

Michigan Conservation Districts



Your Land, Your Water, Your Michigan

Michigan's 75 Conservation Districts are..



Units of government that provide soil, water and plant management assistance to citizens in conserving their lands and our environment for a cleaner, healthier, economically stronger Michigan.

The Origin of Conservation Districts

- 1935 – Federal Soil Conservation Service Established
- 1936 – Federal Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act of 1936
- 1937 – Michigan passed Soil Conservation District Law Act 297, P.A. 1937.



Michigan Conservation Districts

Created by a vote of the people to provide conservation programs assistance to the community.



Michigan Conservation Districts



Local elected Board members and staff, providing the boots on the ground. Directing and delivering federal, state and local programs to address soil, water and plant issues on private lands.

Providing Farmers and Landowners with Assistance:

- Technical
- Financial
- Educational

The Conservation Partnership

Local:

Michigan Conservation Districts

State:

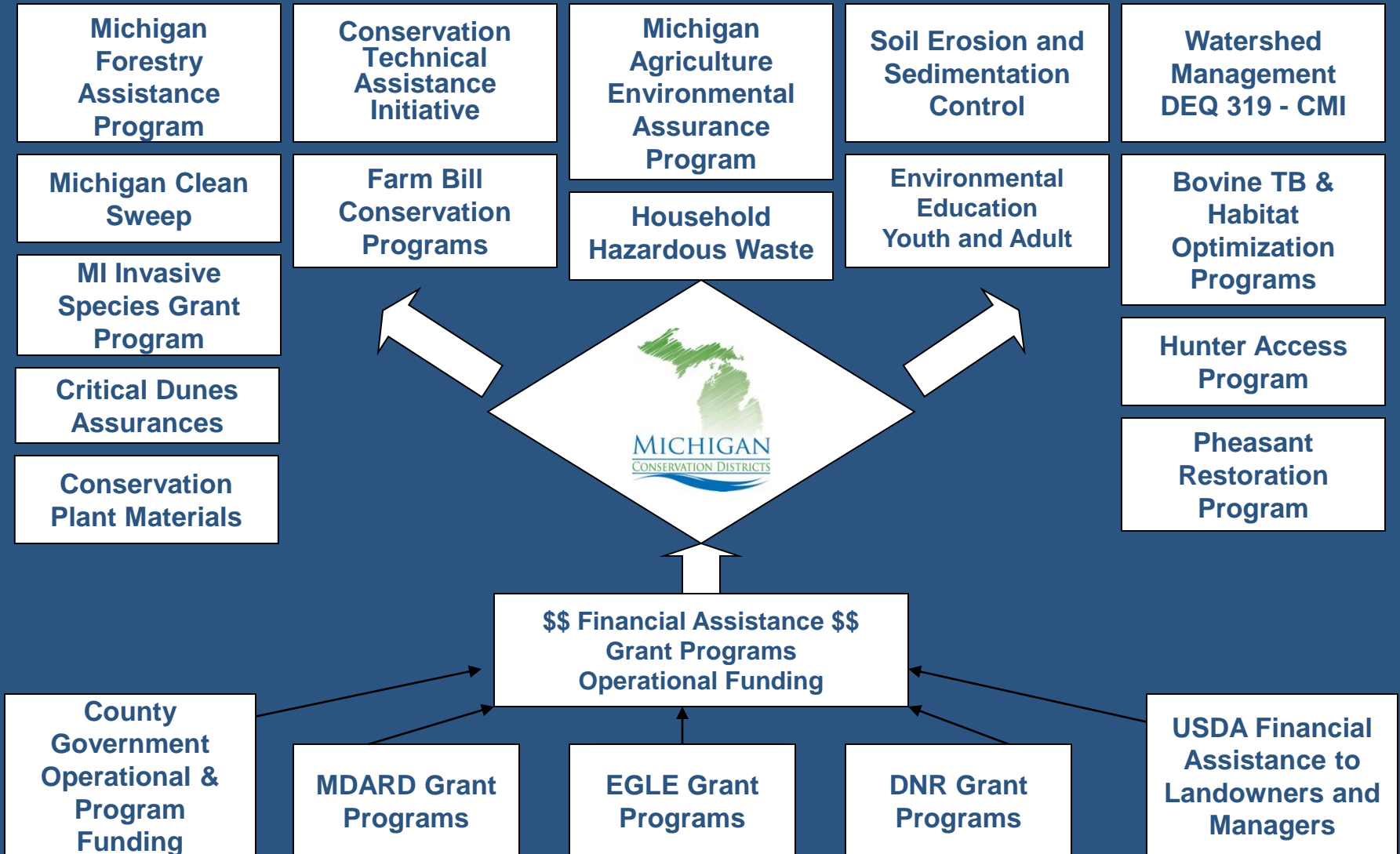
Michigan Department of
Agriculture and Rural
Development

Federal:

USDA Natural Resource
Conservation Service



Programs & Financial Assistance Provided by Michigan Conservation Districts



How Michigan Conservation Districts Work

- Identify county soil, water and plant issues
- Utilize state and federal programs to address identified issues
- Provide financial, technical and educational assistance to farmers and landowners



Federal Programs Delivered by Michigan Conservation Districts



- Farm Bill Conservation Title – Average \$20M in cost share funds
- Funds are directly passed through to farmers and land owners – 100%
- CDs provide technical assistance one on one with farmers and landowners to help implement conservation practices
- Locally driven – bringing financial and technical assistance to address local soil, water and plant concerns



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State Programs Delivered by Michigan Conservation Districts

- Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program
- Forestry Assistance Program
- Conservation Technical Assistance Initiative
- Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program
- Pheasant Restoration Initiative
- Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program
- EGLE 319 Program
- Michigan Clean Sweep
- Bovine TB & Habitat Optimization Programs
- Hunter Access Program



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Conservation Districts Provide Real Conservation to the Land



Before



After

State Operations Funding

- Michigan: \$0
- Illinois: \$7.5M
- Indiana: \$1.8M
- Ohio: \$10.4M
- Minnesota: \$14.7M
- Missouri: \$1.14M; \$40M cost share
- Oklahoma: \$9M



Current Michigan Conservation District Funding

- Grant driven
- Sales and services provide minimal funds
- Significant variability in local government support
- Quality of Life Agency grants provide small percentage for administration
- USDA-NRCS Farm Bill funds directly delivered to land owners
- No state core funding since 2009



FY2021 Program Budget Request

“Securing the Future for Michigan Conservation Programs Delivery”

Purpose: Identification of top soil, water and plant issues from the local perspective and the financial resources needed to address them through Michigan’s 75 Conservation District delivery system.



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Securing the Future for Michigan Conservation Programs Delivery

Outcomes:

- Provide core funding for all 75 Conservation Districts
- Identify and prioritize soil, water and plant issues based on input from landowners and citizens
- Identify programs and technical resources needed to address the local issues
- Implement programs to assist landowners



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