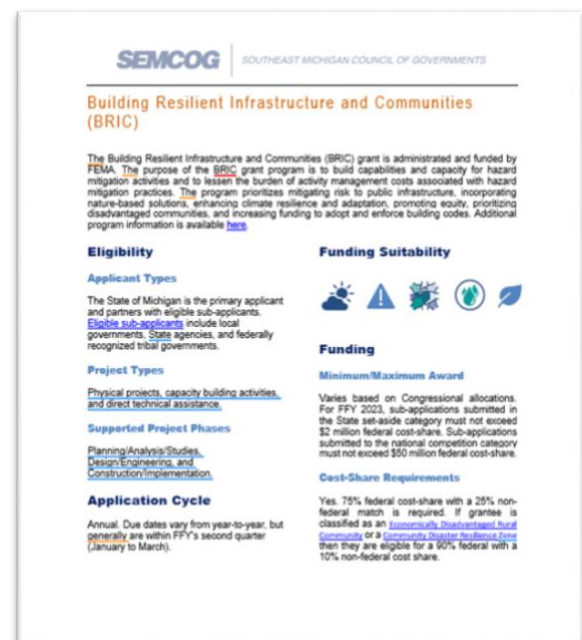


Figure 1. This guide details (1) Eligibility, (2) Application Cycle, (3) Funding Sustainability, (4) Funding, (5) Evaluation Criteria, and (6) Level of Effort for each funding source.

- **Capacity-building Activities** refers to activities that strengthen an applicant's or sub-applicant's ability to plan for and implement resilience activities.
- **Physical Projects** refer to activities that involve the development (i.e., scoping, engineering and design, analyses) and construction of structures that improve the resilience of an applicant's or sub-applicant's assets to climate change.
- **Technical Assistance** refers to activities that transfer knowledge and/or skills to applicants and sub-applicants that support planning for and implementing climate resilience.

Supported Project Phases

Project phases refer to the stages in an activity that are eligible for funding. Phase definitions vary by grant requirements as well as the project type proposed. This guide summarizes project phases into the following three types:

- **Planning/Analysis/Studies** – Includes activities that have been identified as a need and require additional planning or information to determine whether to move forward with an initiative.
- **Design/Engineering** – Includes preparing or finalizing details for successful implementation, such as project scoping, benefit-cost analyses, and preliminary and final engineering plans and permitting.
- **Construction/Implementation** – Includes activities that have been identified as a need and in which most details have been finalized. These projects can include the physical alteration or construction of resilience structures as well as developing programmatic initiatives that support the applicant's or sub-applicant's resilience.






Application Cycle

An application cycle refers to how often the program is open for applications (e.g., annually, rolling). This information can help applicants and sub-applicants determine whether a program may be a resource that can be used multiple times throughout the life of a project. Cycles depend on the agency administering the grant program. Federal and State of Michigan programs run during the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) from October to September. SEMCOG's fiscal year runs from July to June. Refer to the table below for a comparison of these fiscal year cycles. The guide notes the fiscal year used by the administering agency.

| Calendar Year 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | Calendar Year 2 | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|----------|-------|-------|-------|------|-------|--------|-----------|---------|----------|----------|-----------------|----------|-------|-------|-------|------|------|--------|-----------|---------|----------|----------|
| January | February | March | April | May | June | July | August | September | October | November | December | January | February | March | April | May | June | July | August | September | October | November | December |
| Federal Fiscal Year | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Y1 Q2 | | Y1 Q3 | | Y1 Q4 | | Y2 Q1 | | | | | | Y2 Q2 | | Y2 Q3 | | Y2 Q4 | | | | Y3 Q1 | | | |
| SEMCOG Fiscal Year | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Y1 Q3 | | Y1 Q4 | | Y2 Q1 | | Y2 Q2 | | | | | | Y2 Q3 | | Y2 Q4 | | Y3 Q1 | | | | Y3 Q2 | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Funding Suitability

This section provides information on the priorities of the program. Icons are used to indicate what priorities would be most applicable for each funding program.

| Icon | Priority |
|---|---|
|  | Climate Change |
|  | Risk Reduction |
|  | Equity |
|  | Stormwater |
|  | Nature-Based Solutions and Green Infrastructure |

Funding

This section summarizes the funding available as well as any cost-share requirements for the applicant or sub-applicant.

Minimum/Maximum Award

Minimum and maximum award represents the dollar amount, if provided, available for applicants or sub-applicants.

Cost-Share Requirements

Cost-share requirements outline whether the program requires the applicant or sub-applicant to match funding.

Evaluation Criteria














This section outlines the criteria and, if provided, the weight that applications are evaluated against when the administering organization determines awards.




















Level of Effort

This section characterizes how much effort (in terms of time, resources, and staffing) applicants and sub-applicants will need to dedicate to completing an application. The following table outlines each criterion and its respective thresholds from low to high.

| Criteria | Definition | Low | Medium | High |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|--|---|
| Documentation | Approximation of how many documents the applicant/sub-applicant must compile | Project narrative and/or project timeline | Project narrative, cost estimates and staffing needs, mandated worksheets, and/or project timeline | Program-specific/mandated worksheets, benefit-cost and cost justification analyses, extensive project narratives, and/or letters of support |
| Partnerships | Degree to which applicants/sub-applicants are required to complete the grant activities with external partners | No partnerships required or encouraged | Community engagement required | Applicants required to work with external partners to co-create and implement the activities |
| Other Eligibility Requirements | Other factors that determine if an applicant/sub-applicant is eligible to receive funding | No requirements | Applicants/sub-applicants are encouraged or prioritized if they meet certain criteria | Applicants/sub-applicants must have participated in or completed a related planning process |
| Application Timeframe | Approximate time allotted for the applicant/sub-applicant to develop an application, from notification of availability to submittal deadline | More than 4 months | 2-4 months | Less than 2 months |

Matrix of Funding Strategies

| Program Name | Climate Change | Risk Reduction | Equity | Stormwater | Nature-based Solutions/Green Infrastructure |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) |  |  |  |  |  |
| Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grants |  | |  | |  |
| Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund | | |  | | |
| Climate Resilience Regional Challenge |  |  |  |  |  |
| Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund | | |  | | |
| Flood Mitigation Assistance |  |  |  |  |  |
| Green and Resilient Retrofit Program (GRRP) |  | |  | | |

| Program Name | Climate Change | Risk Reduction | Equity | Stormwater | Nature-based Solutions/Green Infrastructure |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-saving Transportation (PROTECT) |  |  |  |  |  |
| Revitalization and Placemaking (RAP) 2.0 Program | | |  | |  |
| SEMCOG Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) | | |  |  |  |
| Southeast Michigan Resilience Fund |  |  |  |  |  |
| Sustain Our Great Lakes Program |  |  | |  |  |

Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC)

The Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant is administrated and funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The purpose of the BRIC grant is to build capabilities and capacity for hazard mitigation activities and to lessen the burden of activity management costs associated with hazard mitigation practices. The program prioritizes mitigating risk to public infrastructure; incorporating nature-based solutions; enhancing climate resilience and adaptation; promoting equity; prioritizing disadvantaged communities; and increasing funding to adopt and enforce building codes. Additional program information is available [here](#).

Eligibility

Applicant Types

The State of Michigan is the primary applicant and partners with eligible sub-applicants. [Eligible sub-applicants](#) include local governments, State agencies, and federally recognized Tribal governments.

Project Types

Physical projects, capacity-building activities, and direct technical assistance

Supported Project Phases

- Planning, Analysis, Studies
- Design/Engineering
- Construction/Implementation

Application Cycle

Annual. Due dates vary from year to year, but generally are within the financial fiscal year's second quarter (January to March).

Funding Suitability



Climate Change, Risk Reduction, Equity, Stormwater, Nature-Based Solutions, and Green Infrastructure.

Funding

Minimum/Maximum Award

Varies based on congressional allocations. For the financial fiscal year (FFY) 2023, sub-applications submitted in the state set-aside category must not exceed \$2 million federal cost-share. Sub-applications submitted to the national competition category must not exceed \$50 million federal cost-share.

Cost-Share Requirements?

Yes. 75% federal cost-share with a 25% non-federal match is required. If a grantee is classified as an [Economically Disadvantaged Rural Community](#) or a [Community Disaster Resilience Zone](#), then they are eligible for a 90% federal cost-share with a 10% non-federal match.

Evaluation Criteria

| Description | Maximum Potential Points |
|--|--------------------------|
| The project is an infrastructure project, as defined by BRIC. | 15 |
| The project incorporates nature-based solutions . | 15 |
| The project is in a jurisdiction with resilient building codes. | 20 |
| The project is in/benefits an Economically Disadvantaged Rural Community , or a federally recognized Tribal government , or a Community Disaster Resilience Zone . | 40 |

Level of Effort

| Criteria | Grant Requirements | Level of Effort |
|--------------------------------|--|-----------------|
| Documentation | Required documentation varies based on project type. All applications must have Standard Required Application Forms (SF) 424, which encompasses multiple worksheets. Depending on the project, applicants may be required or encouraged to include Benefit-Cost Analysis (BCA), Environmental and Historic Preservation (EHP), cost justification and budget, schedule, non-federal match commitment letter, letters of support, photographs, plans sealed by an engineer, etc. | High |
| Partnerships | BRIC promotes partnerships by including partnership-building as an eligible activity under capability and capacity activities. | Low |
| Other Eligibility Requirements | Applicants must have a FEMA-approved state/tribal hazard mitigation plan (HMP). HMP status can be found here . | High |
| Application Timeframe | Applications become available toward the end of FFY first quarter (October to December) and are due during FFY second quarter (January to March). The State of Michigan issues a request for Notices of Intent (NOIs) ahead of this cycle, typically toward the end of FFY fourth quarter (July to September). Confirm deadlines with State Hazard Mitigation Officer and with annual requirements (Michigan's FFY 2023 requirements may be found here). | High |

Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant

The Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grants program is administrated and funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The purpose is to support development and implantation of Transformation Plans and/or comprehensive neighborhood revitalization strategies. The program prioritizes these plans as foundational elements for the revitalization of public/assisted housing units while simultaneously transforming surrounding neighborhoods. Additional program information is available [here](#).

Eligibility

Applicant Types

Local, state, and Tribal governments; nonprofit organizations; public or Indian housing authorities. A co-applicant can be a Public Housing Agency or owner of the target HUD-assisted housing.

Project Types

Capacity-building activities

Supported Project Phases

- Design/Engineering
- Construction/Implementation

Application Cycle

Annual. Due dates vary from year to year, but generally application deadlines are no later than March.

Funding Suitability



Climate Change, Equity, Nature-Based Solutions and Green Infrastructure

Funding

Minimum/Maximum Award

Funding scale is \$1 to \$500,000 per project award.

Cost-Share Requirements?

Yes. 95% federal cost-share with a 5% non-federal match is required. If the grantee uses more than 5% of the grant amount for Supportive Services, then they must provide a match equal to the amount used for the additional 5%.

Evaluation Criteria

| Description | Maximum Potential Points |
|--|--------------------------|
| The project provides proof of capacity in the following roles: lead applicant, neighborhood implementation entity, housing implementation entity, and people implementation entity. The applicant/project team also has experience promoting racial equity. | 20 |
| The project presents needs for assistance in the following areas of deficiency: structural and environmental, design, poverty (ELI Rating), long-term vacancy/substandard home, Part I violent crime, brownfields, and affordable housing. | 14 |
| The project includes neighborhood transformation strategies, especially in the realm of economic development, public safety, and overall neighborhood improvement. | 10 |
| The project includes housing strategies, especially in the realm of relocation and mobility, phasing/mixed-income development by building and total rental units, design, and land use approvals. | 17 |
| The project includes strategies to promote community needs, such as resident assets and needs assessment and case management practices. The project also includes strategies in the realm of income and employment, health, education, and early learning development. | 14 |
| The project leverages other funding opportunities and investment strategies, such as HUD's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), neighborhood investments, housing development investments, and people leverage. | 9 |
| The project has a sound approach for implementation. This includes a feasible planning process, community engagement, organizational framework, and impact of the transformation plan. | 15 |
| The project is located in a climate change-sensitive area, environmental justice zone, and or/promise zone. | 5 |

Level of Effort

| Criteria | Grant Requirements | Level of Effort |
|--------------------------------|--|-----------------|
| Documentation | Required documentation includes the Standard Required Application Forms (SF) 424 as well as other HUD-specific forms (i.e., HUD-53232), which encompasses multiple worksheets. | High |
| Partnerships | This program does not require or incentivize partnerships for this funding opportunity. | Low |
| Other Eligibility Requirements | There are three main eligibility criteria that must be proven in the application: (1) applicant must be an eligible entity; (2) the application must target an eligible housing project; and (3) the target housing project must be located in an eligible neighborhood. | Low |
| Application Timeframe | Applications are generally due during the financial fiscal year (FFY) second quarter (January to March). | High |

Clean Water State Revolving Fund

The Clean Water State Revolving Fund program is administrated by the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) and funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). The purpose is to assist qualified local municipalities with the construction of needed water pollution control facilities that may not qualify for State Revolving Fund assistance (SRF). The program prioritizes providing lower rates for overburdened communities within the State and offers 20–30-year loans. Two types of projects can be financed under this funding opportunity: (1) on-site upgrade-replacement of septic systems and (2) the removal of groundwater or stormwater from sewer leads. Additional program information is available [here](#).

Eligibility

Applicant Types

State of Michigan water utility suppliers

Project Types

Physical projects

Supported Project Phases

Construction/Implementation

Application Cycle

Annual. Due dates vary from year to year, but generally are within the financial fiscal year's (FFY's) first quarter (October to December).

Funding Suitability



Equity

Funding

Minimum/Maximum Award

Interest rates vary depending on the loan and applicant type.

- 20-year loan: 2.5%
 - Overburdened applicant: 2%
 - Significantly overburdened applicant: 1%
- 30-year loan: 2.75%
 - Overburdened applicant: 2%
 - Significantly overburdened applicant: 1%
- Strategic Water Quality Initiatives Fund (SWQF): 2.5%
 - Overburdened applicant: 2%
 - Significantly overburdened applicant: 1%

Cost-Share Requirements?

No cost-share is required to be eligible for this funding opportunity.

Evaluation Criteria

| Clean Water | Stormwater | Description | Maximum Potential Points |
|-------------|------------|---|--------------------------|
| X | | The project has an enforceable schedule. | 15 |
| | X | The project includes a Violation Notice for MS4. | 5 |
| | X | The project results in reduced stormwater runoff volume, increased water quality treatment, addresses flooding concerns that are causing water quality problems and enhances system resiliency. | 5 |
| X | | The project includes sanitary sewer overflow (SSO)/bypass elements <u>OR</u> includes reduction in annual combined sewer overflow (CSO) volume <u>OR</u> meets 20 ppb of perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) as expressed in the biosolid strategy. | 20 |
| | X | The project achieves the total maximum daily load (TMDL) pollutant load reduction <u>AND</u> results in reduced stormwater runoff volume <u>AND</u> increased water quality treatment of existing discharge <u>AND</u> results in disconnection of existing impervious surfaces <u>AND</u> regional Best Management Practices (BMP's) to address local site issues in compliance with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) NS4 Post-Construction requirements. | 45 |
| X | | The project utilizes water quality severity points and toxic component of water quality points as defined to meet PFOS, perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), and perfluorobutane sulfonate (PFBS WQVs) for surface water and 201 requirements for groundwater. | 20 |
| X | | The project is included in AM program <u>OR</u> is regional in scale <u>OR</u> contains resilience measures such as pumping, electrical systems, basement backup protection, etc. | 20 |
| | X | The project is included in the AM program <u>AND</u> is regional in scale. | 20 |
| X | X | The project assists overburdened/significantly overburdened populations. | 20/25 |

Level of Effort

| Criteria | Grant Requirements | Level of Effort |
|--------------------------------|--|-----------------|
| Documentation | Eligible applicants must submit an Intent to Apply (ITA) to be considered for funding/financing opportunities. A project planning document is required, which includes a Project Priority List (PPL) to be evaluated, scored, and ranked for the upcoming fiscal year. The project planning document is extensive and includes background information on each listed project, as well as current and future needs of the project, a PPL scoring data form, and more. | High |
| Partnerships | There are no partnership requirements or incentives to be eligible for this loan opportunity. However, each project will work closely with EGLE by being assigned a Water Infrastructure Funding and Financing Section (WIFFS) project manager through the planning process. | Low |
| Other Eligibility Requirements | Applicant financing schedule must follow the EGLE and Michigan Finance Authority (MFA) financing schedule and FFY. More information on this financing schedule and forms can be found here . | High |
| Application Timeframe | Intent to Apply (ITA) forms are generally due at the beginning of November, while project planning documents with PPL are due in early May. | High |

Climate Resilience Regional Challenge

The Climate Resilience Regional Challenge grant is administered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) and funded by the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). The purpose of the Climate Resilience Regional Challenge is to support collaborative approaches aimed at achieving resilience in coastal regions. The program prioritizes risk reduction, regional collaboration, equity, and building enduring capacity. Additional program information is available [here](#).

Eligibility

Applicant Types

State and local government; Tribal government and territories; coastal states, including those bordering on one or more of the Great Lakes; nonprofit organizations; academic institutions

Project Types

Physical projects, capacity-building activities, and direct technical assistance

Supported Project Phases

- Planning/Analysis/Studies
- Design/Engineering
- Construction/Implementation

Application Cycle

Annual. Due dates may vary from year to year, but generally are within the FFY's second quarter (January to March).

Funding Suitability



Climate Change, Risk Reduction, Equity, Stormwater, Nature-Based Solutions and Green Infrastructure.

Funding

Minimum/Maximum Award

Varies based on project type. For the financial fiscal year (FFY) 2024, the award range was \$500,000 to \$75 million.

Cost-Share Requirements?

No, but cost-share is encouraged to be competitive during the review stage.

Evaluation Criteria

Track One and Track Two applications, or Letters of Intent (LOIs), are evaluated separately with different criteria. The program prioritizes projects that satisfy most or all the criteria listed in either Track One or Track Two categories. The applications will undergo a technical review by three evaluators who will rank and determine project eligibility. The applications will be scored as follows based on the maximum potential points awarded: Poor (0 points), Fair (1 point), Good (2 points), and Excellent (3 points).

| Track One | Track Two | Description | Maximum Potential Points |
|-----------|-----------|--|--------------------------|
| X | | The project prepares the <i>region</i> for implementation of future actions which will reduce risk to coastal communities, coastal infrastructure, economies, and ecosystems from impacts of weather and climate. | 15 |
| | X | The project proposes efforts to reduce risk to coastal communities, coastal infrastructure, economies, and ecosystems from impacts of weather and climate. | 15 |
| X | X | The project promotes regional coordination and collaborations through a shared vision of improving resilience within a certain geographic area/region. | 15 |
| X | X | The project supports the development, identification, and implementation of equitable adaptation strategies/actions led by members of marginalized, underserved, and/or underrepresented communities or Tribes. The project also advances environmental justice through opportunities for disadvantaged communities. | 15 |
| X | X | The project aims to build capacity for adaptations that sustain future efforts beyond the period of award and include Tribes and/or marginalized, underserved, and underrepresented communities. | 15 |
| X | X | The project has a clear, shared vision, strategy, activities, and outcomes and timeline for activities is feasible and accomplishable. | 10 |
| X | X | The project's estimated costs are feasible and commensurate with the project needs and timeframe. | 10 |
| X | X | The project includes activities for engaging a wide range of agencies/organizations, including marginalized, underserved, and underrepresented communities or Tribes. The project also includes efforts to connect with NOAA's partnerships. | 20 |

Level of Effort

| Criteria | Grant Requirements | Level of Effort |
|--------------------------------|--|-----------------|
| Documentation | Applicants must submit a LOI to be invited by NOAA to submit a full application proposal. All full applications must have Standard Required Application Forms (SF) 424, which encompasses multiple worksheets. Each application is required to submit the following five forms: summary, narrative, budget narrative, appendices, and letter of support/collaboration. | High |
| Partnerships | The Climate Resilience Regional Challenge grant promotes partnerships with NOAA and includes this element in the evaluation criteria. | High |
| Other Eligibility Requirements | Applicants must designate a Project Director (PD) within their LOI/full application. | Low |
| Application Timeframe | Applications become available toward the middle of the FFY fourth quarter (July to October) and are due within the FFY's second quarter (January to March). LOIs are due toward the end of August. Full applications are due in the middle of February. Late applications will not be considered for funding. | High |

Drinking Water State Revolving Fund

The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) program is administered by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) and funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). The purpose is to assist qualified local municipalities in satisfying the requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act by offering low-interest loans (for 20-, 30-, or 40-year loans) to eligible water suppliers. The program prioritizes equity and environmental health by incentivizing water suppliers to maintain safe, clean drinking water for the community they service. Additional program information is available [here](#).

Eligibility

Applicant Types

The State of Michigan water utility suppliers

Project Types

Physical projects

Supported Project Phases

- Design/Engineering
- Construction/Implementation

Application Cycle

Annual. Due dates vary from year to year but generally are within the financial fiscal years (FFY's) first quarter (October to December).

Funding Suitability



Equity

Funding

Minimum/Maximum Award

Interest rates vary depending on the loan and applicant type.

- 20-year loan: 2.5%
 - Overburdened applicant: 2%
 - Significantly overburdened applicant: 1%
- 30-year loan: 2.75%
 - Overburdened applicant: 2%
 - Significantly overburdened applicant: 1%
- 40-year loan
 - Overburdened applicant: 2%
 - Significantly overburdened applicant: 1%

Cost-Share Requirements?

No cost-share is required to be eligible for this funding opportunity.

Evaluation Criteria

| Description | Maximum Potential Points |
|---|--------------------------|
| The project contains a combination of the following: improves/ maintains facility compliance with current or future regulations; regional efforts to support technical, managerial, and financial (TMF) capacity, such as managerial or financial capacity resource sharing; CWS /other performance work statement (PWS) consolidations; addresses enforcement order (CWS/ NCWS); contains efforts to protect source water. | 25 |
| The project includes a combination of the following: replacement of lead service lines; addresses acute maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) or TTs (Nitrate, E-Coli, surface water treatment); addresses non-acute MCLs, hindered amine light stabilizers (HALs), or TTs (Arsenic, polyfluoroalkyl substances [PFAS], volatile organic compounds [VOCs], ALEs , Radium, etc.); the water supply has a history of no HB violations in past 5-years. | 20 |
| The project includes a combination of the following: installation of storage tank mixing and/or looping to eliminate dead-end watermain; upgrades to more protective and higher quality source water; active in the source water protection program; upgrades to treatment facilities to address water quality. | 15 |
| The project includes a combination of the following: addresses the needs in the Capital Improvement Plan and/or Reliability Study; promotes technical capacity resource sharing (i.e., tanks, wells, intakes, etc.); includes several asset classes or financing sources (i.e., USA RD , Clean Water State Revolving Fund [CWSRF], Grants, Loans, Cost-Share, etc.). | 15 |
| The project includes one of the following: assists overburdened communities; assists significantly overburdened communities. | 25 |

Level of Effort

| Criteria | Grant Requirements | Level of Effort |
|--------------------------------|--|-----------------|
| Documentation | Eligible applicants must submit an Intent to Apply (ITA) to be considered for funding/financing opportunities. A project planning document is required for eligibility to be included in the Project Priority List (PPL). This planning document will be evaluated, scored, and ranked for the upcoming fiscal year. The project planning document is extensive and includes background information on each listed project, as well as current and future needs of the project, a PPL scoring data form, and more. | High |
| Partnerships | There are no partnership requirements or incentives to be eligible for this loan opportunity. However, each project will work closely with EGLE by being assigned an EGLE project manager through the planning process. | Low |
| Other Eligibility Requirements | Applicant financing schedule must follow the EGLE and MFA financing schedule and FFY. More information on this financing schedule and forms can be found here . | High |
| Application Timeframe | Intent to Apply (ITA) forms are generally due at the beginning of November. Project planning documents with PPL are due in early June. | High |

Flood Mitigation Assistance

The Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) program is administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and funded in whole or in part with funds appropriated by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). This program aims to help reduce or eliminate the risk of repetitive flood damage to buildings and structures insured under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and within NFIP-participating communities. There are three categories of funding: Capability and Capacity-Building, Localized Flood Risk Reduction Projects, and Individual Flood Mitigation Projects. Additional program information is available [here](#).

Eligibility

Applicant Types

The State of Michigan is the primary applicant and partners with eligible sub-applicants. [Eligible sub-applicants](#) include local governments, State agencies, and federally recognized Tribal governments. All applicants and sub-applicants must be participating in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

Project Types

Physical projects and capacity-building activities

Supported Project Phases

- Planning/Analysis/Studies
- Design/Engineering
- Construction/Implementation

Application Cycle

Annual. Due dates vary from year to year, but generally are within the FFY's second quarter (January to March).

Funding Suitability



Climate Change, Risk Reduction, Equity, Stormwater, Nature-Based Solutions and Green Infrastructure.

Funding

Minimum/Maximum Award

Varies based on congressional allocations. For the financial fiscal year (FFY) 2023, sub-applications submitted for localized flood risk reduction projects must not exceed \$50 million federal cost-share. Individual flood mitigation projects do not have a funding cap. Funding caps vary for capability and capacity-building activities.

Cost-Share Requirements?

Yes. 75% federal cost-share with a 25% non-federal match is required. Up to 90% federal cost-share is provided if the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) score is greater than 0.5001. For individual flood mitigation projects for properties defined as severe repetitive loss, a 100% federal cost-share is provided; a 90% federal cost-share is provided for properties defined as repetitive loss (RL).

Evaluation Criteria

Criteria for Capability and Capacity-building Activities

FEMA will select the highest ranked eligible sub-applications. As needed, additional projects will be scored and selected based on the priorities in the following table.

| Description | Maximum Potential Points |
|---|--------------------------|
| Project is located within a Justice40 Community or Community Disaster Resilience Zone . | Up to 8 |
| The community participates in the Community Rating System (CRS) program. | 3 |
| The community participates in the Cooperating Technical Assistance Partners Program (CTP). | 3 |
| The project incorporates public-private partnerships. | 2 |

Criteria for Localized Flood Risk Reduction Projects

| Description | Maximum Potential Points |
|--|---|
| Project is located within a Justice40 Community or Community Disaster Resilience Zone . | Up to 300 |
| Number of active NFIP Policies within the project's benefitting area at the time of application. | 2 points per NFIP Policy, up to 200 points |
| Number of NFIP and Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) repetitive loss (RL) and severe repetitive loss (SRL) properties within the project's benefitting area. | 5 points per RL and 10 points per SRL, up to 175 points |
| Project incorporates considerations for climate adaptation and resilience. | 100 |
| Project incorporates considerations for nature-based solutions. | 100 |
| Project was generated from a previous FMA award. | 50 |
| The project incorporates public-private partnerships. | 25 |
| The community participates in the Community Rating System (CRS) program. | 25 |
| The community participates in the Cooperating Technical Assistance Partners Program (CTP). | 25 |

Criteria for Individual Flood Mitigation Projects

| Description | Maximum Potential Points |
|---|------------------------------------|
| Number of structures determined to be Substantially Damaged (SD) by the community within five (5) years of the application submission deadline. | 10 points per SD structure, no cap |
| Project is located within a Justice40 Community or Community Disaster Resilience Zone . | Up to 50 |
| Number of NFIP and FMA repetitive loss (RL) and severe repetitive loss (SRL) properties within the project's benefitting area. | Up to 30 |
| Project was generated from a previous FMA award. | 20 |

Level of Effort

| Criteria | Grant Requirements | Level of Effort |
|---------------|---|-----------------|
| Documentation | Required documentation varies based on project type. All applications must have Standard Required Application Forms (SF) 424, which encompasses multiple worksheets. Depending on the project, applicants may be required or encouraged to include Benefit-Cost Analysis (BCA), Environmental and Historic Preservation (EHP), cost justification and budget, schedule, non-Federal match commitment letter, letters of support, photographs, plans sealed by an engineer, etc. | High |
| Partnerships | FMA promotes partnerships by including partnership-building as an eligible activity under the capability and capacity activities. Evaluation points are awarded to projects incorporating partnerships within the capability and capacity and localized flood | Medium |

| Criteria | Grant Requirements | Level of Effort |
|--------------------------------|--|-----------------|
| | risk reduction projects categories. | |
| Other Eligibility Requirements | Applicants must have a FEMA-approved state/tribal Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP). HMP status can be found here . All applicants must be participating in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), and not be withdrawn, on probation, or suspended. NFIP community status can be verified in the Community Status Book . | High |
| Application Timeframe | <p>Applications become available toward the end of FFY first quarter (October to December) and are due during FFY second quarter (January to March).</p> <p>The State of Michigan issues a request for Notices of Intent (NOIs) ahead of this cycle, typically toward the end of FFY fourth quarter (July to September). Confirm deadlines with State Hazard Mitigation Officer and with annual requirements (Michigan's FFY 2023 requirements may be found here).</p> | High |

Green and Resilient Retrofit Program (GRRP)

The Green and Resilient Retrofit Program (GRRP) grant is administrated and funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The purpose is to establish green and healthy housing through promoting energy generation/efficiency, greenhouse gas emission reduction, and climate resilience strategies. This grant program specifically targets HUD-assisted multi-family housing through three different funding categories: Elements, Leading Edge, and Comprehensive. Additional program information is available [here](#).

Eligibility

Applicant Types

HUD-assisted multi-family properties

Project Types

Physical projects

Supported Project Phases

- Design and Engineering
- Construction and Implementation

Application Cycle

Applications are quarterly and vary by funding category.

- Elements: June, September, January, March
- Leading Edge: July, October, January, April
- Comprehensive: August, November, February, May

Funding Suitability



Climate Change and Equity.

Funding

Minimum/Maximum Award

Varies based on type of funding category.

- Elements: Awards up to \$40,000 per unit or \$750,000 per property
- Leading Edge: Awards up to \$60,000 per unit or \$10 million per property
- Comprehensive: Awards up to \$80,000 per unit or \$20 million per property

Cost-Share Requirements?

No. There is no cost-share requirement to be eligible for this funding opportunity.

Evaluation Criteria

Projects are evaluated against category-specific criteria. The following table summarizes these criteria and their relative importance in determining awards.

| Description | Maximum Potential Score |
|---|-------------------------|
| Elements: The application will be evaluated based upon probability of achieving a green certification, commitment to electrification, and participation in the Better Buildings/Climate Challenge. | High |
| Leading Edge: The application will be evaluated based upon the property's current need for utility efficiency improvement and assessed by the Multi-family Building Efficiency Screening Tool (MBEST). | High |
| Comprehensive: The application will be evaluated based upon the property's current utility efficiency needs, measured by the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Energy Star Score and/or the MBEST. The property will also be evaluated based on climate vulnerability using the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA's) National Risk Index (NRI). At a minimum, 60% of the awards must be reserved for properties that benchmark through Portfolio Manager (e.g., MBEST). | High |

Level of Effort

| Criteria | Grant Requirements | Level of Effort |
|---------------|--|-----------------|
| Documentation | <p>Required documentation varies based on project type and funding category.</p> <p><i>Elements:</i> General project information is required in the application as well as the recapitalization transaction status (i.e., commitment letters for other funding sources), verification of third-party reports/assessments, and bids that substantiate requested funding.</p> <p><i>Leading Edge:</i> General project information is required in the application as well as development team credentials and submission of an Environmental Due Diligence.</p> <p><i>Comprehensive:</i> General project information is required in the application as well as a Portfolio Manager Statement of Energy Performance and/or MBEST workbook for each building.</p> | High |

| Criteria | Grant Requirements | Level of Effort |
|--------------------------------|--|-----------------|
| Partnerships | There are no partnership requirements to be eligible under the <i>Elements</i> or <i>Leading Edge</i> funding categories. For the <i>Comprehensive</i> funding category, the property owner must work with a HUD-provided contractor to commission property assessments and develop a scope of work. | Low |
| Other Eligibility Requirements | <p><i>Elements</i>: The owner must have secured financing for a recapitalization project and completed a third-party due diligence report (i.e., Capital Needs Assessment). The project must extend the property's affordability commitment by a minimum of five years beyond the use restrictions.</p> <p><i>Leading Edge</i>: The owner must present the property's utility efficiency needs and proof of the development team's capacity to achieve a green certification. The property owner must have an architect/engineer's verification that a green certification is achievable. During rehabilitation of the property, the project must comply with Build America, Buy America Requirements, Davis-Bacon prevailing wage rates, and Section 3 employment requirements. The project must complete post-rehabilitation utility benchmarking.</p> <p><i>Comprehensive</i>: Proof of the property's utility efficiency needs and/or have significant risk to climate hazards. The property owner must agree to work with HUD-procured contractors to assess the property needs, develop a scope of work, and a financing plan.</p> | High |
| Application Timeframe | Applications are open depending on the type of funding category but are generally open quarterly throughout the year. | High |

Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT)

The Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) grant is administrated by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and funded by the Highway Trust Fund. This program aims to improve the resilience of surface transportation to natural hazards, including climate change, sea level rise, flooding, and extreme weather events by funding Planning Grants and Resilience Grants (which are categorized as one of the following: Resilience Improvement, Community Resilience and Evacuation Routes, and At-Risk Coastal Infrastructure). Additional program information is available [here](#).

Eligibility

Applicant Types

States, local governments, and federally recognized Tribal governments; metropolitan planning organizations; special purpose districts; federal land management agencies.

Project Types

Physical projects and capacity-building activities

Supported Project Phases

- Planning/Analysis/Studies
- Design/Engineering
- Construction/Implementation

Application Cycle

Annual. Due dates vary from year to year, subject to availability and at the request of an eligible entity. The Secretary of Transportation may distribute funds on a multi-year basis for selected grants.

Funding Suitability



Climate Change, Risk Reduction, Equity, Stormwater, Nature-Based Solutions and Green Infrastructure.

Funding

Minimum/Maximum Award

Varies based on congressional allocations. For financial fiscal year (FFY) 2023, the minimum award size for Planning Grants is \$100,000 and Resilience Grants is \$500,000. There is no maximum award size.

Applicants can request less than the minimum award if they include a justification for the requested amount.

Cost-Share Requirements?

- Planning Grants: No.
- Resilience Grants: Yes. 80% to 90% cost-share, depending on whether the project is prioritized in a Resilience Improvement Plan (7%) or a Resilience Improvement Plan is incorporated in the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) (3%).

Evaluation Criteria

Applicants receive a rating of High (substantively and comprehensively responsive) to Low (minimally responsive) or Non-Responsive for each of the following criteria.

| Planning Grants | Resilience Grants | Description | Maximum Potential Score |
|-----------------|-------------------|---|-------------------------|
| x | x | The project presents a detailed schedule and feasible budget to commensurate with the work described in the application. | High |
| x | x | The project will engage a wide range of partners and stakeholders for public collaboration and details the engagement process and incorporation of feedback. | High |
| x | x | The project demonstrates and implements innovative techniques, nature-based solutions, and novel partnerships. | High |
| x | | The project aligns with one or more of the four eligible Planning Grant activities described in 23 U.S.C. § 176(d)(3) . | High |
| | x | The application demonstrates a high risk to the assets using science-based information to assess exposure, sensitivity, and adaptive capacity. | High |
| | x | The application demonstrates a critical need for community functions based on current and future events that the project will address in a reasonable timeframe. | High |
| | x | The application presents how the project will incorporate collaboration across relevant sectors. | High |
| | x | The application includes an equity assessment and demonstrates the project's outcome of benefiting no less than 40% of disadvantaged communities. | High |
| | x | The project will significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the transportation sector and avoid impacts to air/water quality, wetlands, and endangered species. | High |

Level of Effort

| Criteria | Grant Requirements | Level of Effort |
|--------------------------------|--|-----------------|
| Documentation | Required documentation varies based on project type. All applications must have Standard Required Application Forms (SF) 424, which encompasses multiple worksheets. Depending on the project, applicants may be required or encouraged to include a Benefit-Cost Analysis (BCA), Merit Criteria, cost justification and budget, schedule, and FHWA Priority Considerations. | High |
| Partnerships | No required partnerships or incentives to partner with other agencies or stakeholders for this funding opportunity. | Low |
| Other Eligibility Requirements | Applicants are encouraged to identify scaled funding options if there is insufficient funding available for the project at the requested amount. | High |
| Application Timeframe | <p>Application Start FFY 2023: April 21, 2023</p> <p>Application Deadline FFY 2023: August 18, 2023</p> <p>Applicants are permitted to submit applications prior to the deadline. Evaluations and awards will not be issued until after the application deadline.</p> | High |

Revitalization and Placemaking (RAP) 2.0 Program

The Revitalization and Placemaking (RAP) 2.0 grant is administered by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) and funded by the Michigan Strategic Fund. The purpose is to provide the resources and access to gap financing for place-based infrastructure development, real estate rehabilitation and development, and public space improvements. The program prioritizes addressing COVID-19 impacts within the community and includes rehabilitation efforts. Additional program information is available [here](#).

Eligibility

Applicant Types

Local governments; nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations; local economic development organizations and authorities, such as brownfield authorities and downtown development authorities; developers

Project Types

Physical projects

Supported Project Phases

- Planning/Analysis/Studies
- Design/Engineering
- Construction/Implementation

Application Cycle

Annual. Due dates may vary from year to year, but generally are within the financial fiscal year's (FFY's) third quarter (April to June).

Funding Suitability



Equity and Nature-Based Solutions and Green Infrastructure.

Funding

Minimum/Maximum Award

Varies based on project type. However, awards typically range from \$500,000 to \$5 million per project or real estate rehabilitation/development.

Cost-Share Requirements?

No, cost-share is not a requirement for this funding opportunity. However, cost-share is assessed during the application review stage. Competitive proposals will have a financial contribution from a local government.

Evaluation Criteria

Evaluation of the application is dependent on the project type, such as Real Estate Rehabilitation, Public Space Place-Based Infrastructure Project, and Subgrant Program grant. The most competitive application will address community revitalization needs and satisfy the criteria below:

| Description | Maximum Potential Points |
|--|--------------------------|
| The application includes a letter of support from a local or regional economic development organization. Application also includes cost-share from the local government/entity. | High |
| The project is in a downtown or commercial corridor area within the community. | High |
| The applicant/consultant/development team has experience implementing a project of similar scope/size. | High |
| The application clearly outlines the long-term impacts in the community (e.g., address enabling growth in population and tax revenue). | High |
| The application clearly demonstrates long-term financial viability of the project and financial need for these efforts within the community. | High |
| The project supports the vision and goals state in the Local Master Plan, Downtown Plan, Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), and/or Economic Development Strategy. The application clearly outlines the readiness of infrastructure (i.e., utilities, transportation, community services, etc.). | High |

Level of Effort

| Criteria | Grant Requirements | Level of Effort |
|--------------------------------|---|-----------------|
| Documentation | Required documentation varies based on project type. All applications must be entered into an online grant portal and must provide cost estimates, evidence of available funding commitments, project schedules. | Medium |
| Partnerships | The program does not require or incentivize partnership agreements for this funding opportunity. | Low |
| Other Eligibility Requirements | The letter of support (LOS) must be signed by the highest local official (i.e., City Manager, Mayor Township Supervisor). The LOS must also state that the support is specific to the RAP 2.0 application. | Medium |
| Application Timeframe | <p>Applications become available toward the beginning of FFY third quarter (April to June) and are due during the end of the same quarter (April to June).</p> <p>Application round announced in Mid-April.</p> <p>Application portal opens beginning of May and closes end of June.</p> <p>Awards are announced in Fall.</p> | High |

SEMCOG Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)

The Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funding program is administered by SEMCOG and funded by the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT). This program aims to promote holistic and regionally significant outcomes for transportation-related projects, such as bikeways, walkways, streetscapes, stormwater management, and safe school routes. The SEMCOG Bicycle and Pedestrian Mobility Plan is also an initiative of this funding program. TAP prioritizes projects which provide connectivity to Regional Corridors/Trails, enhance walking/biking in Equity Areas, improve the safety of walking and biking, and integrate green infrastructure to improve water quality along roadways. Additional program information can be found [here](#).

Eligibility

Applicant Types

Act-51 agencies including cities, villages, county road commissions, and public transit agencies. Townships and other agencies can apply with an Act-51 agency sponsor.

Project Types

Physical projects and capacity-building activities

Supported Project Phases

- Planning/Analysis/Studies
- Design/Engineering
- Construction/Implementation

Application Cycle

Application cycles are triannual, usually ending in SEMCOG fiscal year FFY-1 Q3 (February), Q4 (June), and fiscal year FFY-2 Q2 (October). All applications are submitted through the Michigan Grant System (MGS).

Funding Suitability



Stormwater, Equity, Nature-Based Solutions, and Green Infrastructure.

Funding

Minimum/Maximum Award

There is no specific minimum or maximum award limit for projects under this funding program. However, project awards typically range between \$100,000 and \$2 million.

Cost-Share Requirements?

Cost-share of at least 20% is required to be eligible for this funding opportunity.

Evaluation Criteria

For this application guide, the focus will be on TAP projects that are considered for State-selected TAP funding.

| Description | Maximum Potential Score |
|--|-------------------------|
| Project demonstrates a competitive concept and a high likelihood of constructability. | High |
| The capacity of the proposed project to be constructed to State and federal standards, and to be delivered on time and on budget. | High |
| Proposed schedule demonstrates an excellent grasp of how long federal aid projects take to implement. | High |
| Proposed design elements and major scope items are developed far enough to demonstrate that state and federal design standards can be met without any design exceptions. | High |
| Implementing agency can obtain all necessary easements, rights of way (ROW), and permits within the proposed project timeline. | High |

Level of Effort

| Criteria | Grant Requirements | Level of Effort |
|--------------------------------|--|-----------------|
| Documentation | Public input documentation including, but not limited to, a notice of the meeting and where that notice was posted, meeting agendas and materials, recorded meeting minutes. | High |
| Partnerships | If the project is in an MPO region, the applicant must notify the MPO of the proposed project and obtain a letter of support prior to submitting the application. The applicant is responsible for keeping the MPO up to date throughout the project and through approval stages. | Medium |
| Other Eligibility Requirements | Public input is required for projects that are seeking federal transportation funding. MDOT requires well-documented information on how a project concept was presented to the public and how that concept was received. | High |
| Application Timeframe | The application may take several years to develop from concept to award. The first stage of the process, which is the concept stage, may take one to five years to fully develop. Grant applications are due seven to eight weeks prior to the Application Review Committee stage. Funding decisions are then made nine to 11 weeks following the Application Review Committee stage. Once the grant is awarded, the project implementation period begins. This may include finalization of easements/acquisitions and development of the full engineering plans, complete with permits. MDOT's Local Agency program Unit conducts an engineering review which may last up to nine months to complete. | Medium |

Southeast Michigan Resilience Fund

The Southeast Michigan Resilience Fund grant is administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and funded by several sources, including the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Kresge Foundation, Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation, Erb Family Foundation, and Cliffs Foundation. This program aims to improve the resilience of Southeast Michigan by reducing stormwater impacts while improving water quality, natural habitat, and the accessibility/usability of public green space. The Southeast Michigan Resilience Fund has two award categories: (1) expanding green stormwater infrastructure and enhancing public space and (2) improving habitat quality, connectivity, and enhancing public space. Additional program information is available [here](#).

Eligibility

Applicant Types

States, local governments, and federally recognized Tribal governments; nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations; educational institutions in the seven-county region of Southeast Michigan (St. Clair, Macomb, Oakland, Wayne, Washtenaw, Livingston, and Monroe).

Project Types

Physical projects

Supported Project Phases

- Planning/Analysis/Studies
- Design/Engineering
- Construction/Implementation

Application Cycle

Annual. Due dates can vary slightly from year to year, with application deadlines typically occurring in September and award announcements in March.

Funding Suitability



Climate Change, Risk Reduction, Equity, Stormwater, Nature-Based Solutions, and Green Infrastructure.

Funding

Minimum/Maximum Award

Individual grant awards generally range from \$150,000 to \$400,000. Approximately \$1.5 million is available for the financial fiscal year (FFY) 2023.

Cost-Share Requirements?

There are no cost-share requirements for this grant. However, cost-share is a criterion during the review process and priority is given to those projects which directly benefit low-income communities and minority groups.

Evaluation Criteria

The following table outlines the criteria listed in order of relative importance, which fund partners will use to evaluate proposals. Project proposals will be evaluated based on relevance, accuracy, completeness, and compliance with federal funding policies. Along with the evaluations criteria below, projects may be selected based on other considerations (i.e., funding, geography, grant size, etc.) that the advisory team deems appropriate.

| Description | Criteria Importance |
|---|--|
| The project contributes to the overall goal for green stormwater infrastructure, habitat restoration, enhancement of public space, and social equity. Application details quantifiable metrics to evaluate project success. | <p>More Important</p> <p>↕</p> <p>Less Important</p> |
| The project is technically sound and feasible with an achievable work plan and timeline for implementation. The application outlines the involvement of technical experts throughout the planning, design, and maintenance of the project. | |
| The project engages communities and local stakeholder during the planning, design, and implementation phase. The project directly benefits and engages low-income communities and minority groups. The application includes a plan to meaningfully engage communities throughout the project lifespan. | |
| The project includes efforts to mitigate impacts from severe and frequent storm events and/or other climate events. The application identifies existing and projected impacts from climate change on low-income communities and minority groups. The application describes how the project will mitigate these threats to target communities. | |
| The project has matching contributions (i.e., in-kind, staff time, equipment, etc.). | |
| The project contributes to an existing local, regional, watershed, Tribal, state, or federal plan/strategy. | |
| The project geographic area extends regionally or establishes collaboration with regional stakeholders. | |

Level of Effort

| Criteria | Grant Requirements | Level of Effort |
|--------------------------------|--|-----------------|
| Documentation | Required documentation consists of general project information and the necessary required uploads to satisfy eligibility requirements, where applicable. | Medium |
| Partnerships | No required partnerships or incentives to partner with other agencies or stakeholders for this funding opportunity. | Low |
| Other Eligibility Requirements | Projects are subject to the requirements under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Endangered Species Act (ESA), and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). Applicants will need to allot time and resources to obtain the appropriate approvals. Projects are also required to have sufficient documentation of all necessary permits and clearances to comply with applicable federal, state, or local requirements. | High |
| Application Timeframe | <p>Application Deadline FFY 2023: September 28, 2023</p> <p>Review Period FFY 2023: September 2023 – February 2024</p> <p>Award Announcements: March 2024</p> <p>Preparation for grant agreements takes approximately 4-6 weeks from the time required documentation is received by NFWF.</p> | High |

Sustain Our Great Lakes Program

The Sustain Our Great Lakes Program is administrated by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and funded by several sources, including Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), U.S. Forest Service (USFS), General Mills, Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation, and Cliffs Foundation. This program aims to benefit fish and wildlife habitat and water quality in the Great Lake Basins by funding implementation grants. Awards are categorized as one of the following: Habitat Restoration to Conserve Species and Improve Water Quality; Green Stormwater Infrastructure in Great Lakes Communities; and Invasive Species Control to Protect and Enhance Restored Habitat. Additional program information is available [here](#).

Eligibility

Applicant Types

States, local governments, and federally recognized Tribal governments; nonprofit organizations; educational institutions in the Great Lakes Basin.

Project Types

Physical projects

Supported Project Phases

Construction/Implementation

Application Cycle

Annual. Due dates may slightly vary from year to year, with full proposals due mid-April.

Funding Suitability



Climate Change, Risk Reduction, Stormwater, Nature-Based Solutions, and Green Infrastructure.

Funding

Minimum/Maximum Award

Award thresholds vary year to year.

- Category 1 - Habitat Restoration to Conserve Species and Improve Water Quality: \$3.3 million allocated for the financial fiscal year (FFY) 2024.
- Category 2 - Green Stormwater Infrastructure in Great Lakes Communities: \$5.1 million allocated for the financial fiscal year (FFY) 2024.
- Category 3 - Invasive Species Control to Protect and Enhance Restored Habitat: \$2.2 million allocated for the financial fiscal year (FFY) 2024.

Cost-Share Requirements?

Cost-share is not required for eligibility. However, match is encouraged to be competitive during the review process.

Evaluation Criteria

Applicants will be evaluated for relevance and compliance with the NFWF funding source policies. The Sustain Our Great Lakes advisory team uses the following criteria as a basis for project selections. Other considerations, such as geographic distribution and available funding, will be considered during the evaluation phase.

| Description | Maximum Potential Score |
|--|-------------------------|
| The project aligns with program goals and has quantifiable performance metrics that evaluate the project's success. | High |
| The project addresses one or more of the funding categories and subsequent strategies (Habitat Restoration to Conserve Species and Improve Water Quality; Green Stormwater Infrastructure in Great Lakes Communities; and Invasive Species Control to Protect and Enhance Restored Habitat). | High |
| The project improves an existing conservation plan or strategy. The applicable supported documentation is included to justify alignment with state or federal priorities. | High |
| The project is technically sound and feasible. The proposal is clear, logical, and presents an achievable workplan/timeline. The project includes appropriate technical experts through the planning, design, and implementation phases. | High |
| The project improves habitat on a scale of tens of acres, and/or the project improves streams on a scale of hundreds of feet, and/or the project adds stormwater storage on a scale of hundreds of thousands of gallons, at a minimum. | High |
| The project increases habitat resilience to more frequent and intense storm events, variable water levels of the Great Lakes, and other related threats. | High |
| The application presents the long-term efficiency of the project and includes projected performance over a 5–10 year timeframe. The application also states the useful life of the project elements and required maintenance to sustain function. | High |
| The project will benefit species of conservation concern, especially brook trout, lake sturgeon, marsh-spawning fish, breeding marsh birds, shorebirds, and waterfowl. Where applicable, the project includes native herbaceous shrub and tree species to provide enhanced habitat. | High |

| Description | Maximum Potential Score |
|--|-------------------------|
| Where applicable, the application indicates how the invasive species control work is related to comprehensive restoration plans, how native vegetation will be re-established, and how the project will be maintained going forward. | High |

Level of Effort

| Criteria | Grant Requirements | Level of Effort |
|--------------------------------|---|-----------------|
| Documentation | Required documentation varies based on project type. All applications must submit basic project information (title, start date, abstract, location, requested amount, etc.) and uploads such as pre-proposal narrative, map of the project site, and applicant demographic information form. Although cost-share is not required, if applicable to the project, matching fund contribution information will need to be provided. Depending upon the category of funding, other required documentation, such as maintenance plans or comprehensive plans, may be required. | High |
| Partnerships | No required partnerships or community engagement for this funding opportunity. However, partnerships and community engagement are encouraged to leverage additional funds to sustain the project well after the life of the grant. Identified partnerships should be included in the project proposal for evaluation consideration. | Low |
| Other Eligibility Requirements | Applicants must include several plans and breakdowns dependent upon the category funding. For example, an operation and maintenance plan are required for Category 2 funding. All applicants must include a stewardship or operation maintenance plan for Category 3 funding. | High |
| Application Timeframe | Pre-Proposal Deadline: February 16, 2024 Full Proposal Deadline: April 18, 2024 Generally, awards are announced during the September to October timeframe. | High |

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2024-2025**

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