

Grant Development Training Series - Finding Grants

Building a successful downtown is an ongoing process which requires leveraging all available resources. Grants are an important tool that can help your community achieve its short term or long-term goals. This resource guide is intended to help you identify potential funding opportunities.

Federal Grants

Each year, the federal government awards billions of dollars through over 900 grant programs. All federal grant programs are posted on [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov). In order to find open grant opportunities, go to the "Search Grants" tab and filter according to eligibility and/or category.

Department Resources: In addition to Grants.gov, each department has information about available grant opportunities, often providing information on forecasted programs prior to their posting date. The following department grant resource pages have been identified as the most relevant for Main Street communities:

- [Department of Agriculture \[USDA\]](#)
- [Department of Commerce \[DOC\]](#)
- [Department of Housing and Urban Development \[HUD\]](#)
- [Environmental Protection Agency \[EPA\]](#)
- [National Endowment for the Arts \[NEA\]](#)
- [National Endowment for the Humanities \[NEH\]](#)

Associations & Other Resources: Professional associations often provide their constituents information on relevant funding opportunities.

- [Main Street America](#) - A list of grants available to Main Streets and small businesses.
- [National League of Cities](#) - Free grant database for member communities.
- [National Association of Counties](#) - Resources and toolkits, including information on available grants.

Elected Officials: Members of Congress provide a wealth of information on their websites regarding federal grant opportunities as well as assistance with navigating federal agencies.

- [Example: MI 4th District - Rep. Huizenga](#)
- [Example: MI 7th District - Rep. Slotkin](#)

Earmarks/Appropriations: In FY22, Congress began accepting requests for federal earmarks. Also referred to as Congressionally Directed Spending requests, a federal appropriation can support local projects that enhance community priorities, transportation, health care, education, job opportunities, and other important economic development projects. More information on the federal appropriations process can be found at www.appropriations.senate.gov.

Contact

James Hissong
Grantsmanship
Consulting LLC
269.599-2559
James@grant-
man.com



State of MI Grants

Unlike Grants.gov at the federal level, the State of MI does not have a central place where all grant opportunities are posted. Rather, each department is responsible for announcing available funding opportunities. For Michigan Main Street communities, the majority of relevant state funding opportunities will flow through the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC). For this reason, it is important to develop a relationship with your MEDC Community Development Manager and familiarize yourself with the grants and incentive programs available through the MEDC using the MiPlace website.

Additional Department Resources: Signing up for state department newsletters and press releases is another way to receive timely information about grants. In addition to the MEDC, the following departments also have relevant grants for MMS communities.

- Michigan State Housing Development Authority [MSHDA]
- Michigan Department of Natural Resources [MDNR]
- MI Department of Agriculture and Rural Development [MDARD]
- MI Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy [EGLE]
- Michigan Arts and Culture Council [MACC]
- Michigan State Historic Preservation Office [SHPO]

Associations & Other Resources:

- Michigan Municipal League - ServeMIcity: Funding information and technical assistance.
- Community Economic Development Association of Michigan - Funding database for members.
- Michigan Historic Preservation Network - Info on grants and tax credits for historic properties.

State Budget / Appropriations: Monitoring the state budget and supplemental spending bills is another great way to find out about upcoming grant opportunities prior to their official launch. Additionally, like the federal earmark process, state elected officials also have an opportunity to provide direct funding assistance to local communities. State appropriation requests must be made through your representative. Find your state representative / Find your state senator

Non-Government Grant Tools & Resources

- Philanthropy News Digest RFP's - A free database of Foundation & Corporate grant programs.
- GrantStation - Free grant database with a membership to the Grant Professionals Association.
- Foundation Center Online - A subscription-based grant database. Available in some local libraries (list).
- GuideStar - A free tool that provides access to foundation 990 tax data.