BUILT ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY BUDGETARY CONSIDERATIONS

MICHIGAN HEALTH ENDOWMENT FUND

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS FOR BUILT ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS

In alignment with Healthy People 2030 and CDC's Active People, Healthy Nation initiative for promoting physical activity through community design, it is important to consider the construction planning costs pertinent to our built environment proposals. Below are allowable expenses for built environment planning initiatives.

These items are not an exhaustive list, but please note that the Health Fund **does not** support construction costs or capital infrastructure for resources such as pathways, trails, and parks. Our approach focuses solely on planning initiatives, assisting grantees until they can secure funding for construction.

Asset Inventory

Asset inventory provides an understanding of existing infrastructure and resources, informing decision-making and prioritizing areas needing improvement. This ensures efficient resource allocation, facilitates coordination among stakeholders, and promotes sustainable development by identifying opportunities to reuse or repurpose existing assets.

Consultant Costs

Proposals for built environment projects often involve substantial consultant fees due to the comprehensive planning needed for surveys and design engineering. Applicants must include information on proposed consultants, including proposed roles and responsibilities, justification for selecting that consultant, and confirmation that the consultant is committed to the project.

Construction Maintenance Cost-Estimates

Construction maintenance cost estimates ensure accurate budgeting, assess project feasibility, and optimize resource allocation. They also mitigate financial risks, enhance stakeholder confidence, and support sustainable development by planning for long-term infrastructure upkeep.

Drawings

Drawings provide detailed visual representations of proposed projects, facilitating better understanding and communication among stakeholders while ensuring comprehensive project planning and documentation. Supporting drawings aid in accurately estimating project costs and resources, enabling better budgeting and financial planning, including detailed designs for pathways, crossings, signage, and related infrastructure.

Easement Documents

Easement documents are legal agreements granting the right to use part of another's property for specific purposes, such as infrastructure installation. Easement documents also ensure legal clarity, prevent disputes, and facilitate project continuity and compliance. Examples of easement documents include, but not limited to:

- Access Easements: Grant the right to cross over someone else's land to reach a public road or property.

- Conservation Easements: Restrict land use to preserve natural resources, open spaces, or historical sites.
- Right-of-Way Easements: Provide the right to build and use pathways, trails, or roads on another person's property.
- Easement Legal Description: Written statement acknowledged by law as to the definite location of a tract of land by reference to a recorded map, survey, or adjoining property.

The Health Fund **does not** fund the purchase of easements but supports our grantees' capacity in developing these documents to facilitate planning initiatives to secure construction funding.

Geotechnical Support
Provides data for designing durable foundations, ensuring the safety and longevity of structures, and reducing the risk of costly structural failures or repairs by basing construction on accurate geotechnical data.

Local Area Programming (LAP)
The LAP program oversees the establishment of statewide protocols to ensure compliance with all necessary state and federal regulations for local municipalities. Supporting this line-item assists grantees in effectively navigating state and federal regulatory requirements during their planning and engineering design phases.

Maintenance of Traffic (MOT) Plan
MOT Plans ensure continuous and safe movement of people and vehicles during the construction phase of the project.

Permits
Permits secure necessary legal permissions for development projects, ensuring compliance with zoning laws and building codes. This process demonstrates a commitment to following regulatory processes, fostering trust with the community and stakeholders, and ensures projects meet environmental protection standards to minimize negative impacts on local ecosystems. Below are various permits required for planning purposes, though this list is not exhaustive; the Health Fund supports permits essential for completing project planning and design engineering.

Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE)
Environmental permits play a crucial role in mitigating industry's environmental impacts and ensuring compliance with regulations:

- EGLE 91 – control of soil erosion and protects adjacent properties and the waters of the state from sedimentation.
- EGLE 301 – Protects natural resources and the public trust waters of inland lakes and streams.
- EGLE 303 – Reviews activities expected to have only a minor impact on wetlands.
- Other environmental permits:
    - These permits may also be required for planning purposes by our grantees.

The Health Fund **will not** pay for any permits once the construction phase has started.

Michigan Department of Transportation
MDOT receives recreational permit applications for construction within state highway right-of-way, including:

- MDOT 0525A – Promotes stakeholder dialogue to ensure that transportation projects align with community goals, objectives and vision, and environmental character of the community.

Playscape Designs
The Health Fund will support playscape designs aimed at increasing physical activity by creating accessible, engaging, and safe spaces for people of all ages and abilities. This includes funding preplanning initiatives such as community engagement and design engineering, but we **will not** cover equipment or construction costs.

Examples of playscapes include community playgrounds and active play spaces for children and families. These playscapes promote physical, social, and mental well-being, foster community interaction, and inspire lifelong healthy habits, contributing to overall public health and wellness goals.

Public Outreach and Engagement
Engages residents, businesses, and stakeholders in the planning process, ensuring their voices are heard and incorporating their needs and preferences into the design.

Private Utility Research
Private utility research identifies the location and condition of underground utilities, preventing accidental damage and ensuring safety. This information guides design decisions, ensures regulatory compliance, and helps manage costs and project timelines.

Quality Assurance/Quality Control
Quality Assurance (QA)/Quality Control (QC) support projects that meet standards, specifications, and regulatory requirements. They help prevent and identify defects, ensuring reliability, safety, and overall project success. The Health Fund **will not** support QA/QC during any of the post-planning phases of the work.

Route Feasibility
Route feasibility confirms that proposed transportation routes are economically viable, environmentally sound, and enhance community accessibility and safety. It plays a crucial role in aligning projects with long-term goals, minimizing costs, and maximizing the benefits for all stakeholders involved.

Site Walk
A site walk provides firsthand understanding of the physical space, helping planners identify potential issues and opportunities that may not be evident in maps or plans. It ensures accurate, context-sensitive planning and fosters better decision-making for design, safety, and functionality.

Soil Borings
Soil borings provide data on soil composition, stability, and environmental factors. This information informs decisions on foundation design, infrastructure placement, and risk assessment, ensuring projects are both safe and economically feasible. By addressing soil-related considerations early, planners can adhere to regulatory requirements, optimize construction processes, and enhance the long-term sustainability of the built environment.

Topographical Surveys
Include detailed terrain information, aiding planners in understanding land characteristics and architects/engineers in designing structures that harmonize with the landscape,

minimizing extensive land alteration. They also identify potential issues like soil erosion, landslides, or drainage problems, crucial for ensuring the safety and sustainability of development projects.

Wayfinding Sign Determination
Wayfinding sign determination enhances navigation, safety, and accessibility, encouraging more physical activity. Clear, informative signage motivates users, aids in emergencies, and ensures inclusivity, fostering a positive outdoor experience and promoting regular trail use.

Wetlands Review
Ensures the preservation of critical wetland ecosystems that provide natural water filtration, flood control, and habitats for diverse wildlife. It also aids in adhering to local, state, and federal regulations protecting wetlands, thereby preventing legal issues and fines.

BUDGET LINE-ITEMS NOT INCLUDED

Our focus is on supporting planning initiatives that enhance community health through systemic and programmatic approaches, rather than funding capital infrastructure projects such as construction costs or easement purchases. Therefore, the below budget line-items do not align with our built environment strategy:

Construction
Funding construction projects involves significant capital investment and long-term maintenance commitments, which are outside the scope of our built environment portfolio. Examples of construction/brick and mortal line-items can include, but are not limited to, grading, fill, asphalt, signage, benches, trash containers, landscaping, etc.

Easement Purchases
Acquiring easements is a capital-intensive activity that typically supports land use planning and development rather than health-focused initiatives.

Purchase/Installing Wayfinding Signs
While wayfinding signs contribute to navigation and accessibility, their installation is generally considered a capital improvement rather than a systemic health intervention.