

# Michigan Township **INSIGHTS**

April 19, 2024

## New MI Funding Hub makes grant-searching easier

Grants can have a meaningful impact in your township, but finding the right grant opportunity can be challenging and cumbersome. [MI Funding Hub](#) is a new initiative designed to help Michigan communities apply for and track grant opportunities. This online tool can help you better find state and federal grants that align with your township's needs. The platform allows you to search by applicant type, funding category—from broadband to facilities, environmental remediation to public safety—and timeframe to allow you to plan for your application. Additional resources include [“Funding FAQs”](#) and a [“Grants Glossary,”](#) among other tools. The initiative also offers informational newsletters, webinars and free technical assistance for communities to assess, plan for and apply for grants. Visit [mifundinghub.org](http://mifundinghub.org) for more information and to sign up for more information.



## MTA supports regulation of short-term rentals before House committee

MTA was among the supporters who testified this week on [House Bill 5438](#), sponsored by Rep. Joey Andrews (D-St. Joseph Chtr. Twp.), which would regulate short-term rentals (STRs) in Michigan. Supporters of the legislation shared the need for local units of government to maintain the authority to regulate short-term rentals based on the unique needs of their community. The bill would protect neighborhoods and allow communities to balance their housing needs for both residents and businesses. HB 5438 would retain local authority to regulate STRs—including public health and safety, number of units allowed, method of where units would be located and the process to increase or decrease the number of units. It would also create a statewide database

### Upcoming MTA Training & Events

May 8 *Now You Know* lunchtime webinar: [Cemetery Services](#)

[The ABCs of the ZBAs:](#)  
[May 15 Gaylord](#)  
[May 22 Frankenmuth](#)  
[May 29 Kalamazoo](#)

and establish an excise tax of 6% for STRs, with a portion of the revenue being returned to the municipality where the STR is located. The bill also requires verification that an STR owner complies with all local government requirements and requires the STR to be removed from the statewide database if they are not in compliance with local permits or violate local ordinances. MTA and the Michigan Municipal League have fought attempts over the past seven years to preempt local authority on STRs. Additional testimony will be considered next week by the committee.

## Townships encouraged to review MPSC renewable siting guidance and comments

Townships are encouraged to review the draft guidance released by the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) on implementation of [Public Act 233 of 2023](#), which shifted siting authority over large-scale renewable energy facilities to the state. MPSC released [initial draft guidance](#) on April 4 for some PA 233 provisions. Townships can review the initial guidance and submit comments at [Request for Informal Comments on Initial Straw Proposals](#) until **April 24**. MTA and our legal counsel are reviewing the initial draft guidance and plan to submit comments to the MPSC. Information on the implementation process and recordings of three MPSC sessions are available on the MPSC's [PA 233 implementation webpage](#), as well as the link and details for the next stakeholder meeting on April 26 at 9 a.m.

## U.S. Treasury hosting free ARPA reporting and responsibilities webinar

Townships can participate in a live “how-to” demonstration for the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) reporting portal at two free U.S. Department of Treasury webinars next week. Annual ARPA Project and Expenditure reports are due April 30. The webinars will also provide information on reporting responsibilities, updating user roles and compliance responsibilities. Participate on [April 24](#) from 2 to 3:30 p.m., or on [April 25](#) from 9:30 to 11 a.m.



## Upcoming free webinars for townships

### April 22-25: [Annual Educational Conference & Expo](#)

#### [April 22 Pre-Conference sessions:](#)

\*\*[Assessor's Renewal: March Madness](#)

\*\*[Understanding Assessing Basics](#)

\*\*[Defining Your Township's Land Use Future](#)

\*\*[Show Me the Money](#)

\*\*[Legal Institute for Township Attorneys](#)

### MTA QUICK LINKS

[Answer Center](#)

[Training](#)

[Advocacy](#)

[Classifieds](#)

[Community Connection](#)

[Webcasts](#)

[Store](#)

[Township Governance Academy](#)

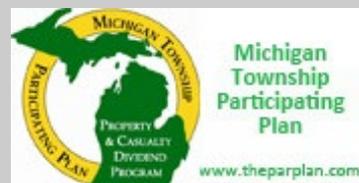
[Allied Service Providers](#)

[NATaT](#)

### ALLIED SERVICE PROVIDERS



[www.Acrisure.com/GreatLakes](http://www.Acrisure.com/GreatLakes)



**Updates and Resources for Local Governments.** The 21st joint webinar from the Michigan Department of Treasury, MTA and other organizations will share "Updates and Resources for Local Government." Held on May 5, the webinar will include topics on lead service line replacement, infrastructure financing (state revolving funds), the Asset Management Champions program, technical support from the Michigan Infrastructure Office and State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program. Participants can [register](#) and submit questions before the webinar.

**Capital Asset Management and Planning.** A free April 22 [Capital Asset Management and Planning](#) webinar, part of the state Treasury and Michigan State University Extension [Fiscally Ready Communities](#) program, will provide the basics of a capital improvement program, detail best practices, and give participants a chance to share techniques that have worked for their community, as well as policies, procedures and accounting for capital asset management and planning. Email questions to [TreasLocalGov@michigan.gov](mailto:TreasLocalGov@michigan.gov) with the subject, "Fiscally Ready."

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## Treasury guidance to local governments with defined benefit retirement systems

Townships that offer defined benefit retirement systems should review the [FY 2024 Uniform Assumption Memo](#) released this week. Under the Protecting Local Government Retirement and Benefits Act, [Public Act 202 of 2017](#), the state treasurer must annually establish uniform actuarial assumptions for local governments that offer a defined benefit retirement system (pension or retirement health care). The memo provides a summary of key changes for FY 2024 as well as rationale for the assumptions. Uniform assumptions reported by local units are used for reporting purposes only and are not used to determine local unit's underfunded status under PA 202.

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## Safe Streets and Roads for All grants available

Townships can apply now for the federal [FY24 Safe Streets and Roads for All](#) grant program. Funding awards are distributed on a first-come, first-served basis, with applicants limited to one application. The U.S. Department of Transportation program seeks to support the development of a [comprehensive safety action plan](#) that identifies the most significant roadway safety concerns in a community and implementation of projects and strategies to



\* [Bauckham, Thall, Seeber Kaufman & Koches PC](#)

\* [Consumers Energy](#)

\* [Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes PLC](#)

\* [Foster, Swift, Collins & Smith, P.C.](#)

\* [Hartleb Agency](#)

\* [ITC Holdings Corp.](#)

\* [Rosati, Schultz, Joppich & Amtsbuechler, P.C.](#)

\* [Mika Meyers, PLC](#)



address roadway safety issues. Planning and Demonstration grants have two remaining upcoming deadlines: May 16 and Aug. 29, while Implementation grants have a May 16 deadline.

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## Reminders for clerks: Reimbursements and early voting grants

**Early voting equipment order.** Clerks who requested tabulators, ballot on demand, voter assist terminals or other large equipment purchased by the state must submit completed acceptance forms as soon as possible to [MDOS-BOEOperations@michigan.gov](mailto:MDOS-BOEOperations@michigan.gov). Completed acceptance forms must match the equipment ordered for your township. Delays in receiving this form will delay early voting (EV) reimbursement and Round 2 EV grant requests.

**EV grant application, Round 2.** If EV equipment must be ordered before the August/November elections, coordinate orders with your county clerk, who must apply for any equipment needed for the entire county no later than April 26, 2024. *Late applications will not be accepted.* If this deadline is not met, you will be required to buy direct from a vendor and submit for reimbursement. Fulfillment of additional requests will be prioritized based on funding available from Round 1 orders, reimbursements and countywide agreements over single jurisdictions.

**EV grant reimbursement, Round 1.** Reimbursement claims for equipment purchased before the Feb. 27 presidential primary and included in a Round 1 early voting grant application must be submitted via a reimbursement form (in the [eLearning Center](#)) by May 1, 2024.

**Presidential primary reimbursement.** [Reimbursement forms](#) for expenses attributable to the presidential primary must be submitted by **May 27, 2024**. No forms will be processed if received after this date.

**Prepaid postage and drop box requests for 2023 elections.** If you have not received your reimbursement or any communication from the state Bureau of Elections related to additional documentation for reimbursement submissions in 2023 for either drop box or prepaid postage claims, email [MDOS-BOEreimbursement@michigan.gov](mailto:MDOS-BOEreimbursement@michigan.gov) as soon as possible. Due to an Outlook inbox issue, all submissions for calendar year 2023 drop boxes and prepaid postage may not have been received.

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## Townships must report unclaimed property by July 1

Townships must file their 2024 Annual Report of Unclaimed Property by July 1 (the first business day of July). Visit the state Department of Treasury's [Unclaimed Property website](#) to file reports and make automated clearing house (ACH) debit payments electronically. The [Manual for Reporting Unclaimed Property](#) contains general instructions, a summary of new reporting requirements, a detailed list of all reportable types of property, associated dormancy periods, and other important information. If your township has properties that should have been previously reported, Treasury offers an opportunity to avoid penalty and interest charges through its [Voluntary Disclosure Program](#). Contact (517) 636-6940 or [TreasUPDReporting@michigan.gov](mailto:TreasUPDReporting@michigan.gov) with questions. Direct owners whose assets have been turned over as unclaimed property to [www.michigan.gov/unclaimedproperty](http://www.michigan.gov/unclaimedproperty) or call (517) 636-5320 for information on filing a claim. (And remember, townships can also have unclaimed property, too! You can search the Unclaimed Property database for your township name, as well.)

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## Reminder: May 1 MGC Challenge deadline

Townships have until May 1 to take part in the [Michigan Green Communities](#) (MGC) Challenge, a free, annual sustainability benchmarking program. Join dozens of other townships that have taken [the challenge](#), which outlines actionable steps toward creating more environmentally sustainable, economically vibrant, and healthier communities. MTA is an MGC partner.

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## See you in Grand Traverse!

The MTA Office will be closed next week as staff will be at our [2024 Annual Educational Conference & Expo](#) at the



Grand Traverse Resort in Acme Township (Grand Traverse Co.). You may leave messages for staff, which will be returned as time allows. On-site registration is available for the township event of the year, including one-day options. Not able to join us in person? You can still get the education and inspiration with our [Conference On-Demand](#), with recordings for 10 educational sessions and the three main-stage events.

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### **Federal update for week of April 15**

Check out the National Association of Towns and Townships [Weekly Legislative Update](#) for an update of federal actions impacting townships.

