

May 30, 2025

MTA ranked among most effective associations for its members

The Michigan Townships Association was ranked as one of the top most effective membership organizations, according to a recent poll conducted by MIRS, a Lansing news organization covering the Capitol and state government. MTA ranked in the top 5%, sharing the fourth ranking with Michigan Farm Bureau and Realtors of Michigan. MTA works to be an effective advocacy organization for our member townships and officials, and ensure their voices are heard at the Capitol. Michigan legislators, along with political and public policy insiders, complete the annual survey.

Rural readiness grant program guidance released, applications open

Interested townships can submit a letter of intent by June 30 for the [Rural Readiness Grant](#)



[Program](#)'s final round of funding in 2025, through the [state Office of Rural Prosperity](#). A total of \$700,000 is available, with rural communities eligible to receive up to \$50,000 for reimbursement of capacity building activities, development readiness initiatives and planning partnerships. Review key application dates, eligible projects, and more information on the grant [webpage](#).

Fire training webinar for solar, battery storage fires in residential areas

Firefighters need to be specifically prepared for battery fires, which differ from other fire emergencies, as renewable energy projects continue to expand across the state. A June 4 [webinar](#) hosted by Clean Energy Group will provide firefighters and building managers considerations and best practices for preparedness and response to solar and battery fires in single-family and multi-family homes. Register [here](#).

MTA offers two timely topics in one day of learning this June

MTA is bringing two important township topics to four locations around the state in June. Start the day with insights into the newly revised Earned Sick Time Act (ESTA) and its impact on your township's policies. Stick around for the afternoon to dig into the fundamentals of cemetery management—from legal obligations to green burials and caretaker responsibilities. Each session is packed with practical information, real-life examples and tips, and includes time to get YOUR questions answered. Choose one

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Upcoming MTA Training & Events

[Now You Know lunchtime webinars](#)

June 11: [Preventing Chaos: How to Manage Records](#)

[Earned Sick Time Act & Your Township](#) (9-11:30 a.m.)

June 10: Jackson

June 17: Marquette

June 18: Gaylord

June 24: Mt. Pleasant

[Cemetery Challenges & Solutions](#) (1-5 p.m.)

June 10: Jackson

June 17: Marquette

June 18: Gaylord

June 24: Mt. Pleasant

MTA QUICK LINKS

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session or attend both at a discount! [Learn more here](#) or [register online now](#) to secure your seat today. *Special thanks to [TriMedia Environmental & Engineering](#) for their generous sponsorship of the afternoon session, Cemetery Challenges and Solutions.*

STC approves 2025 new Assessor's Manuals

The 2025 new [Assessor's Manuals](#), approved for distribution by the State Tax Commission (STC) this week, include changes to base costs to reflect the latest market conditions and construction trends, and are to be used in the creation of the 2026 assessment roll. While there are increases in valuation costs, the updates may also result in cost decreases for certain buildings, depending on factors such as building class, occupancy and local multipliers. These changes are automatically incorporated into the costs contained in computer-assisted mass appraisal systems (CAMA). The STC staff recommendation can be viewed [here](#). The STC also approved [Bulletin 3 of 2025—County Multipliers for 2025 Assessor's Manual](#). The STC will continue to approve county multipliers annually, though county multipliers will automatically be included through CAMA software.



MTA'S LIVE ONE-HOUR WEBINARS PROVIDE UPDATES & INSIGHTS TAILORED FOR TOWNSHIPS. YOU CAN JOIN LIVE, WATCH A RECORDING LATER, OR BOTH!



TIMELY TOWNSHIP TOPICS
ALL NEW, EVERY MONTH

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE!](#)

Keep your MTA county chapter info up to date

MTA county chapters are a valuable way to stay connected with fellow township officials and other local leaders and community stakeholders in your area. MTA has information and resources for county chapters on our ["County Chapters" webpage](#) (member login is required) including a [directory of county chapters](#), their officers and meeting details. **We ask that county chapter officers review the directory information for their chapter and provide updated information via a simple [online form](#).** You can also find a [request form](#) to invite MTA staff to an upcoming meeting (and even select a presentation topic). Let MTA help make your county chapter a success!

Upcoming webinars, workshops of interest to township

- **Dust control**—Join state Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) staff on June 17 at 10 a.m. for a [webinar](#) for local leaders to discuss local dust ordinances, state enforcement of air quality standards, and what to do if a dust fallout hits your community.
- **Brownfields**—Get the latest brownfield program updates at a June 25 EGLE [webinar](#), which will also share reporting portal and deadlines information from the Michigan

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Economic Development Corporation, and tax increment financing for housing from the Michigan State Housing Development Authority.

- **Recycling program outreach**—A free, three-day Michigan Recycling Coalition webinar, starting June 9, explores community-based social marketing, which can help communities getting started or looking to enhance existing outreach and educational initiatives and can boost the impact and effectiveness of recycling outreach efforts. Gain practical tools, fresh perspectives and strategies that work for your community. [Registration](#) is required by June 6.
- **Workplace violence training**—The Center for Workplace Violence Prevention is offering virtual and in-person options for two free training sessions on June 4. The first [session](#), from 9 a.m. to noon, will cover workplace violence prevention efforts, legal considerations and threat assessment duties. The second [session](#), from 1 to 4 p.m., is a deeper dive into situational awareness and victim avoidance. In-person sessions are held at the Library of Michigan, 702 W. Kalamazoo St. in Lansing.



Let residents know about deed fraud prevention

Deed fraud can occur when scammers file a fraudulent document with the county register of deeds, making it look like they own a resident's home or property—without the property owner's knowledge. This can result in lengthy legal battles to settle property fraud claims or even property loss. Last year, new laws—Public Acts [154](#) and [155](#) of 2024—took effect to create safeguards for property owners. In addition, many counties offer a free fraud alert system that can notify property owners about the possibilities of fraudulent activity committed against their property. Townships may wish to share information with their residents, including visiting their county website for availability of property fraud protection alerts (typically through the register of deeds or county clerk's office). Examples include [Oakland County](#) and [Benzie County](#), and many more.



Michigan Townships Association | 512 Westshire Drive | Lansing, MI 48917 US

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