

MICHIGAN INDIGENT DEFENSE COMMISSION

The Michigan Indigent Defense Commission ensures that quality public defense services are accessible to all eligible adults charged with a criminal offense in Michigan.

Date: Tuesday, December 16, 2025, Time: 9:30 a.m.
Michigan Bankers Association
507 S. Grand Ave, Lansing, MI 48933

MEETING AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Roll call and opening remarks
3. Introduction of Commission members and guests
4. Public comment
5. Additions to agenda
6. Consent agenda (**action item**)
 - a. October 21, 2025 Meeting Minutes
7. Chair Report
8. Executive Director Report
9. Commission Business
 - a. Standing Committee Reports
 - i. Executive Committee – *Tracey Brame, Chair*
 - o *People v Donell Willie-Terrell Ivey, MSC Case No. 168000 (amicus support) (action item)*
 - b. Ad hoc Committee Reports
 - i. Indirect Costs – *Robert VerHeulen, Committee Chair*
 - ii. Nominations – *Andrew DeLeeuw, Committee Chair (action item)*
 - c. Report: Special Assignment Team Update – *Michael Naughton, Barbara Klimaszewski*

- d. *Frank Eaman Award for Excellence in Public Defense* presented to 2025 recipient Jonathan Sacks
- e. Regional Update: Lapeer, Macomb, Oakland, St. Clair Counties – Tracey M. Martin, *Regional Manager*

~ Break for Lunch ~

- f. MIDC Standards Implementation
 - i. 2025 Year-End Report
 - Budget adjustments (information items)
 - ii. FY26 Compliance Planning
 - Overview of FY26 submissions approved and funding distributed to date
 - Changes to approved plans
 - 1. Cass County (**action item**)

10. 2026 Meeting Dates

- February 11, 2026
- June 10, 2026
- September 9, 2026
- December 2, 2026

11. Annual Review of Executive Director (**action item to move to closed session pursuant to MCL §15.268(a)**)

12. Adjourn – next meeting February 11, 2026 beginning at 9:30 a.m.

Online Access: For members of the public who wish to join the meeting online, please email Jacklyn Downer at DownerJ1@michigan.gov or contact Jackie by phone at 517-582-1741 to request a Zoom link. This link will be provided in the morning before the meeting begins.

Michigan Indigent Defense Commission Meeting Minutes

The meeting was held in person at the Michigan Bankers Association building in Lansing, Michigan. Remote access via Zoom was available for Commissioners and, upon request, for members of the public. The MIDC website and meeting notice included information for members of the public on how to contact the MIDC to obtain the Zoom link for participation. Commissioners were able to participate remotely if they qualified for an exemption under the Open Meetings Act or if they requested an accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 USC 12131 *et. seq.*, and Rehabilitation Act, MCL 395.81 *et. seq.*, pursuant to Attorney General Opinion No. 7318.

October 21, 2025

Time: 9:30 am

Michigan Public Services Building
7109 W. Saginaw Hwy. Lansing, MI 48917

Commission Members Participating

The following members participated in person:

- Vice Chair Rob VerHeulen
- Thomas Adams
- Michael Carter
- Andrew DeLeeuw
- Judge James Fisher
- Christine Green
- Charissa Huang
- David Jones
- Loren Khogali
- James Krizan
- Judge Paula Mathes
- Tom McMillin
- Glenn Simmington
- Alan Vanderberg

The following Commissioners were absent:

- Tracey Brame
- Kimberly Buddin
- Margaret McAvoy

The following members requested accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act to participate via Zoom:

- Gary Walker (Marquette City, Marquette County, Michigan)

Alicia Moon observed the meeting via Zoom but did not participate in the discussions or voting.

Vice Chair VerHeulen called the meeting to order at 9:30 am.

Public Comment

The following people provided public comment:

- Tobi Lake
- Karen Moore
- Pete Menna
- Robin Dillard Russaw
- Stephanie Farrell
- Natalie Erickson

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Adams moved that the agenda be adopted as presented. Commissioner Krizan seconded. The motion carried.

Consent Agenda

Commissioner Vanderberg moved that the consent agenda containing the September 12, 2025 meeting minutes be approved. Commissioner Khogali seconded. The motion carried.

Executive Director Report

Ms. Staley provided an overview of the FY26 operational and grant appropriations.

Ms. Staley presented a proposed FY27 appropriations request that will be submitted to the Department of Licensing Regulatory Affairs and the State Budget Office for review. The request is for \$258.2 million, matching the amount appropriated in FY25.

Commissioner DeLeeuw moved that the proposed FY27 budget request be approved. Commissioner Adams seconded. The motion carried.

Executive Committee

Vice Chair VerHeulen provided an overview of the committee's meeting. The committee met in preparation for the October Commission meeting.

Data Collection Ad Hoc Committee

Marla McCowan presented a report on the committee's activities in Commissioner Buddin's absence. The committee met on October 16, 2025.

Regional Update: South Central Michigan

Regional Manager Nicole Walter provided an update on the activities in her region.

MIDC Standards Implementation – FY26 Compliance Plans and Costs

Staff recommends approval of the following compliance plans and cost analyses:

- Charter Township of Shelby
- City of Sterling Heights
- City of Detroit
- City of Inkster
- Ogemaw County
- City of Oak Park
- Lapeer County
- Cass County
- Kalamazoo County
- St. Joseph County
- Arenac County
- Bay County

- Huron County
- Iosco County
- Kalkaska County
- Leelanau County
- Marquette County
- Wexford and Missaukee Counties
- City of Highland Park
- City of Dearborn
- Ingham County
- Isabella County
- Calhoun County
- Cheboygan County
- Delta County
- Alger County
- Antrim County
- Charlevoix County
- Chippewa County
- Crawford County
- Dickinson County
- Emmet County
- Gogebic County
- Houghton, Baraga and Keweenaw Counties
- Luce County
- Mackinac County
- Menominee County
- Ontonagon County
- Otsego County
- Presque Isle County
- Alcona County
- Alpena County
- Montmorency County
- Oscoda County
- Roscommon County
- Tuscola County
- Jackson County
- City of Garden City
- City of Grosse Pointe Farms
- City of Grosse Pointe Park
- City of Hamtramck
- City of Southgate
- City of Eastpointe
- City of Farmington
- City of Hazel Park
- City of Roseville
- City of Royal Oak
- City of Southfield
- City of Warren
- Clinton Township
- Macomb County
- Oakland County
- Allegan County
- Kent County
- Montcalm County
- Muskegon County

Commissioner McMillin moved that the staff recommendation be adopted and that the compliance plans and cost analyses for the systems listed above be approved. Commissioner Huang seconded. The motion carried. Commissioner Vanderberg abstained from the vote and discussion with respect to Kent County. Commissioner Mathes abstained from the vote and discussion with respect to Muskegon County.

Ms. McCowan provided an overview of the City of Allen Park's FY26 request and the staff recommendation. Staff recommends funding be awarded in the amount of \$201,127.81. Commissioner McMillin moved that the FY26 compliance plan and a portion of the costs identified to be reduced by MIDC staff for the City of Allen Park. Commissioner Carter seconded. The motion carried.

Ms. McCowan provided an overview of the compliance plans and cost analyses submitted by Hillsdale and Lenawee Counties. Commissioner Adams moved that the FY26 compliance plan and a portion of the costs as identified to be reduced by MIDC staff for Hillsdale and Lenawee Counties be approved. Commissioner McMillin seconded. The motion carried.

Ms. McCowan provided an overview of the compliance plan and cost analysis submitted by Wayne County. Commissioner McMillin moved to approve the FY26 compliance plan and a portion of the costs identified to be reduced by MIDC staff for Wayne County. Commissioner Green seconded. The motion carried.

Mecosta County

Commissioner Vanderburg moved that the FY26 compliance plan and a portion of the costs as identified to be reduced by MIDC staff for Mecosta County. Commissioner Krizan seconded. The motion carried.

Ms. McCowan provided an overview of the request submitted by the following counties:

- Clare and Gladwin Counties
- Lake County
- Mason County
- Newaygo County
- Oceana County
- Osceola County
- Saginaw County

Judge Fisher moved that the FY26 compliance plans and a portion of the costs as identified to be reduced by MIDC staff for the counties listed above be approved. Commissioner Green seconded. The motion carried.

Ms. McCowan presented a request from the City of Taylor to add an arraignment attorney to their previously-approved plan. Commissioner DeLeeuw moved to approve an increase to the cost analysis for the City of Taylor in the approved FY26 compliance plan and cost analysis. Commissioner Simmington seconded. The motion carried.

Vice Chair VerHeulen adjourned the meeting at 1:30 pm.

Order

**Michigan Supreme Court
Lansing, Michigan**

October 31, 2025

Megan K. Cavanagh,
Chief Justice

168000

Brian K. Zahra
Richard H. Bernstein
Elizabeth M. Welch
Kyra H. Bolden
Kimberly A. Thomas
Noah P. Hood,
Justices

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN,
Plaintiff-Appellee,

v

SC: 168000
COA: 366838
Macomb CC: 2022-001910-FC

DONELL WILLIE-TERRELL IVEY,
Defendant-Appellant.

_____ /

By order of April 4, 2025, the plaintiff was directed to answer the application for leave to appeal the November 18, 2024 judgment of the Court of Appeals. On order of the Court, the answer having been received, the application for leave to appeal is again considered. We direct the Clerk to schedule oral argument on the application. MCR 7.305(I)(1). The parties shall file supplemental briefs in accordance with MCR 7.312(E) and shall include among the issues to be briefed: (1) whether MCL 769.1k(1)(b)(iv)'s provision that a trial court may impose "the expenses of providing legal assistance to the defendant" violates Const 1963, art 8, § 9; (2) whether attorney fees can be assessed against an indigent criminal defendant, see the Michigan Indigent Defense Commission Act, MCL 780.981 *et seq.*; (3) if so, whether the trial court must first hold an evidentiary hearing to assess the fee in light of the defendant's ability to pay, see Const 1963, art 1, § 16; US Const, art VIII; and (4) whether the trial court in this case made adequate factual findings to support the fees imposed, see *People v Lewis*, 503 Mich 162, 163, 168 (2018).

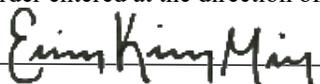
The Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan and the Criminal Defense Attorneys of Michigan are invited to file briefs amicus curiae. Other persons or groups interested in the determination of the issues presented in this case who are not exempt from the motion requirement under MCR 7.312(H) may move the Court for permission to file briefs amicus curiae.



s1028

I, Elizabeth Kingston-Miller, Clerk of the Michigan Supreme Court, certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of the order entered at the direction of the Court.

October 31, 2025


Clerk

MIDC FY 2025 Report:

How Michigan Special Assignment is Addressing the Rural Attorney Shortage

By: Michael Naughton and Barbara Klimaszewski

Rural communities across the United States face a significant and growing crisis: a severe shortage of practicing attorneys. This problem is often referred to as "legal deserts". The deficit impacts nearly every measure of well-being quality of life, from access to health care and education to the fundamental ability to navigate the justice system. Rural residents, without legal counsel, may struggle to understand their rights, leading to dire consequences such as the loss of homes, jobs, or even children. Moreover, lawyers in rural areas often play an outsized role in community leadership and economic development, meaning their absence leaves a void far beyond legal representation. Michigan, like many states, is experiencing this problem acutely, with criminal defense attorney shortages evident across both the Upper and Lower Peninsulas.

The "Legal Tundras" of Michigan

The situation in Michigan's rural areas is particularly challenging due to a confluence of factors:

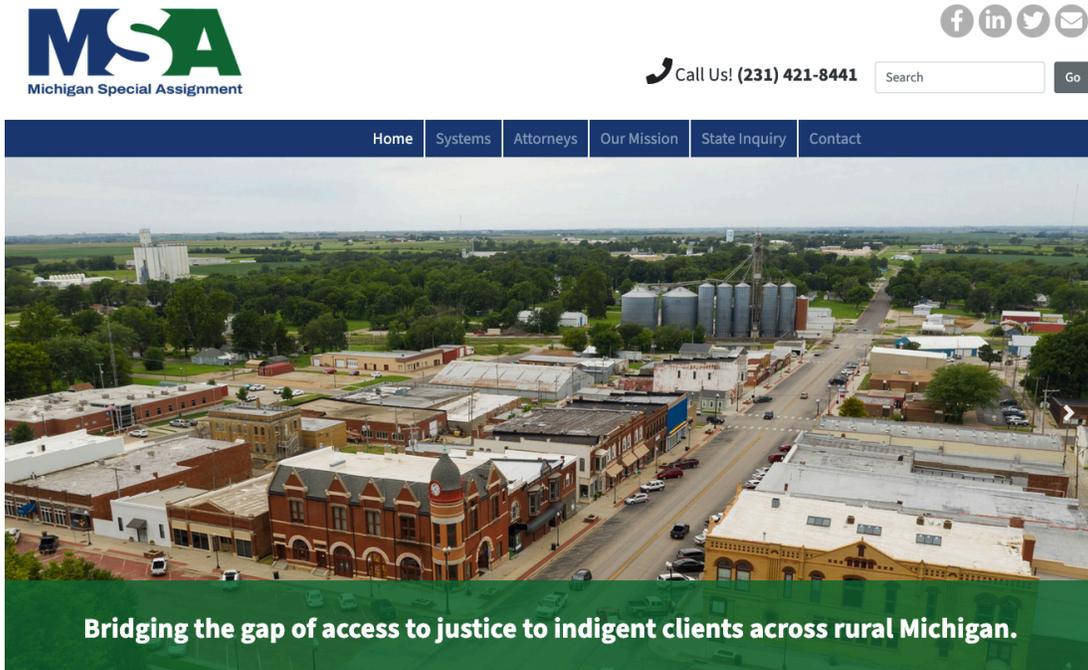
- An Aging Bar and Dwindling Replacements:** Many attorneys in rural Michigan are nearing retirement, and an insufficient number of younger lawyers are stepping forward to replace them. According to the State Bar of Michigan Demographics by County, 2024, a full 40% of attorneys in the State of Michigan are 60 years or older. This number is dramatically higher in rural counties. In **Cheboygan County, 67% of attorneys are 60 years of age or older; 61% in Emmet County; 66% in Benzie County; 80% in Antrim County; and 90% in Presque Isle County.** Additionally, in 2014 the State Bar reported 463 attorneys practicing in counties in the Upper Peninsula. In 2024, the reported number is 422. This is a **-8.86% drop** in the number of attorneys practicing in the **Upper Peninsula in the span of 10 years.** The problem is severe in many Lower Peninsula areas as well. **Ogemaw County,** which is located in the northern central part of the Lower Peninsula has seen a drop from 30 attorneys in 2014 to only 13 attorneys in 2024, a **57% decrease** in the number of attorneys. This trend is exacerbated by a sharp decline in law school enrollments since 2013, further depleting the pool of qualified criminal defense attorneys. Rural Michigan counties have a higher proportion of retirement-age attorneys and a lower proportion of younger attorneys.
- Geographic Imbalance:** The vast majority of Michigan's attorneys are concentrated in population-dense, urban areas like Detroit, Grand Rapids, and Oakland County, leaving vast rural areas critically underserved. Few attorneys are migrating to rural Michigan counties at all. This is true even for more populous "micropolitan" regional hubs like

How Michigan Special Assignment is Addressing the Rural Attorney Shortage

Grand Traverse County. The Upper Peninsula, for instance, saw only three attorneys join its ranks in 2024.

- **Infrastructure Deficits:** Rural Michigan communities struggle with a lack of essential infrastructure, including affordable housing, adequate healthcare services, and reliable broadband internet. For example, a recent Detroit Free Press article highlights how a hospital in Dickinson County is closing its labor and delivery services due to an inability to “draw adequate staffing to the region, which is in the rural, far western end of Michigan’s Upper Peninsula, near the border with Wisconsin.” Concerns about shortages in single-family, multi-family, and entry-level housing are widespread, particularly in the Upper Peninsula, making it difficult to attract and retain professionals. Furthermore, every rural Michigan county faces a mental health-provider shortage.
- **Strained Justice Systems:** The attorney shortage directly impacts the ability of rural counties to comply with Michigan Indigent Defense Commission (MIDC) standards for legal representation. Systems are struggling with the requirements for controlling caseloads. Many counties have few or no attorneys qualified to accept life offenses. Prosecutors in rural areas also face significant recruitment and retention challenges, with numerous county prosecutors reporting problems recruiting assistant prosecutors, leading to backed-up court dockets and potential delays in justice. The few remaining rural attorneys may also face unavoidable conflicts of interest or lack the specialized expertise required for complex cases. Michigan's Office of Rural Prosperity notes that public defenders are among the most urgent shortages in public service roles.

Michigan Special Assignment: A Targeted Solution



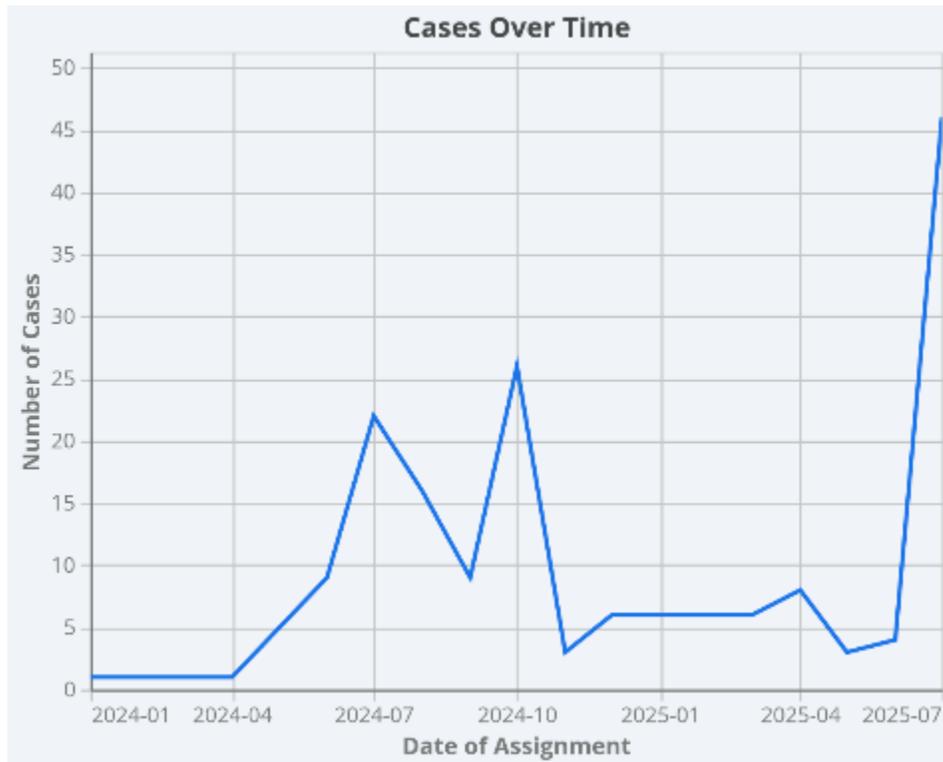
In response to this growing crisis, **Michigan Special Assignment (MSA)** is dedicated to bridging the gap in access to justice for indigent clients across rural Michigan. The program's

How Michigan Special Assignment is Addressing the Rural Attorney Shortage

core mission is to pair experienced criminal defense attorneys with rural court systems across Michigan that are in urgent need of qualified legal support for indigent criminal defense cases.

MSA achieves this through several key mechanisms and has demonstrated significant growth:

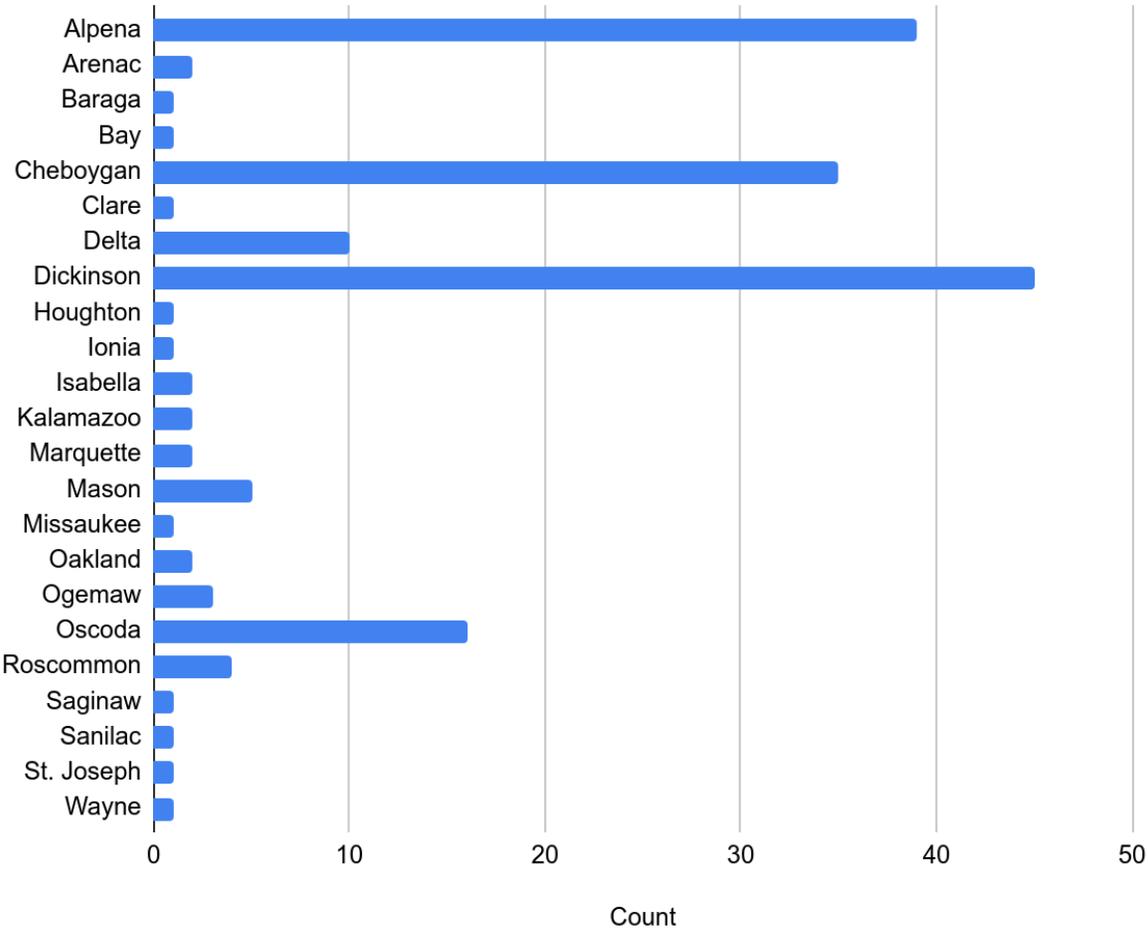
- **Targeted Case Assignments:** The program directly assigns cases to experienced criminal defense attorneys, ensuring that rural courts receive the qualified legal support they urgently need. In its first fiscal year (FY24), MSA filled approximately 59 cases, primarily in the northern Lower Peninsula and the Upper Peninsula. In the current fiscal year (FY25), the program has doubled this number, with a total of 119 tracked cases so far. MSA strives to match the attorneys to both the case and the system to provide the best possible representation. Almost all attorneys who have taken a special assignment have gone on to take multiple additional special assignments. Attorneys have expressed excitement about taking cases in different jurisdictions and being able to experience other parts of Michigan.



How Michigan Special Assignment is Addressing the Rural Attorney Shortage

- **Expanded Reach:** The geographical scope of systems served by MSA has more than doubled in FY 2025, from 11 counties to 23 counties, spanning not only rural Michigan but also metropolitan Detroit. This reflects a steadily increasing rate of requests for special assignments in both the Upper and Lower Peninsulas, and an increase in the frequency of requests from systems seeking special assignments. Similar to attorneys who have returned to take more special assignments, most systems have re-engaged the Special Assignment Team to fill coverage issues. Systems are also starting to seek MSA assignments to address unusual situations, such as language barriers and system-wide conflicts of interest.

Counties



How Michigan Special Assignment is Addressing the Rural Attorney Shortage

- **Leveraging Remote Practice:** Recognizing the geographic challenges inherent in rural areas, MSA facilitates remote practice, and remote motion writing and research. This innovative approach allows attorneys to provide critical legal services without needing to permanently relocate, helping overcome the barriers of distance and unreliable cell service that often characterize rural life. While remote appearances raise concerns about attorney-client communication, face-to-face connection, and cultural competence, especially with clients experiencing trauma or cognitive deficits, MSA aims to make an impactful change within these constraints.
- **Expanding Attorney Horizons:** For participating attorneys, MSA offers the opportunity to expand their horizons and practice in new communities across the state. The panel of participating attorneys has more than doubled in size, with multiple attorneys agreeing to take on more cases. Even during low demand periods, MSA has continued to screen and interview applicants, enabling a quick response to critical situations. For example, when Dickinson County appointed its most active defender as county prosecutor, MSA was called upon to fill 45 cases for that attorney within a day.

MSA recognizes that the problems facing rural communities in Michigan are also being experienced across the United States, and it aims to be a national leader on bridging the gap in rural communities. Several other states have met with us to get insight on ways to address these problems. No other state has established a state-wide system such as MSA.

A Broader Vision for Rural Justice

While Michigan Special Assignment seeks to provide a direct and innovative approach, it is part of a larger national conversation about tackling rural legal deserts. The patchwork approach of delegating indigent defense delivery to counties has particularly plagued rural communities with deficient representation, making access to justice a function of geography. States that have abdicated responsibility for providing a constitutionally adequate and uniform system of indigent defense have faced litigation. Michigan itself delegated this responsibility to counties after *Gideon*, leading to poor quality, low pay and inconsistent defense work until the creation of the Michigan Indigent Defense Commission (MIDC) in 2013. Since then, Michigan has made significant strides, increasing its public defender offices from 3 to 32 across 83 counties. This has tripled the percentage of indigent defense cases handled by full-time institutional defender offices. The increased funding also led to new regional defender offices in rural northern Michigan and a dramatic increase in the use of expert and investigative services statewide. Michigan's approach of implementing incremental but highly substantive defense improvements is considered a model for other states starting with decentralized systems. This has been accomplished by establishing standards, putting them into effect on a gradual but firm schedule, and providing adequate funding to ensure compliance with those standards.

Other states and organizations have implemented a variety of strategies:

- **Financial Incentives and Loan Repayment Programs:** States like South Dakota, (which was the first to pay premiums to attorneys for rural practice), and North Dakota have similar rural attorney recruitment programs offering annual subsidies. South

How Michigan Special Assignment is Addressing the Rural Attorney Shortage

Dakota's program provides about \$12,500 annually (estimated to be 90% of tuition and fees at the University of South Dakota School of Law). These payments continue for five years to lawyers in counties with populations under 10,000 or cities under 3,500, with counties footing 35% of the bill. Nebraska has a Legal Education for Public Service and Rural Practice Loan Repayment Assistance Act (LRAP) requiring at least three years of practice in designated shortage areas, offering up to \$6,000 in assistance, with boards able to adjust for inflation. Kansas also offers loan payments of \$15,000. Student loan debt relief and employment benefits like health insurance and retirement plans are considered key policies to attract new law graduates to rural prosecutorial and indigent-defense roles. These efforts often involve a cost-sharing provision to ensure local counties have "skin in the game".

- **Incubator and Pipeline Programs:** Initiatives like Iowa's matchmaking program, started in 2012, connect law students with solo practitioners for summer placements. Montana's Rural Incubator Project for Lawyers (RIPL) provides practical guidance for new rural firms. Arkansas also has a rural practice incubator project. While some law school incubator programs have faced sustainability challenges, many programs cultivate interest through summer externships, "speed date" interviews, and "Justice Buses" bringing pro bono clinics to rural areas. Washington's legislature dedicated \$1.6 million to internship programs for aspiring public defenders and prosecutors in rural areas in 2024, though it removed a loan-repayment provision from the bill.
- **Increased Compensation for Indigent Criminal Defense Work:** Low hourly rates for indigent counsel deter qualified attorneys, especially in rural areas, from taking cases. In Wisconsin, increasing the hourly rate from \$40 to \$70 in 2020 helped clear backlogs. However, a mere \$3/hour increase in Iowa "hasn't made a nickel's worth of difference". Attorneys in assigned-counsel and flat-fee systems often rely on fees from private clients to subsidize indigent criminal defense, leading to less time and poorer outcomes for indigent clients. If the indigent criminal defense case needs special services, such as an investigator, expert witnesses or mitigation specialists, there is little access to resources. (Michigan's standards have required systems to establish ways for assigned counsel to have full access to such services.) These systems are also often more expensive in the long term than institutional public defender systems. Increasing hourly rates and having more rural attorneys available are interdependent solutions. Michigan has successfully established public defender offices in many rural communities. These often serve multiple counties. This solution has proven to be cost-effective. It has allowed systems in low-population areas to utilize more resources (such as staff private investigators, social workers, and mitigation specialists), and provide higher quality representation. These offices have achieved case dismissals, acquittals, treatment deferrals and shorter sentences in many cases. Much of the improvement in results is due to increased use of investigators and experts. Use of these resources frees up attorney time to focus on legal work and client contact. When attorneys can share responsibilities for cases with professionals who can improve results, the work becomes more attractive. It is also important to remember that even when public defenders carry the primary caseload, there is always a need for outside counsel to handle conflicts of interest, multiple defendant cases and other special situations.

How Michigan Special Assignment is Addressing the Rural Attorney Shortage

- **Non-Lawyer Solutions and Holistic Support:** Some states are exploring licensing paraprofessionals or utilizing community justice workers to provide limited legal assistance. However, some self-help interventions have been critiqued for creating barriers to justice for low-income rural residents. The importance of home-grown or home-towned attorneys who understand local context is also noted, though with a caution against reinforcing biases. Public defender offices offer a range of support staff, including legal assistants, paralegals, advocates, investigators, interpreters, and social workers, some specializing in immigration, housing, or mental health. Tribal nations are also incubating new advocates in their own communities, recognizing the challenges of attorneys traveling to remote reservations.
- **Necessary Changes to Attract New Lawyers to the Profession:** Unfavorable demographics have combined with a variety of other factors to deter new members from entering the legal profession. These include the high cost of legal education, the shaky and uncertain public interest loan repayment programs, the length of time required to complete law school, poor bar exam passage rates, and a culture that discourages self-care. All of these factors, and possibly others, need to be addressed. The Michigan State Bar demographic charts reflect the rapid aging of the legal profession. All the shortage problems are about to get much worse in the immediate future. The legal profession must immediately take action to insure its future, in order to maintain the legal protections that are the foundations of our society.

Conclusion

Michigan Special Assignment's focus is on connecting experienced criminal defense attorneys with rural courts, especially through remote means when possible. This offers a crucial immediate solution to challenges like the lack of local counsel that forces out-of-county attorneys to travel long distances. It aligns with Michigan Indigent Defense Commission's broader efforts to ensure Michigan's public defense system is "fair, cost-effective and constitutional while simultaneously protecting public safety and accountability."

Michigan Special Assignment is not only addressing an immediate need but is also committed to ongoing research and refinement of its solutions, continuing the MIDC's national leadership in this critical area. The rural attorney shortage is a complex problem that requires multifaceted and tailored interventions for each state and community. Programs like Michigan Special Assignment are vital steps toward ensuring that the promise of equal justice under law is accessible to all, regardless of where they live.



Frank D. Eaman Award for Extraordinary Service in Public Defense

Presented to

Jonathan Sacks

December 16, 2025

Established in 2023, the MIDC's Frank D. Eaman Award is presented annually for extraordinary service in public defense and improving representation to people who are poor and charged with crimes in Michigan.

In recognition of his seven years serving as the Director of Michigan's State Appellate Defender Office, his three years of service as the Michigan Indigent Defense Commission's first Executive Director, his advocacy in Michigan criminal legal system reform, and his career as a dedicated public defender, the Michigan Indigent Defense Commission appreciates and thanks Mr. Sacks for his extraordinary work, vision, dedication, and inspiring leadership in public defense.

Tracey Brame
MIDC Chairperson

Kristen Staley
MIDC Executive Director

To: Michigan Indigent Defense Commission

From: Marla R. McCowan
Deputy Director/Director of Training

Re: Compliance Planning and Costs:
FY25 and FY26 status updates

Date: December 9, 2025

I. Funding Awards by Fiscal Year

	MIDC Funding	Local Share	Total System Costs
FY 2019	\$86,722,179.85	\$37,963,396.67 ¹	\$124,685,576.52
FY 2020	\$117,424,880.47	\$38,523,883.90	\$157,698,982.46
FY 2021	\$129,127,391.54	\$38,486,171.32	\$167,613,562.86
FY 2022	\$138,348,406.27	\$38,146,920.09	\$176,495,326.36
FY 2023	\$173,928,393.06	\$38,825,422.67	\$212,753,815.73
FY 2024	\$281,237,724.24	\$38,825,422.67	\$320,063,146.91
FY 2025	\$295,282,167.22	\$38,825,422.67	\$334,107,589.89
FY 2026	\$251,861,785.93	\$38,712,338.93	\$290,574,124.86

Funding for each system, each fiscal year, is posted on the MIDC's website at <https://michiganidc.gov/grants/>. The FY26 approved totals by meeting date can be found at the end of this document.

¹ The annual inflationary increase described in MCL 780.983(i) is calculated from the FY2019 local share.

II. FY25 Compliance Plans and Costs

A. Final Reporting

The fourth quarter of reporting from systems for FY25 (covering July 1, 2025 through September 30, 2025) was due by October 31, 2025. Funding units were required to enter the following reporting in EGrAMS:

- Attorney List
- Financial Status Report
- Quarterly Program Report
- Unexpended balance of Funds, pursuant to MCL 780.993(15)²

Multiple resources are available on the [grants page of the Commission's website](#) including updated compliance reporting instructions, and a [recorded webinar](#) covering submission of reports through our EGrAMS. Sample invoicing for attorneys is available, along with a document relating to entering codes to capture various data points. The MIDC's Grant Manual was updated in February and posted to our Grants webpage as well.

Most funding units have submitted their reporting timely and those reports are currently being reviewed by MIDC staff if not already approved. As of this writing, the following reporting has not been submitted:

Program	Funding Unit	Report	Reporting Through	Status
CPA-25	Alpena County	FSR	9/30/2025	Pending
CPA-25	City of Detroit	ATYLST	9/30/2025	Pending
CPA-25	City of Detroit	FSR	9/30/2025	Pending

² The MIDC annually collects information about the balance of funds distributed to systems in a form completed by the local funding units due no later than October 31. See the MIDC Act, MCL 780.993(15).

CPA-25	City of Ferndale	FSR	9/30/2025	Pending
CPA-25	City of Royal Oak	ATYLST	9/30/2025	Pending
CPA-25	City of Royal Oak	FSR	9/30/2025	Pending
CPA-25	Delta County	ATYLST	9/30/2025	Pending
CPA-25	Delta County	FSR	9/30/2025	Pending
CPA-25	Delta County	QPR	9/30/2025	Pending
CPA-25	Eaton County	ATYLST	9/30/2025	Pending
CPA-25	Eaton County	FSR	9/30/2025	Pending
CPA-25	Eaton County	QPR	9/30/2025	Pending
CPA-25	Kent County	ATYLST	9/30/2025	Pending
CPA-25	Kent County	FSR	9/30/2025	Pending
CPA-25	Kent County	QPR	9/30/2025	Pending
CPA-25	Luce County	ATYLST	9/30/2025	Pending
CPA-25	Luce County	FSR	9/30/2025	Pending
CPA-25	Luce County	QPR	9/30/2025	Pending
CPA-25	Mackinac County	ATYLST	9/30/2025	Pending
CPA-25	Mackinac County	FSR	9/30/2025	Pending
CPA-25	Mackinac County	QPR	9/30/2025	Pending
CPA-25	Presque Isle County	ATYLST	9/30/2025	Pending
CPA-25	Presque Isle County	FSR	9/30/2025	Pending
CPA-25	Presque Isle County	QPR	9/30/2025	Pending
CPA-25	St. Joseph County	FSR	9/30/2025	Pending
CPA-25	Wayne County	ATYLST	9/30/2025	Pending
CPA-25	Wayne County	FSR	9/30/2025	Pending

Due to features within our grant management system, the Unexpended Balance Report cannot be submitted until the Q4 FSR is approved by MIDC staff. Most UBRs are pending submission as Q4 is finalized.

B. FY25 Budget Adjustments

The Grants Director processed and approved the following [budget adjustment requests](#) (line item transfer requests) pursuant to the process set forth in the MIDC's Grant Manual at p. 43 (February 2025):

- Alger County
- Alpena County
- Antrim County
- Calhoun County
- Cheboygan County
- Chippewa County
- City of Hazel Park
- City of Madison Heights
- City of Pontiac
- City of Roseville
- City of Southfield
- Clinton County
- Dickinson County
- Emmet County
- Jackson County
- Manistee County
- Marquette County
- Mason County
- Otsego County
- Ottawa County
- Washtenaw County

The following requests were denied by the Grants Director:

- Houghton County
- Oceana County

C. Notice of Noncompliance Issued (across fiscal years)

Pursuant to the [Compliance Resolution Process approved by the MIDC in June of 2021](#), the following systems received notices of noncompliance with the MIDC's Standards or grant contract terms:

1. Wayne County

On November 7, 2024, notice advising that the Compliance Resolution Process was being initiated was sent to the funding unit via U.S. Mail and electronic mail for the following reasons:

- Failure to provide confidential meeting space for in-custody defendants to meet with assigned counsel as required by MIDC Standard 2 - initial interviews.

Regional Manager Jessica Paladino completed a site evaluation on October 13, 2025 and her notes are in the [shared drive](#). Compliance support is ongoing.

2. Monroe County

On October 24, 2025, notice advising that the Compliance Resolution Process was being initiated was sent via electronic mail to the funding unit for the following reasons:

- Failure to pay approved attorney invoices through September 2025, as required by MIDC Standard 8. This failure to pay constitutes an economic disincentive that impairs defense counsel's ability to provide effective representation and shall be avoided. MCL 780.991(2)(b).

The funding unit [responded satisfactorily on November 7, 2025](#) and the matter was resolved that same day.

3. Delinquent Reporting Notices

The following systems received a notice of noncompliance for failing to submit timely reporting through Q2. Reports have since been submitted and continue to be resolved by staff and the local system:

- Delta County
- Presque Isle County
- Wayne County (resolved 12-9-25)

III. FY26 Compliance Planning

A. Overview

All funding units were required to submit a plan for compliance with all approved MIDC Standards pursuant MCL §780.993, which provides:

(3) No later than 180 days after a standard is approved by the department, each indigent criminal defense system shall submit a plan to the MIDC for the provision of indigent criminal defense services in a manner as determined by the MIDC and shall submit an annual plan for the following state fiscal year on or before October 1 of each year. A plan submitted under this subsection must specifically address how the minimum standards established by the MIDC under this act will be met and must include a cost analysis for meeting those minimum standards. The standards to be addressed in the annual plan are those approved not less than 180 days before the annual plan submission date. The cost analysis must include a statement of the funds in excess of the local share, if any, necessary to allow its system to comply with the MIDC's minimum standards.

(4) The MIDC shall approve or disapprove all or any portion of a plan or cost analysis, or both a plan and cost analysis, submitted under subsection (3), and shall do so within 90 calendar days of the submission of the plan and cost analysis. If the MIDC disapproves any

part of the plan, the cost analysis, or both the plan and the cost analysis, the indigent criminal defense system shall consult with the MIDC and, for any disapproved portion, submit a new plan, a new cost analysis, or both within 60 calendar days of the mailing date of the official notification of the MIDC's disapproval. If after 3 submissions a compromise is not reached, the dispute must be resolved as provided in section 15. All approved provisions of an indigent criminal defense system's plan and cost analysis must not be delayed by any disapproved portion and must proceed as provided in this act. The MIDC shall not approve a cost analysis or portion of a cost analysis unless it is reasonably and directly related to an indigent defense function.

Funding units are using the MIDC's Grant Management System (EGrAMS) to submit compliance plans. A detailed, self-guided tutorial was prepared for funding units and [linked on our website](#) along with resources and materials for planning.

B. Status and funding distribution

As of the MIDC's October 21, 2025 meeting, all 120 compliance plans and cost analyses were approved, and communication regarding that status was sent through our grant management system. The MIDC has distributed contracts to all funding units and as of this writing 77 have been fully executed by the local system, the MIDC, and LARA. Funding will be distributed pursuant to the contract terms, pending finalization of the FY25 Unexpended Balance Reports.

Beginning in FY26, payments are reduced by the amount of unexpended funds from the prior fiscal year's grant balance across all payments scheduled.

The disbursement of funds is contingent upon receipt of quarterly reporting.

C. FY26 Budget Adjustments

The Grants Director processed and approved the following [budget adjustment requests](#) (line item transfer requests) pursuant to the process set forth in the MIDC's Grant Manual at p. 43 (February 2025):

- City of Livonia
- Monroe County

D. FY26 Plan Changes (action item)

[Cass County](#)

FY 25 approved funding: \$1,011,632.05

Spending through Q4: 100.75%

FY 26 approved funding: \$1,105,958.11

Cass County is requesting to pay attorneys a flat rate of \$308 to cover two, two-hour shifts per week for probation violation hearings in circuit court. The hourly rate for felonies is \$154/hr, so any shift beyond two hours will be paid at that hourly rate in quarter hour increments. The system is not requesting any additional funding to accomplish this, however, this plan change will require an adjustment to question #61 in the compliance plan.

Staff recommends approval.

E. Resubmissions

At the October 21, 2025 Commission meeting, 12 systems had their compliance plans approved and were awarded *partial* funding of their costs requested, pursuant to MCL 780.993(4). Official notice of this action was sent via electronic and U.S. Mail on October 27, 2025, advising each system of the following under the MIDC Act:

- An option to agree to the line item reduction and move forward with the FY26 plan and cost analysis as approved on October 21, 2025;
- An option to resubmit a cost analysis to the MIDC, limited to the reduced line item, which will be due no later than Friday December 26, 2025.

In lieu of a third submission pursuant to MCL 780.993(4), systems were also given the option to proceed immediately to mediation regarding the disapproved portion of the cost analysis pursuant to MCL 780.995, and were advised to contact MIDC staff by December 26, 2025 if that was their intention.

Regardless of the choice, the MIDC issued all contracts with the award approved by the Commission in October, with a commitment to working with all local partners to ensure that there is no interruption to services or funding during the upcoming grant year.

These notification letters can be reviewed [here](#).

F. 2026 Funding approved, by meeting date

Funding Unit	MIDC Funding	Local Share	Total System Costs	
Charter Township of Waterford	\$232,549.42	\$31,962.81	\$264,512.23	revised 9-12-25
City of Birmingham	\$525,323.96	\$17,548.95	\$542,872.91	revised 9-12-25
City of St Clair Shores	\$256,390.64	\$7,114.09	\$263,504.73	
St. Clair County	\$3,531,808.99	\$753,842.65	\$4,285,651.64	
Midland County	\$538,856.95	\$260,868.89	\$799,725.84	
Sanilac County	\$577,191.61	\$66,005.25	\$643,196.86	
Grand Traverse County	\$2,496,613.34	\$157,726.66	\$2,654,340.00	
Manistee County	\$1,061,449.75	\$284,535.77	\$1,345,985.52	
Schoolcraft County	\$194,167.14	\$36,491.86	\$230,659.00	
Clinton County	\$1,869,954.16	\$148,564.79	\$2,018,518.95	
Eaton County	\$2,514,609.78	\$447,507.03	\$2,962,116.81	
Gratiot County	\$1,199,762.22	\$83,809.01	\$1,283,571.23	
Livingston County	\$2,394,571.02	\$941,439.60	\$3,336,010.62	
Shiawassee County	\$1,507,398.26	\$106,600.55	\$1,613,998.81	
Washtenaw County	\$11,789,637.95	\$2,661,396.97	\$14,451,034.92	
City of Dearborn Heights	\$369,405.90	\$9,879.39	\$379,285.29	
City of Grosse Pointe Woods	\$62,636.76	\$3,166.24	\$65,803.00	
City of Harper Woods	\$381,914.42	\$12,722.74	\$394,637.16	
City of Livonia	\$744,006.85	\$17,676.58	\$761,683.43	
City of Taylor	\$536,995.84	\$40,567.53	\$577,563.37	revised 10-21-25
City of Wayne	\$199,906.58	\$23,590.60	\$223,497.18	
City of Wyandotte	\$353,587.11	\$1,469.49	\$355,056.60	
Grosse Ile Township	\$326,907.50	\$77,132.50	\$404,040.00	
Township of Redford	\$544,985.36	\$52,874.64	\$597,860.00	
Berrien County	\$5,440,985.43	\$577,910.43	\$6,018,895.86	

Branch County	\$1,646,151.73	\$155,464.18	\$1,801,615.91	
City of Grand Rapids	\$4,992,463.83	\$177,991.42	\$5,170,455.25	
Ionia County	\$872,525.61	\$224,505.96	\$1,097,031.57	
Ottawa County	\$6,444,298.75	\$948,010.35	\$7,392,309.10	
Approved June 24, 2025	\$53,607,056.86	\$8,328,376.93	\$61,935,433.79	
Barry County	\$1,124,477.22	\$232,434.06	\$1,356,911.28	
Canton Township	\$354,726.67	\$31,294.29	\$386,020.96	
City of Ferndale	\$505,577.22	\$15,383.43	\$520,960.65	
City of Grosse Pointe	\$9,763.43	\$3,248.40	\$13,011.83	
City of Madison Heights	\$525,699.59	\$1,790.08	\$527,489.67	
City of Lincoln Park	\$335,856.04	\$10,788.46	\$346,644.50	
City of Pontiac	\$668,316.13	\$18,111.15	\$686,427.28	
City of Romulus	\$183,315.05	\$55,586.38	\$238,901.43	
City of Westland	\$627,029.75	\$63,265.25	\$690,295.00	
Genesee County	\$9,453,835.37	\$1,342,132.90	\$10,795,968.27	
Iron County	\$562,599.60	\$73,428.78	\$636,028.38	
Monroe County	\$2,646,494.30	\$217,053.37	\$2,863,547.67	
Van Buren County	\$2,834,965.42	\$308,197.57	\$3,143,162.99	
Approved September 12, 2025	\$19,832,655.79	\$2,372,714.12	\$22,205,369.91	
Charter Township of Shelby	\$535,444.00	\$0.00	\$535,444.00	
City of Eastpointe	\$763,703.25	\$53,267.75	\$816,971.00	
City of Farmington	\$682,981.86	\$22,018.14	\$705,000.00	
City of Hazel Park	\$767,478.06	\$18,464.77	\$785,942.83	
City of Oak Park	\$667,623.93	\$42,376.07	\$710,000.00	
City of Roseville	\$1,186,350.23	\$90,691.29	\$1,277,041.52	
City of Royal Oak	\$909,172.49	\$22,803.51	\$931,976.00	

City of Southfield	\$672,572.00	\$83,187.00	\$755,759.00	
City of Sterling Heights	\$848,791.32	\$0.00	\$848,791.32	
City of Warren	\$1,147,573.90	\$123,408.57	\$1,270,982.47	
Clinton Township	\$601,387.43	\$43,832.57	\$645,220.00	
Lapeer County	\$1,130,197.61	\$110,382.39	\$1,240,580.00	
Macomb County	\$11,721,111.17	\$2,253,108.60	\$13,974,219.77	
Oakland County	\$17,926,912.81	\$1,878,134.47	\$19,805,047.28	
Alcona County	\$211,445.85	\$41,212.77	\$252,658.62	
Alpena County	\$976,603.57	\$164,160.48	\$1,140,764.05	
Arenac County	\$594,367.16	\$114,895.34	\$709,262.50	
Bay County	\$2,074,612.80	\$609,164.53	\$2,683,777.33	
Clare County	\$964,640.90	\$237,683.05	\$1,202,323.95	per MIDC action 10-21-25
Huron County	\$943,280.64	\$81,580.36	\$1,024,861.00	
Iosco County	\$504,496.77	\$172,646.85	\$677,143.62	
Isabella County	\$1,713,328.77	\$239,606.17	\$1,952,934.94	
Lake County	\$367,692.50	\$78,275.48	\$445,967.98	per MIDC action 10-21-25
Mason County	\$887,849.99	\$157,622.95	\$1,045,472.94	per MIDC action 10-21-25
Mecosta County	\$588,930.49	\$167,726.56	\$756,657.05	per MIDC action 10-21-25
Montmorency County	\$407,471.34	\$16,997.88	\$424,469.22	
Newaygo County	\$848,437.11	\$202,397.49	\$1,050,834.60	per MIDC action 10-21-25
Oceana County	\$686,751.97	\$93,408.73	\$780,160.70	per MIDC action 10-21-25
Ogemaw County	\$792,741.99	\$148,573.01	\$941,315.00	
Osceola County	\$361,708.61	\$70,651.44	\$432,360.05	per MIDC action 10-21-25
Oscoda County	\$482,182.75	\$54,603.54	\$536,786.29	
Roscommon County	\$571,241.70	\$204,663.30	\$775,905.00	
Saginaw County	\$6,618,424.58	\$922,160.76	\$7,540,585.34	per MIDC action 10-21-25
Tuscola County	\$1,874,569.01	\$255,199.23	\$2,129,768.24	
Alger County	\$544,592.08	\$53,725.49	\$598,317.57	
Antrim County	\$448,782.44	\$80,548.64	\$529,331.08	

Charlevoix County	\$692,218.32	\$169,300.95	\$861,519.27	
Cheboygan County	\$831,695.65	\$145,221.91	\$976,917.56	
Chippewa County	\$737,066.92	\$225,471.69	\$962,538.61	
Crawford County	\$489,339.21	\$15,103.06	\$504,442.27	
Delta County	\$780,599.85	\$110,127.26	\$890,727.11	
Dickinson County	\$484,197.45	\$68,989.75	\$553,187.20	
Emmet County	\$473,324.45	\$163,625.75	\$636,950.20	
Gogebic County	\$381,446.30	\$104,890.06	\$486,336.36	
Houghton County	\$998,628.25	\$159,224.45	\$1,157,852.70	
Kalkaska County	\$759,711.02	\$40,047.87	\$799,758.89	
Leelanau County	\$368,032.63	\$53,091.13	\$421,123.76	
Luce County	\$300,472.30	\$30,323.20	\$330,795.50	
Mackinac County	\$354,751.10	\$137,499.90	\$492,251.00	
Marquette County	\$3,009,818.40	\$231,045.22	\$3,240,863.62	
Menominee County	\$349,854.78	\$116,769.90	\$466,624.68	
Ontonagon County	\$125,644.43	\$27,910.10	\$153,554.53	
Otsego County	\$562,780.43	\$82,675.55	\$645,455.98	
Presque Isle County	\$166,854.23	\$75,268.13	\$242,122.36	
Wexford County	\$2,100,896.05	\$147,620.98	\$2,248,517.03	
Hillsdale County	\$513,322.79	\$114,312.29	\$627,635.08	per MIDC action 10-21-25
Ingham County	\$10,907,927.31	\$926,375.57	\$11,834,302.88	
Jackson County	\$4,347,492.97	\$570,110.00	\$4,917,602.97	
Lenawee County	\$2,331,980.72	\$215,866.41	\$2,547,847.13	per MIDC action 10-21-25
City of Allen Park	\$186,223.65	\$14,904.16	\$201,127.81	per MIDC action 10-21-25
City of Dearborn	\$1,633,762.67	\$79,240.93	\$1,713,003.60	
City of Detroit	\$6,542,548.84	\$1,091,990.48	\$7,634,539.32	
City of Garden City	\$133,395.22	\$8,982.14	\$142,377.36	
City of Grosse Pointe Farms	\$51,471.32	\$15,088.68	\$66,560.00	
City of Grosse Pointe Park	\$12,548.59	\$10,235.08	\$22,783.67	

City of Hamtramck	\$85,542.27	\$14,557.73	\$100,100.00	
City of Highland Park	\$109,390.43	\$13,864.50	\$123,254.93	
City of Inkster	\$154,025.00	\$46,215.00	\$200,240.00	
City of Southgate	\$145,310.18	\$4,709.82	\$150,020.00	
Wayne County	\$26,877,016.15	\$7,648,412.02	\$34,525,428.17	per MIDC action 10-21-25
Allegan County	\$3,903,870.22	\$235,352.46	\$4,139,222.68	
Calhoun County	\$7,763,424.87	\$701,705.97	\$8,465,130.84	
Cass County	\$850,371.70	\$255,586.41	\$1,105,958.11	
Kalamazoo County	\$10,253,804.41	\$1,181,862.26	\$11,435,666.67	
Kent County	\$15,106,975.58	\$2,516,739.44	\$17,623,715.02	
Montcalm County	\$1,199,701.43	\$226,281.16	\$1,425,982.59	
Muskegon County	\$7,529,670.53	\$680,175.94	\$8,209,846.47	
St. Joseph County	\$789,511.58	\$425,293.39	\$1,214,804.97	
Approved October 21, 2025	\$178,422,073.28	\$28,011,247.88	\$206,433,321.16	
Overall approvals	\$251,861,785.93	\$38,712,338.93	\$290,574,124.86	