

ServeMICity

Helping Michigan Communities



The Problem

In March 2020, the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic rapidly accelerated in the United States and struck Southeast Michigan particularly hard. The pandemic altered lives by forcing school and business closures, locking down society in ways not seen since the 1918 influenza pandemic. Responding to the crisis at the local level placed a financial strain on many local governments due to increased costs and decreased revenues. Recognizing the devastating financial impact, the federal government released a series of wide-ranging stimulus packages, most notably the \$3.3 trillion Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. This act alone provided \$150 billion to state and local government for pandemic response, with \$3.87 billion going to Michigan.

The challenge for local governments, particularly those with limited capacity due to size or available resources, was to identify and apply for the funds that were not direct allocations. The Michigan Municipal League (MML) recognized this challenge early in the pandemic and developed a proactive technical assistance program—ServeMICity. ServeMICity was designed to provide direct technical assistance to communities that needed support in securing funding. The MML Foundation utilized its resources to hire Public Sector Consultants (PSC) to provide this assistance.

The Solution

PSC researched and identified federal and state sources of funding made available through the CARES Act and other federal programs. The most prevalent programs communities explored and leveraged include:

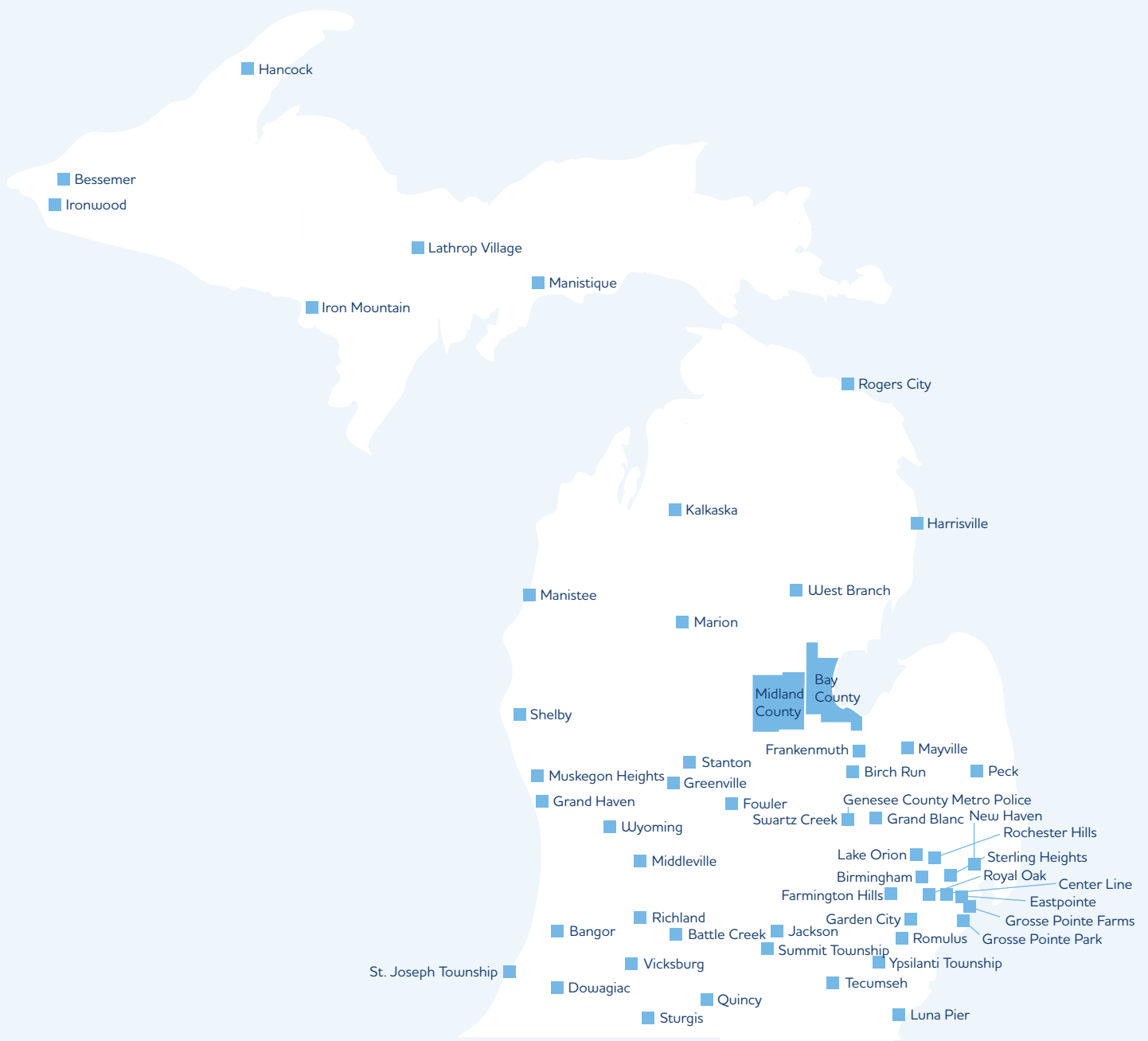
- Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Public Assistance Program
- Department of Justice's Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Program (CESF)
- Michigan Department of Treasury's Public Safety and Public Health Payroll Reimbursement Program (PSPHPR), First Responder Hazard Pay Premiums Program (FRHPPP), and Coronavirus Relief Local Government Grants Program (CRLGG)

PSC assisted communities in leveraging those funds by providing the following services:

- Creating grant eligibility and application process guides
- Supporting registration for reimbursement and grant portals
- Holding virtual office hours with MML staff to provide funding updates and answer questions
- Responding to email and phone inquiries
- Compiling supporting materials and reviewing applications
- Providing updates on award status



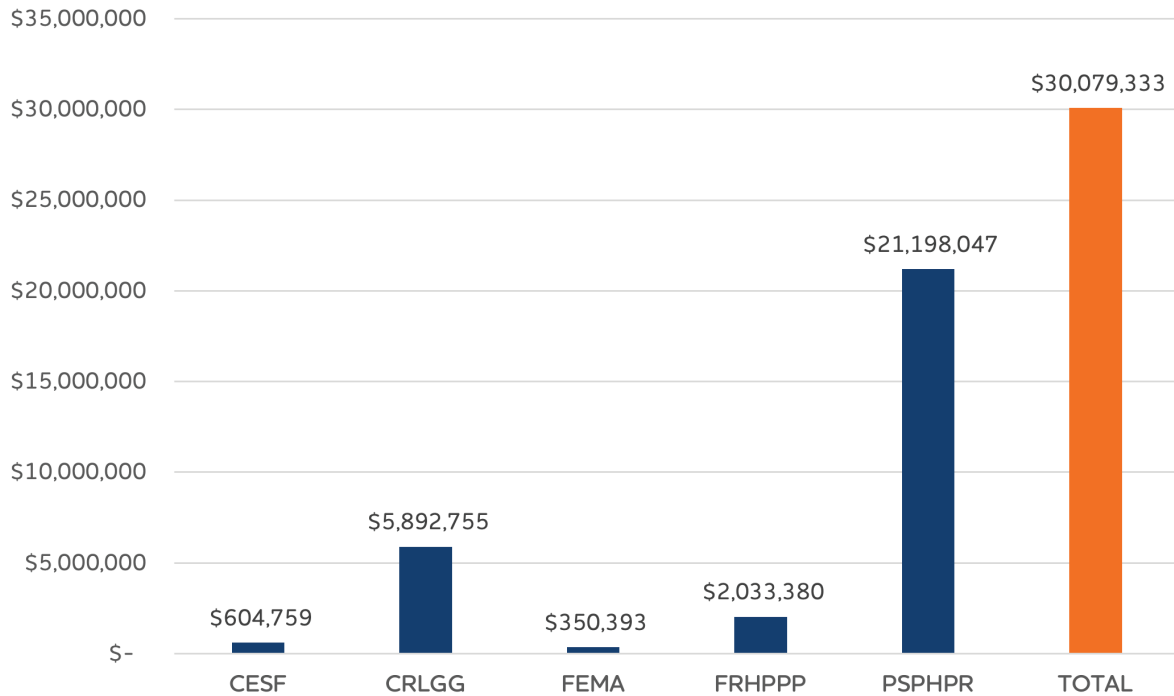
Communities Served



The Outcomes

With this technical assistance, communities were able to leverage significant funding. The graph below represents the funds awarded to the 56 communities receiving support through the program.

Funding Awarded To ServeMICity Communities



As the graph indicates, a total of over \$30 million has been awarded to communities that received assistance from the ServeMICity program. This includes over \$21 million for the PSPHPR, \$5.9 million for CRLGG, \$2 million for FRHPPP, roughly \$604,760 for CESF, and nearly \$350,400 for FEMA funding. The dollar amounts exclude other federal and state stimulus funding where ServeMICity did not provide support, such as Community Development Block Grant funding.

Next Steps

While CARES Act funding opportunities have passed, MML continues to provide access to ServeMICity for the forthcoming American Rescue Plan Act. This most recent stimulus funding will provide \$4.4 billion to local governments in Michigan and another \$5.6 billion for the State of Michigan. In addition, there remains the possibility that unspent funds from prior rounds may be reallocated if certain deadlines are extended.

If your community needs assistance, please reach out to **Shanna Draheim** at the Michigan Municipal League.

sdraheim@mml.org
517.410.1263

