

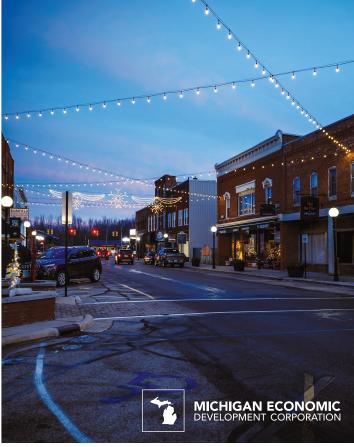




BUILDING STRONG COMMUNITIES











o be vibrant and competitive, Michigan communities must be ready for development. This involves planning for new investment, identifying assets and opportunities, and focusing limited resources. The MEDC supports the growth of vibrant, diverse, and resilient communities by providing economic development services and programs to attract and retain talent in Michigan communities.

"We were a downtown development authority that became a Main Street Downtown **Development Authority,** and we have benefited from the resources, the technical assistance, the network, the training, everything you get by being a part of this phenomenal group of people that all have the same goal: to help make your town the best it can be. It's phenomenal what you can do with ideas and networking, and we're proof of that."

> —Lisa Croteau, Executive Director, Niles Main Street/DDA





Housed within the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, the program is affiliated with the National Main Street Center.

The MICHIGAN MAIN STREET PROGRAM

exists to help communities interested in revitalizing and preserving their traditional commercial district develop main street districts that attract both residents and businesses, promote commercial investment, and spur economic growth.

Michigan Main Street (MMS) staff provides technical assistance and services to communities at three levels: Engaged, Select and Master. Each level is designed to assist the community in tackling increasingly sophisticated district revitalization efforts by utilizing the Main Street Approach™—a common-sense approach to tackling the complex issues of revitalization by capitalizing on a district's history and identifying the unique assets of the community itself.

ENGAGED LEVEL

A community will officially be recognized as an Engaged Level Main Street Community once they complete the following activities:

- Participate in the Main Street training series
- Develop a communications plan following the Main Street Basics training
- Develop a fund development plan following the Main Street In Practice training

SELECT LEVEL

The Select Level provides communities with specialized training within their own community. The intent of the Select Level is to assist communities in implementing the Main Street Four-Point Approach™. The Main Street program will have an active board of directors, providing oversight and direction, volunteer-driven committees completing projects, and a Main Street director assisting with day-to-day needs. In addition, at the Select Level, communities receive over \$100,000 worth of specialized trainings designed to help revitalize their downtown or traditional neighborhood commercial district.

MASTER LEVEL

The Master Level is the most prestigious level of the MMS program. The intent is to continue assisting communities that have successfully integrated a full Main Street program into their community. This is achieved by continuing to offer select level trainings and networking opportunities through MMS, as well as the opportunity to act as mentors for other MMS communities. In addition, Master Level communities continue to receive specialized technical assistance based on the needs of the district.

VIBRANCY GRANT

Select and Master Level Main Street Communities are eligible to apply for the Main Street Vibrancy Grant Program. The Vibrancy Grant offers a unique opportunity to supplement the technical assistance, education and training provided by Michigan Main Street with financial support for innovative placemaking to help transform Michigan Main Street districts into vibrant places.

MICHIGAN MAIN STREET TRAINING SERIES

The first step for communities interested in participating in MMS is completing the Main Street training series, which provides:

- A basic understanding of the Main Street Approach™
- An overview of the strategies that build awareness and participation in future Main Street efforts

"As a community looking to rebrand itself and capitalize on inherent opportunities, the RRC process has been critical to our success. Beyond accomplishing certification, it's the process to get certified that makes you better, more competitive. Certification is the icing on the cake and creates invaluable credibility with developers, but also with other agencies and partners that are needed for successful projects."

—Todd Dickerson, Economic Improvement Director, Oscoda Charter Township

If your community invites public input, plans for future investment and offers superior customer service, then Redevelopment Ready Communities® is for you!



redevelopment ready communities

A community that achieves an RRC designation has a clear vision for the future and welcomes private sector investment through a proactive and predictable customer-centric approach to development. An RRC designation signals to residents, business owners,

developers and investors that a community has removed development barriers by incorporating deliberate, fair and consistent processes.

A certified RRC has a clear vision for the future, established through collaborative community planning, and welcomes private sector investment through a proactive and predictable customer service approach to development. RRC certification signals to residents, business owners, developers and investors that a community has removed development barriers by incorporating deliberate, fair and consistent processes.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED

Communities engaged in RRC are supported with hands-on technical assistance throughout the certification process. They build productive relationships with their community planner and have access to a wide range of resources ranging from the RRC baseline report to the RRC library, webinars, workshops, planning documents, ordinance updates, and more. The community planner connects the community not only with resources to achieve certification, but also works to challenge norms and capture community development momentum at critical junctures which can lead to long-term prosperity.

RRC BEST PRACTICES

Developed by public and private sector experts, the RRC Best Practices are the standard for evaluation. Communities are able to choose from two available paths for a customized experience. Each best practice addresses key elements of community and economic development. To be awarded certification, a community must demonstrate that all best practice components have been met. The RRC Best Practice training series is aimed at building the capacity of local governments in communities eager to work toward and adopt RRC Best Practices.

CERTIFIED COMMUNITIES

When a community becomes certified, it signals that it has effective development practices. These include clear development procedures, a community-supported vision, an open and predictable review process, and compelling sites for developers to locate their latest projects. Certified RRCs gain access to the expertise of the Redevelopment Services Team, focused on a proactive approach to site redevelopment.

ESSENTIALS COMMUNITIES

Communities who have achieved the Essentials designation have all the key documents and practices in place to provide a predictable development experience and meet local planning and zoning responsibilities under Michigan law. Essentials communities gain access to technical assistance match funding opportunities.



REDEVELOPMENT SERVICES

MEDC's Redevelopment Services Team (RSTeam) is the next frontier of the Redevelopment Ready Communities® (RRC) program. The RSTeam proactively packages priority Redevelopment Ready Sites (RRSites) throughout RRC certified communities across the state of Michigan.

Michigan's communities of all sizes are rich with sites ripe for redevelopment. These properties may be in the form of vacant land, a superfluous surface parking lot, a former industrial site, a historic building that has fallen on hard times, or even vacant storefronts or upper stories along a traditional commercial street. Reimagining these properties for more productive uses will help community leaders meet multiple goals, from increased tax revenue to a better quality of life for existing residents.

Upon RRC certification, communities across the state engage with the RSTeam to receive personal and direct one-on-one professional support to assist in the redevelopment of their priority sites. The RSTeam provides technical assistance tailored to each community, including the following services: baseline site consultation, priority site promotion, predevelopment assistance, design/build scenarios, and developer matchmaking.

"The Redevelopment Services Team at MEDC has proved integral in the activation of our priority redevelopment sites in the city of Kalamazoo. Their expertise and guidance allowed us to attract a well-seasoned developer to a tired opportunity in our downtown through the development and promotion of a top-notch site RFQ. They have an obvious passion for quality redevelopment solutions and have helped position us for further success."

> — Antonio Mitchell, Director, Community Planning & Economic Development, City of Kalamazoo



The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) evaluates, protects and promotes Michigan's historic built environment and archaeological sites. This is achieved by helping property owners, developers and local and state agencies identify and seize opportunities to celebrate and rehabilitate historic places that define local communities and make our state uniquely Michigan. SHPO provides programs and services to encourage the preservation of, and investment in, historic places across the state.

SHPO carries out the responsibilities of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 within the state of Michigan.

IDENTIFICATION & DESIGNATION

Identifying and researching what is historic is the first step in preserving the state's cultural heritage and historic character. This is achieved through:

- Historic Resource Surveys which identify and document historic properties to be considered in community planning.
- Listing in the National Register of Historic Places, which recognizes Michigan sites as places worthy of preservation.
- The creation of Local Historic
 Districts, enabled under Public Act
 169 of 1970, which allows
 municipalities to protect and
 promote their own historic
 neighborhoods.

INCENTIVES & DEVELOPMENT

A successful preservation project will preserve the character and history of a site while creating a vibrant space that meets a community's 21st century needs. Various tools help to finance these projects:

- Certified Local Government
 Program (CLG) is a partnership
 between local, state and federal
 governments focused on promoting
 historic preservation at the
 grassroots level by providing annual
 grants to certified CLG communities.
- Federal Historic Preservation
 Tax Credits provide a credit of up to 20 percent of rehabilitation costs as an incentive for investing in underutilized and vacant structures.
- State Historic Preservation Tax
 Credits provide a credit of up to 25 percent of rehabilitation costs for both income-producing and owner-occupied historic properties.
 A limited amount of credits are available each calendar year.
- Michigan Lighthouse Assistance Program celebrates Michigan's 120+ historic lighthouses by providing annual matching grants to rehabilitate and restore these stately icons.

CULTURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION & PLANNING

The National Register program provides a framework for planning for future public development, which must take into account impacts on historic buildings, landscapes, and archaeological sites. SHPO works closely with other agencies, Native American tribes and local communities to consider these resources. Planning activities include:

- Consulting with federal partners to avoid, minimize or mitigate any potential effects on historic and archaeological resources for all federally funded, permitted or licensed projects, per Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.
- Maintaining the State Archaeological Site File, the state's master list of reported archaeological sites, including shipwrecks.
- Retaining Historic Preservation
 Easements, legal agreements that protect significant historic properties, typically those transferred from the federal government to another entity and sites which receive SHPO grant funding.
- Creating a statewide plan for historic preservation every five years. This plan is informed by stakeholder and public input.
 Find the current statewide plan at www.michigan.gov/mihpplan.

YOU CAN HELP SAVE OUR LIGHTS!

Michigan has more lighthouses than any other state in the country. The Michigan Lighthouse Assistance Program (MLAP), a grant program which is funded through the sale of specialty license plates and administered by the SHPO, supports lighthouse preservation. Since the plate was first made available in 2000, the MLAP has awarded more than \$2.7 million in matching grants for lighthouse rehabilitation projects. You can support this effort! Get your plate at www.michigan.gov/saveourlights.





The MEDC's support of new and existing main street businesses, as well as the local entrepreneurial ecosystem, helps foster a supportive business climate and provides tools and resources that are accessible statewide to aid in small business success.

MATCH ON MAIN

Match on Main is a reimbursement grant program that serves as a tool to support new or expanding place-based businesses by providing up to \$25,000 in funding to support an eligible small business through an application submitted, administered, and managed by the local unit of government, downtown development authority, or other downtown management or community development organization where the business is located.

The MEDC finds value in supporting place-based businesses located in certified and essentials Redevelopment Ready Communities® and Michigan Main Street districts, given the local capacity that has been built to support new and existing small businesses through the technical assistance, training, and education communities gain by participating in these programs. The focus of Match on Main is to support place-based businesses as they seek to launch and grow on Main Street.

INITIATE (SMALL BUSINESS SUPPORT)

Small businesses across the state now have access to new tools and resources to help them launch and grow in Michigan, including an online small business learning platform called "Initiate." The Initiate resource portal covers topics such as money, marketing, management, and resiliency resources by using a variety of learning methods including videos, templates, and guides. To best position our business community to access these tools, the MEDC is partnering with community and economic development organizations, financial institutions, and other small business support organizations

to work one on one with businesses at the local level.

Business retention efforts are critical at the local level. Through a "Train the Trainer" model, partner organizations that serve small business customers will learn how to establish a consistent business retention program locally, how to build trust with business owners, how to use available tools to understand business needs, where to direct businesses using MEDC's. Initiate portal, and how to develop consistency, accountability and follow through in your organization's small business support and development services.

EDUCATION, TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Through the MEDC, communities and small businesses have access to a statewide network of resource providers that offer tools, trainings and technical assistance. These resource providers are often referred to as business support organizations (BSO). Technical assistance offered by BSOs include education on diversifying sales channels, attracting new customers, implementing new systems and technology, increasing access to capital, and more. BSO programming for small businesses aligns with the MEDC's strategic focus initiatives by improving businesses' core business acumen and increasing coaching and mentorship opportunities.

From guiding entrepreneurs with an idea, to celebrating a bricks and mortar ribbon cutting, to ultimately supporting a business as it expands operations—resources are available to help entrepreneurs launch, stabilize and grow their #PureMichigan business.

SMALL BUSINESS SERVICES

Main street businesses.

Mom and pop.

Locally owned.

Brick-and-mortar.

Place-based entrepreneurs.

These are just a few of the names used to describe the small businesses that reside in Michigan's downtowns. These businesses provide a unique and authentic experience in communities across Michigan and contribute to the overall sense of place. They provide goods and services as well as places to eat, sip and shop for residents and visitors, while adding to the vibrancy of the downtown core.

MEDC's Small Business

Services Team supports the creation, growth and retention of small businesses located in traditional downtowns or neighborhood commercial districts, in addition to downtown management organizations, community leaders and partner organizations.





The council guides the distribution of state and federal resources within Michigan to the following programs:

OPERATIONAL SUPPORT

Provides operational support to nonprofit arts and cultural organizations. MACC defines arts and cultural organizations as those organizations whose primary mission is to provide an experience, including a learning experience, that is based in a specific arts or cultural discipline.

PROJECT SUPPORT

Provides support to nonprofits, municipalities and colleges/universities for the production, presentation and creation of arts and culture that promotes public engagement, diverse and excellent art, lifelong learning in the arts and the strengthening or livability of communities through the arts.

ARTS IN EDUCATION

Provides support to school-based arts learning projects, designed to introduce or enhance student knowledge of and participation in a particular art form such as: dance, theatre, music, creative writing, storytelling, visual arts (including video, media arts and graphic design), or traditional folk arts.

NEW LEADERS

Provides support of arts and culture related projects or collaborations led by a young person (ages 14–30 years old) who is associated or connected to an established youth/teen council or young professionals group.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT

Provides support for nonprofit arts and cultural organizations and municipalities that provide funding assistance for the expansion, renovation, or construction of arts and cultural facilities; upgrade of equipment and furnishings to provide an up-to-date

environment; provide or increase accessibility to persons with disabilities, or integrate energy efficient products and technologies.

MINIGRANT PROJECTS

Support special opportunities and address arts and cultural needs locally. The grant can assist in promoting public engagement, diverse and distinctive art, lifelong learning in the arts and the strengthening or livability of communities. Through the arts, projects can support a broad range of artistic expression from all cultures through projects which preserve, produce or present traditional or contemporary arts and culture and/or arts education.

PROFESSIONAL/ ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRANT

Assist non-profit arts and cultural organizations, artists, arts administrators, arts educators and film professionals with opportunities that specifically improve their management and/or brings the artist or arts organization to another level artistically. The Minigrant POD program may provide Michigan arts and cultural organizations, artists, arts administrators and arts educators a presence at national conferences and workshops.

EQUIPMENT & SUPPLIES GRANT

Provides K–12 schools with funding to assist with the purchase of arts equipment (including repairs of arts equipment) or supplies being used within the classroom/school setting.

FIELD TRIP/BUS GRANTS

Provides assistance to K-12 schools for the transportation cost of an arts or culture-related field trip.

INVESTING IN PLACE

Growing vibrant, diverse, and resilient places that attract investment, innovation, residents and visitors.

FINANCING AND INCENTIVES

All place-based gap financing program investments will be evaluated on the following **REQUIRED** primary criteria to identify high priority projects:



Alignment with local vision and goals identified in a master plan, downtown plan, capital improvements plan and/ or economic development strategy.



Association with and catalyst for business growth and retention investments.



Reuse of vacant or underutilized properties located in and contributing to a vibrant walkable mixed-use district.



Demonstration of financial need, with reasonable costs and other funding sources explored and maximized.



Readiness as evidenced by local approval, public support, secured financing and market demand.



Alignment with program-specific statutory requirements.

In addition to the REQUIRED primary criteria detailed above, project competitiveness is dependent upon the number of secondary criteria the project aligns with in the key categories below:

LOCAL & REGIONAL IMPACT CONSIDERATIONS

- Located in a geographically disadvantaged area (GDA); click here for map.
- Community financially supports the project.
- Located in a Redevelopment Ready, Michigan Main Street, or Certified Local Government community.
- Project incorporates local developers championing local investment, including those developers with limited experience.
- Project serves as a catalyst within the community, fostering additional development and investment.
- Project uses (including residential) align with local market needs.

PLACE CONSIDERATIONS

- Project incorporates strong human-centric design principles and will contribute to the investment's longterm value through holistic rehabilitation of the site.
- Project demonstrates universal design standards.
- Project includes the preservation and rehabilitation of a historic resource.
- Project positively contributes to the pedestrian experience and considers access to multi-modal transportation options.
- Project leverages or increases public space, physical and social infrastructure.
- Project meets a third-party certification for green building standards.

ECONOMIC & FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Project leverages a high ratio of private dollars compared to the total project cost and maximizes all available senior financing.
- Project increases taxable value of the property and acts as a catalyst for future growth.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- The community, developer and applicant must be in compliance with all MEDC/ MSF and other state programs to be considered for support.
- Big box retail, short-term rentals, student housing, single family housing, government buildings, and strip malls are generally not considered.
- Demolition or other adverse effect to a historic resource, or structure that is eligible to be a historic resource, is generally not supported.

MEDC administers the Michigan Strategic Fund programs (below) to facilitate the reinvigoration of communities across Michigan. Communities that meet the eligibility requirements may apply for the following financing and incentives:

Brownfield Redevelopment Act (PA 381)

Any city, village, township, or county may create a Brownfield Redevelopment Authority. Brownfield incentives promote investment in eligible properties such as contaminated, blighted, functionally obsolete, or historic properties. Tax increment financing (TIF) allows for reimbursement of costs incurred from eligible activities on brownfield properties from the incremental revenue generated by new investment on the property.

Build MI Community

Is a tool that provides access to real estate development gap financing for small scale, incremental redevelopment projects. The Build MI Community initiative has been established to reactivate underutilized or vacant space into vibrant areas by promoting capital investment into redevelopment projects being taken on by developers and property owners with limited real estate development experience and familiarizing them with the development process to position them to potentially undertake more complex projects in the future.

Community Revitalization Program (CRP) Chapter 8C of Act 270 of 1984

CRP is designed to support real estate redevelopment, infill and historic preservation projects in downtowns and high-impact commercial corridors. CRP awards fill financial gaps with loans, grants or other economic assistance in projects that promote community revitalization by accelerating private investment, fostering redevelopment of functionally obsolete or historic properties, and reducing blight.

Public Spaces Community Places

The first national program of its kind wherein local residents can contribute to transformational projects in their communities while being backed by the state, dollar-for-dollar, up to \$50,000. Thriving places help define a community's economic vitality. From bike trails to public sculpture projects, these projects promote a strong quality of life, help attract and retain talent, and grow stronger local economies. Universally designed public spaces focus on the design and composition of an environment so that it can be accessed. understood, and used to the greatest extent possible by all people regardless of their age, size, ability or disability. Projects that are universally designed may be eligible for additional support. This reward initiative provides matching grants for crowdfunded public space projects through Patronicity, an online crowdfunding platform.

State Historic Preservation Tax Credits (PA 343 of 2020)

Provide a credit of up to 25 percent of rehabilitation costs for both income-producing and owner-occupied historic properties. A limited amount of credits are available each calendar year.

Transformational Brownfield Plan (TBP) (Act 46-50 of 2017)

TBP is defined as a brownfield plan that, among other requirements, will have a transformational impact on local economic development and community revitalization and meet certain investment thresholds. TBP projects may request sales and use tax exemption, property tax increment capture, construction period tax capture, withholding tax capture, and income tax capture revenues as determined necessary to fill a demonstrated financing gap.

MEDC consults with communities, developers and non-profits to coordinate all necessary state and local services in order to complete projects and foster economic growth.

LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TOOLS

Business Improvement District (BID)/Principal Shopping District (PSD) (PA 120)

Cities, villages, and urban townships may create a BID or PSD to allow a municipality to collect revenues, levy special assessments, and issue bonds in order to address the maintenance, security, and operation of that district.

Business Improvement Zone (BIZ) (PA 120)

BIZ can be created by private property owners of those parcels in a zone plan within a city or village to levy assessments and finance activities and projects outlined within a zone plan.

Commercial Redevelopment Act (PA 255)

PA 255 encourages the replacement, restoration, and new construction of commercial property in a city or village. Property taxes generated from new investment are abated for a period up to 12 years. Land and personal property are not eligible.

Commercial Rehabilitation Act (PA 210)

PA 210 encourages rehabilitation of commercial property in a city, village, or township. Property taxes generated from new investment are abated for a period up to 10 years.

Conditional Land Use Transfer (PA 425)

PA 425 allows one municipality the option of conditionally transferring land to another. This public act was

established to ease the legally difficult process of annexation, and to encourage cooperation. Cities, villages, and townships may enter into land transfer agreements.

Corridor Improvement Authority (CIA) (PA 57, Part 6)

CIA is designed to assist cities, villages, and townships by allowing the use of tax increment financing or other funding tools to implement eligible improvements in designated commercial corridors.

Downtown Development Authority (DDA) (PA 57, Part 2)

DDA is designed to be a catalyst in a community's downtown district. It provides a variety of funding options including a tax increment financing mechanism, which can be used to fund public improvements and to levy a limited millage to address administrative expenses.

Local Development Financing Authority (LDFA) (PA 57, Part 4)

LDFA allows a city, village, or urban township to use tax increment financing to fund public infrastructure improvements for eligible properties. LDFAs can promote economic growth and job creation through supporting companies in manufacturing, agricultural processing, and high technology operations.

Neighborhood Enterprise Zone (NEZ) (PA 147)

PA 147 provides a tax incentive to develop or rehabilitate residential

housing units in qualified local units of government (i.e., Core Communities).

Neighborhood Improvement Authority (NIA) (PA 57, Part 8)

NIA may use its funds, including tax increment financing, to fund residential and economic growth in residential neighborhoods. An authority may also issue bonds to finance these improvements.

Obsolete Property Rehabilitation Act (OPRA) (PA 146)

Tax incentives are available to encourage redevelopment of contaminated, blighted, and functionally obsolete buildings in eligible core communities. OPRA helps spur private development in urban areas and centers of commerce, by temporarily freezing local taxes up to 12 years.

Redevelopment Liquor Licenses (PA 501)

Through PA 501, the Liquor Control Commission may issue new public on-premises liquor licenses to local governments in addition to quota licenses allowed in cities under PA 58.

Water Resource Improvement Tax Increment Finance Authority Act (PA 57, Part 7)

Through PA 94, a city, village, or township can establish a Water Improvement Tax Increment Finance Authority to prevent deterioration in water resources, and to promote water resource improvement or access to inland lakes, or both.

OTHER RESOURCES

Business Assistance and Resources

MEDC and its network of local and regional partners provide business assistance and business resources throughout Michigan. To learn more, visit www.michiganbusiness.org/small-business.

Pure Michigan Talent Connect

Employers and job seekers alike can search an extensive database of job openings, post and view résumés and jobs, view upcoming job fairs, and tap into a variety of specialty career services at www.mitalent.org.

SBA 504 Loans

These loans provide businesses with long-term fixed-rate financing for the acquisition or construction of fixed assets. Visit www.sba.gov/mi for more information.

Small Business Development Center (SBDC)

Michigan's SBDC has 10 regional offices that provide counseling, training, and many other valuable resources to support small businesses. Visit www.sbdcmichigan.org for more information.



Dedicated to shared economic success, the Michigan Economic Development Corporation promotes the state's assets and opportunities that support business investment and community vitality. MEDC's programs and services connect companies with people, resources, partners, and access to capital.

www.miplace.org 10.29.2024 | 5611-241001