

## Update on Barn Preservation Funding

*Note: Misinformation is being spread with the recirculation of a 2017 [PocketSense.com article](#) about grants for old barn restoration in Michigan. Much of the funding it describes has gone away. The information below was verified in December 2020.*



The Michigan Barn Preservation Network keeps tabs on funding opportunities for barn preservation in the form of grants, tax credits and low-interest loans. Currently there are no governmental grants in Michigan to help private owners of barns with restoration or repair of their personal property.

Here is the latest information about organizations and programs that provide some kind of assistance.

### Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credit Program

The [Michigan State Historic Preservation Office](#) (SHPO) reports that the 10% Federal non-historic tax credit program has been discontinued. The 20% Federal historic tax credit program **may** be available, but *applies only* to income-producing properties that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



The majority of barns that we might think of as historic may not qualify to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Criteria for listing include architectural significance, significance because of particular events or activities associated with the site, an association with significant individuals, and/or engineering significance. Federal Historic Tax Credit program information is available from the program website at: <https://www.nps.gov/tps/tax-incentives.htm>

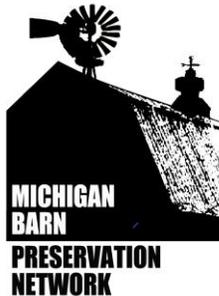
### Michigan Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit Program



The bill to reinstate the Michigan Historic Tax Credit passed both the House and Senate at year-end 2020. Whether or not it will benefit barn owners is yet to be determined. The Michigan Historic Preservation Network (MHPN) is planning to hold educational events to provide guidelines and answer questions about it. Learn more about the Michigan Historic Tax Credit and MHPN's advocacy efforts at: <https://www.mhpn.org/state>.

## Michigan Historic Preservation Network Loan Program

The MHPN has a low interest loan program for historic properties. The loans can be used for predevelopment activities - architectural, engineering and other planning and for actual physical work. Rates are negotiable. See [www.mhpn.org/loans](http://www.mhpn.org/loans).



### Michigan Barn Preservation Network (MBPN) Workshop Grant

The MBPN does offer mini-grants of up to \$250 for educational barn workshops and sometimes barn tours. MBPN often collaborates with grant recipients to provide instruction and assistance in organizing and implementing the activity. See mini-grants at: <https://mibarn.net/programs/mini-grant/>

## Barn Believers Community Project Fund



The Barn Believers Community Project Fund is held with the Battle Creek Community Foundation. The Fund is not an offshoot of any group. It makes grants of up to \$1,000 to nonprofit (501 c 3) organizations to support the assessment and care of barns for public use and the conservation of barn/farm history. It does not make grants for privately owned barns. More information: [www.barnbelievers.org](http://www.barnbelievers.org).

## Community Regional and State Foundation Support

Foundations have been known to support local barn projects through their programs.

### Thanks to these folks who verified their current information.

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