Michigan Township INSIGHTS

Aug. 7, 2026

Reminder: Fire equipment/gear grant applications due by Sept. 30



Townships can apply for funding until Sept. 30 for the state Fire Equipment Grant Program, established as a one-time appropriation in the state's Fiscal Year 2025-2026 budget to provide funding to local units of government for the purchase of fire equipment for all firefighters and/or fire gear for on-call, part-time or volunteer firefighters. Local government is defined as a city, village, township or tribal government, or an authority or commission established by a county, village, city or township by resolution, motion or charter. To request access to the electronic application, visit the Michigan Electronic Signature Solution. Grant expenditures must be incurred between Oct. 1, 2025, and Sept. 30, 2030.

Disaster recovery roundtable for rural townships

Township officials have the opportunity to share their experience of accessing, coordinating and deploying resources during an active disaster or emergency, as well as throughout the recovery period, at a virtual listening session on Aug. 19 at 3 p.m. Hosted by the Michigan Office of Rural Prosperity (ORP) for rural community leaders, the session is specifically for township officials and staff. Register today to share your township's experience with natural disasters and help ORP identify areas they can further support rural communities.



Voters approve 93% of township proposals

On Tuesday, 543 of 584 proposals placed before township voters were approved. Of the 524 millage proposals approved, funding included public safety (police, fire and EMS), roads, general operations, parks and recreation, libraries, senior services, garbage, and cemeteries. The 29 non-millage proposals included zoning amendments,





UPCOMING MTA TRAINING

Aug. 12: *Now You Know* lunchtime webinar Sticky Situations: Ethics in Everyday Decisions

Hot Topics in Planning & Zoning evening workshops:
- **Aug. 18** - Frankenmuth
- **Aug. 26** - Gaylord
- **Aug. 31** - Lawrence

Sept. 9: Emerging Issues in EMS Services workshop - Frankenmuth

Sept. & Oct. Regional Meetings & UP North Summit:
- **Sept. 22** - Bay City
- **Sept. 23** - Jackson
- **Sept. 29-30** (UP North Summit) - Harris, U.P.
- **Oct. 7** - Thompsonville
- **Oct 8** - Spring Lake
- **Oct 13** - Gaylord

ALLIED SERVICE PROVIDERS

disincorporation as a charter township and abolishing the annual meeting.

Cybersecurity best practices and assessment opportunities for water utilities

The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) has announced a partnership with state and federal cybersecurity agencies and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to provide resources focused on cybersecurity best practices that reduce vulnerabilities for local governments operating water utilities. In addition to the resources linked above, local officials can access more detailed training and threat assessments.

- **Trainings**—The EPA has developed a brief cybersecurity 101 for the water sector video and provides numerous recorded and live cybersecurity training courses available via the EPA Water Cybersecurity website.
- **Cyber hygiene services—**The U.S. Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) provides a weekly scanning service to help water utilities understand their exposure to threats via the internet.
- **On-site assessments**—Michigan water utilities can access in-person, confidential cybersecurity assessments at **no cost** conducted by vendors approved by the Michigan Cyber Command Center (MC3) and CISA. Registration for this service is available via the EGLE website.

Local governments are encouraged to engage MC3 as soon as possible following the identification of a cyber incident for criminal investigative assistance. Should you experience such an incident, contact MC3 at (877) 642-9237 or MC3@Michigan.gov.

Take the Michigan Green Communities survey

Michigan Green Communities, a statewide network of local government staff and officials, is inviting townships, cities, villages and counties across Michigan to complete a short survey. The program promotes innovative sustainability solutions at the local, regional and state levels through collaboration, peer learning and information sharing. Whether your township currently participates in the Michigan Green Communities program, has participated in the past or has never participated, your response will be helpful. All perspectives will help inform future program enhancements and communications while strengthening support for local sustainability efforts across the state. The survey closes Aug. 14. MTA is a Michigan Green Communities program partner.

ACRISURE
www.Acrisure.com/GreatLakes

MI Par Plan
MICHIGAN TOWNSHIP PARTCIPATING PLAN
www.theparplan.com/

MERS
Municipal Employees' Retirement System
www.mersofmich.com

* Adna Technologies

* Bauckham, Thall, Seeber Kaufman& Koches PC

* Consumers Energy

* Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes PLC

* Foster Swift Collins & Smith, PC

* Hartleb Agency

* ITC Holdings Corp.

* Rosati, Schultz, Joppich & Amtsbuechler, P.C.

* Mika Meyers, PLC

MTA QUICK LINKS
Answer Center
Training
Advocacy
Classifieds
Community Connection
Webcasts
Store
Township Governance Academy
Allied Service Providers
NATaT



Free virtual Microplastics Summit

Microplastics are a growing concern in Michigan, appearing in lakes, rivers, drinking water, wildlife and even the air. The second Michigan Microplastics Summit will be held Oct. 7 and 8, convening scientists, policymakers and community members to dive deeper into microplastics impacting Michigan's freshwater. Hosted by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy, this free virtual event includes presentations discussing the movement of microplastics in the environment, detection methods, human and ecosystem health impacts, regulation strategies and interactions with other contaminants. Register online on the program website.

Bureau of Land Management grant opportunities for local governments

Two grant opportunities are available for local governments through the federal Bureau of Land Management. Responses to each are due no later than Aug. 28.

- Recreation and Visitor Services Grants are intended to enhance outdoor recreational experiences on public lands and waters. Funding can be used for infrastructure improvements, interagency coordination and streamlining permitting processes.
- Fuels Management and Community Fire Assistance Grants offer strategic investment opportunities to reduce the impact of wildfire through vegetation management. Grant-funded activities may include risk assessment and planning projects, community or homeowner mitigation programming, and establishment of management programs for properties adjacent to federal lands.



Watershed grant informational webinar

Local governments will soon be able to submit an RFP for the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy's (EGLE) Fiscal Year 27 Watershed Council Grant program. Grants can be used to support work that protects or enhances Michigan's natural resources, including addressing organizational needs, conducting conservation activities and

hosting educational efforts. Join EGLE staff on Aug. 27 at 10 a.m. for a webinar to discuss eligibility, application best practices and deadlines, and get questions answered.

Reminders for clerks

Complete voter history updates. The voter history for the Aug. 4 election must be updated no later than Aug. 10. Early voting history is already recorded from the early voting electronic pollbook. Early voting clerks will need to manually submit any provisional affidavit ballots and voter not in possession of ID counts. See the Qualified Voter File manual for instructions for manually updating voting history; for corrections to history recorded during early voting, contact electiondata@michigan.gov.

Important August and November election deadlines:

- **Aug. 10—**Last day a ballot submitted by a military or overseas (MOVE) voter for the August election and postmarked on or before Election Day can be deemed timely received and counted.
- **Aug. 11—**Last day for local clerks to transmit MOVE ballots received within six days of the August Election Day to the county clerk. Aug. 11 at 4 p.m. is also the deadline for ballot wording for local proposals qualified to appear on the November ballot to be certified by local clerks.
- **Oct. 23**—Write-in candidates must submit their Declaration of Intent for the November election to the appropriate local filing official by 4 p.m.

MTA offers insights and updates for your township fire department



Behind every successful emergency response is a team of dedicated people. The conversations happening in your township today influence tomorrow's outcomes. As expectations grow and challenges become more complex, it's important to stay ahead of the issues shaping today's township fire departments. That's why MTA designed *Emerging Issues in Emergency Services*, a full-day educational event dedicated to continuing the conversations that support those who protect your community. Learn more about this annual event coming to the Bavarian Inn Lodge in Frankenmuth on Sept. 9. Register online now or find all the details here.

Free ORV weekend

On Aug. 15-16, residents and visitors can legally ride Michigan's 4,000 miles of off-road vehicle (ORV) trails, routes and six scramble areas without an ORV license or trail permit. All other ORV laws and regulations still apply, and recreation passports are still required to enter state parks and recreation areas. To prevent the spread of invasive

species, all riders are reminded to clean mud and plant material from their ORV, trailer and gear.

Federal updates for week of Aug. 4

Check out the National Association of Towns and Townships Weekly Legislative Update for the latest on federal actions impacting townships.



MICHIGAN TOWNSHIPS ASSOCIATION

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