GOVERNMENT RELATIONS
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

MICHIGAN COMMUNITY IMPACT GRANT PROGRAM

Community-Driven | Statewide Impact

Request for Applications - Full Proposal

FY27 Pilot Cycle | Revised: October 2026

I. Background

The Michigan Community Impact Grant Program is a new 1-2 year pilot initiative led by the University of Michigan Office of the Vice President for Government Relations (OVPGR) to strengthen U-M's engagement with communities across Michigan, particularly outside Southeast Michigan.

The program will support faculty- and program-led collaborations that respond to locally identified needs and demonstrate the value of mutually beneficial university-community partnerships. Projects should translate U-M research, expertise, student talent, technical assistance, existing tools, or other university resources into practical, locally relevant solutions.

The program is designed to support projects in which the community helps define the problem or opportunity and the U-M team works collaboratively with the community partner to develop an actionable response.

II. Funding Mechanism and Eligibility

Award Type: Seed grants for community-engaged projects.

Budget: Up to $50,000 total per project.

Project Period: 12 to 24 months.

Eligibility: U-M faculty who are eligible to serve as Principal Investigator (PI). Additional team members and collaborators may participate as appropriate.

Anticipated Number of Awards: Maximum of 5.

Allowable Costs / Budget Guidance: All spending must comply with applicable University of Michigan policies and program-specific guidance.

III. Geographic Priorities, Eligible Community Partners, and Areas of Interest

Projects may involve eligible communities anywhere in Michigan. For this pilot cycle, preference will be given to projects involving communities in or around the following areas:

- Houghton and the Upper Peninsula
- Mt. Pleasant
- Grand Rapids
- Kalamazoo
- Lansing metropolitan area

Eligible community partners may include:

- Michigan local governments
- Tribal governments
- Quasi-governmental agencies
- Regional planning organizations
- Public school districts or Intermediate School Districts (ISDs)
- Nonprofit organizations addressing a demonstrated community need

Initial areas of interest identified through discussions with statewide local-government partners include:

- Housing and land use, including housing affordability, short-term rentals, zoning, renewable energy siting, data centers, and related development pressures.
- Municipal staffing capacity and appropriate use of AI/technology, including workforce shortages, administrative capacity, service delivery, and careful assessment of whether technology is an appropriate solution.
- Water quality, including PFAS contamination, safe drinking water, water infrastructure, monitoring, and environmental quality.

IV. Full Proposal Requirements

Applicants must submit a complete full proposal through InfoReady by the stated deadline. Required materials are listed below.

A. List the Applicant's and Community Partner's Information (On InfoReady portal)

a. Project title
b. U-M PI/Co-PI information
    a. Title, Email, & Phone
c. School/college/unit
d. Community partner(s)
    a. Name, Collaborator's Full Name, Collaborator's Email Address, & City/Region

B. Proposal Outline - Maximum 4 pages (Upload as a PDF)

a. Project title
b. Partner-identified challenge or community need
c. Proposed research- or practice-based project design
d. Expected outcomes
e. Description of what success will look like
f. Benefits to the U-M team
g. Benefits to the community partner(s)

C. Project Timeline - 1 page (Upload as a PDF)

- Gantt chart or text-based timeline
- Key activities, milestones, and deliverables

D. Detailed Budget and Budget Justification - 1 page (Upload as a PDF)

Note: Applicants must use the provided budget template. Once complete, save the budget as a PDF and upload it under the Budget section in InfoReady.

a. Proposed use of funds
b. Explanation and justification of major expenses

E. Biosketches - Maximum 2 pages each (Upload as a PDF)

- Required for each U-M PI/Co-PI
- NSF or NIH format may be used but is not required

F. Community Partner Letter(s) of Support (Upload as a PDF)

Note: Applicants should compile all letters of support into a single PDF and upload them in the designated Letters of Support section on InfoReady.

- Required from the identified community partner(s)
- Should demonstrate commitment to the proposed partnership and confirm participation in development of the project

V. Additional Program Requirements

1. Awardees will be expected to comply with all applicable University of Michigan financial, compliance, and reporting requirements.
2. Final project budgets, project dates, partner documentation, and fund-transfer requirements must be confirmed before funds are released.
3. Awardees will be expected to provide a final report. Final reporting requirements and schedule will be included in the award terms.

VI. Proposal Timeline

November 20, 2026: Proposals due
December 2026: Review period
January 2027: Award notifications

VII. Full Proposal Formatting Guidelines

File Type: PDF (no other formats will be accepted)
Paper Size: Standard US Letter (8.5" x 11")
Margins: At least 1 inch on all sides (top, bottom, left, right)

Font: Arial, 11-point or larger; smaller text may be used in figures/tables but should remain legible. Black text recommended; color may be used in figures/charts.

Line Spacing: 1.08 or 1.15

Page Numbers: Recommended for all narrative attachments.

Figures/Tables: Permitted within the applicable page limits and must be legible.

Supplemental Materials: No appendices, supplemental materials, or hyperlinks unless explicitly requested.

VIII. Applicant Questions and Contact Information

Questions regarding program eligibility, proposal requirements, or application submission may be directed to:

- Program questions: OVPGR Team / michigancommunityimpact@umich.edu
- InfoReady technical questions: michigancommunityimpact@umich.edu
- Program webpage: https://research.umich.edu/rci/michigan-community-impact-grant-program/