

Update on Barn Preservation Funding



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 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 [here](#). Also see this [document specifically about barns](#).

Michigan Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit Program



In advocating for historical properties, the [Michigan Historic Preservation Network \(MHPN\)](#) worked tirelessly to get tax credits reinstated. [Public Act 343 of 2020](#) is now available for both income-producing properties and private residences, and is coordinated through the [Michigan State Historic Preservation Office](#). However, to be considered for the state credit, a property must be listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the State Register of Historic Sites or a local historic district.

The Act specifies a limited amount of state tax credits in each calendar year on a **first-come, first-serve basis**. (In 2022 the application period opened on June 15 and by June 28 all available credits had been reserved.) See: [Frequently Asked Questions](#).

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. Eligible applicants include non-profit organizations, for-profit entities, community development corporations and municipalities. Rates are negotiable. See www.mhpn.org/loans.

Barn Believers Community Project Fund



The Barn Believers Community Project Fund is held with the Battle Creek Community Foundation to inform and inspire people to save traditional barns. It makes grants of up to \$5,000 to nonprofit (501 c 3) organizations to support the assessment and care of barns for public use and the conservation of barn/farm history as well as other barn/farm-related projects. It does not, and cannot, make grants for privately-owned barns. More information, free booklets on barn care and examples of funded ventures: www.barnbelievers.org (updated 11/3/22)



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/>

Foundation Support

Community, regional and state foundations have been known to support local barn projects through their programs.

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