MICHIGAN ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

MiGROW FAQ

What kind of businesses are eligible?
MiGROW supports businesses undertaking growth, expansion, or investment projects in Michigan. Priority is given to businesses operating in Michigan's strategic industry clusters. Businesses outside these industries may qualify if their projects meet additional economic impact requirements. Retail businesses, franchises, and nonprofit organizations are not eligible. More information on eligibility can be found in the program guidelines.

Does my business need to meet the SBA definition of a small business?
No. Businesses of various sizes may qualify for MiGROW. However, at least $5 million in program funding in FY27 is designated for businesses meeting the applicable SBA small business size standards.

Does my project need to demonstrate a need for financial assistance?
Yes. Applicants must demonstrate a financing gap or competitive cost disadvantage that affects the project's feasibility, scale, timing, or location in Michigan. The MEDC will evaluate whether financial assistance is necessary to support the proposed investment.

Is special consideration given to businesses in geographically disadvantaged areas?
Yes. Project scoring considers geographic and community impacts, including local unemployment rates, redevelopment of vacant or brownfield properties, and the significance of job creation relative to the local economy.

How will businesses be evaluated?
The full eligibility criteria and scoring rubric will be published on the website and available for people to review. Projects are evaluated based on eligibility, strategic alignment, private investment, job creation, wages, geographic impact, financial need, and project viability. The full eligibility requirements and scoring criteria will be available on the MiGROW website. Meeting eligibility requirements does not guarantee funding.

Will the business applicant's information be confidential?
The MEDC is subject to the Michigan Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), and information submitted by applicants may be subject to public disclosure. Applicants should take this into consideration when submitting an application. Businesses should address any further questions to MEDC staff.

What are the intended outcomes of the program?
MiGROW is intended to increase private investment, support business growth and job creation, improve wages and employment opportunities, strengthen Michigan's strategic industries, and contribute to long-term economic growth.

Does my project need to create new jobs, make a capital investment, or both?
Eligible projects must generate new private investment and/or create new jobs in Michigan. Grant agreements may establish performance requirements based on job creation, private investment, or a combination of both.

Are there requirements for newly created jobs to be filled by Michigan residents?
Yes. At least 75% of newly created jobs supported through MiGROW must be filled by Michigan residents. This requirement applies only to new jobs associated with the project, not the business's existing employees.

Will certain businesses be prioritized for support?
Yes. Priority is given to projects within Michigan's strategic industry clusters. The MEDC also considers investment, employment, and regional economic impacts. At least $5 million in program funding is designated for businesses meeting U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) size standards in FY27,, and the MEDC may prioritize funding for specific geographic regions.

Is this program open to existing Michigan businesses only?
No. Both existing Michigan businesses and businesses considering locating or expanding operations in Michigan may qualify. All supported projects must occur in Michigan and meet program eligibility requirements.

What can the award be used for? How are any restrictions on the use of award funds enforced?
Awards may support eligible project expenses such as land acquisition, construction, facility improvements, machinery and equipment, and certain directly related project costs. Routine operating expenses, payroll, and debt payments are generally not eligible. Recipients must document eligible expenditures, and the MEDC will review costs and compliance with the grant agreement.

How much funding does the program have?
$32,122,500

How much funding is available per applicant?
Individual grants will be up to $1 million and may not exceed 25% of total project costs. The actual award amount is determined based on the project's needs, economic impact, eligibility, and available program funding.

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Is eligibility impacted if a business has previously received support from other MEDC programs?

Previous MEDC assistance does not automatically disqualify a business. However, applicants must be in good standing with existing MEDC and Michigan Strategic Fund (MSF) agreements, and program funding cannot reimburse expenses already paid through another public assistance award.

AWARD PROCESS

Is there an open application window or is it a rolling application period?

Applications are available on a rolling basis. Interested businesses can learn more here.

How and when will award decisions be communicated?

MEDC staff will communicate directly with applicants throughout the review process, including whether a project is being recommended for funding. Final award decisions will be communicated following the applicable approval process. Fully approved awards will also be published through the MEDC's established communications channels.

How has local input shaped how these dollars support projects?

This program was designed with ongoing input and feedback from local and regional economic development organizations and other stakeholders. Their input has shaped program design. In addition, local support is a requirement for projects in this program.

How can the public stay informed about the awards and their outcomes?

These projects will show up on the MEDC project map.

Who makes the final decision on each award?

Awards are approved by authorized MEDC leadership in accordance with the program guidelines and the authority delegated by the MEDC Executive Committee. Approval requires concurrence of two of the following officers: the CEO, chief operating and performance officer, or CFO.

What is the intended timeframe from application to signed agreement?

The MEDC's goal is to complete the process from initial project review to a signed agreement within approximately 3–4 months. This timeframe assumes the applicant provides complete and accurate information, submits required documentation promptly, and responds quickly to requests for additional information. Actual timelines may vary based on project complexity, due diligence requirements, and approval schedules.

TRANSPARENCY

What is the funding source for this program?

MiGROW is supported by General Fund dollars appropriated by State of Michigan, through the annual budget process.

How will awards be monitored for compliance?

The MEDC will monitor awards throughout the term of the agreement to ensure businesses are meeting their committed investment and/or job creation milestones. Award recipients will be required to submit annual progress reports and any other reporting required under the terms of the agreement. The MEDC may also conduct additional verification activities, including reviewing supporting documentation and validating job creation or private investment achievement. If a business does not fully achieve its agreed-upon commitments, repayment of all or a portion of the grant may be required in accordance with the terms of the agreement.

There are three types of agreements under this program.

1. Primarily jobs creation
2. Primarily private investment
3. Hybrid job creation and private investment

Will funding be provided up-front or will it be performance-based?

MiGROW provides performance-based grants on a reimbursement basis. Payments are made after eligible expenses have been incurred and documented, subject to the agreement's requirements. Grant agreements may be based primarily on job creation, private investment, or a combination of both, with final performance reviewed at project completion.

How and when will awards be announced?

Approved awards will generally be publicly announced following approval and coordination with the recipient and relevant local partners. Announcements will be published through the MEDC's established communications channels.

What information about each award will be made public for transparency?

Each project announcement will publicly disclose the following information, at a minimum:

- Recipient
- Location
- Investment commitment
- Job creation or retention commitment
- Wages
- Purpose/intent of the project