

MICHIGAN MASS TIMBER CATALYST PROGRAM

Supporting Your Success
Growing Michigan Mass Timber Momentum

SUBMISSIONS DUE DECEMBER 22, 2025

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Apply now: MassTimber.msu.edu/Catalyst



INTRODUCTION

Michigan's forestry and forest products industries produce \$26.5 billion annually, playing a crucial role in the state's economy and, in particular, in rural communities. The Michigan Mass Timber Catalyst Program is designed to support the integration of mass timber as a building material in new construction projects across Michigan. By accelerating the use of mass timber in building construction, this program aims to stimulate demand for locally sourced wood products, thereby indirectly supporting forest health and resilience, rural economic development, and job creation in manufacturing and value-added engineering sectors.

In addition to these economic and community benefits, mass timber construction provides an efficient and high-quality solution to help address Michigan's housing crisis, enabling the development of multi-family buildings—including affordable and workforce housing—that meet modern standards for durability and sustainability.

Notably, the MI Healthy Climate Plan – the State's roadmap to achieve net-zero carbon by 2050 – highlights mass timber as an important tool to advance sustainable building practices and achieve the state's carbon reduction targets, complementing the broader economic and social benefits the material offers.

This program welcomes proposals for a variety of building types—including commercial, industrial, public/institutional, multi-family residential, and other projects—that can optimize the unique advantages of mass timber construction.

PROGRAM PURPOSE

The Michigan Mass Timber Catalyst Program provides funding and technical assistance to support the successful use and implementation of mass timber by early adopters in Michigan. Specifically, this program seeks to catalyze the following:

- Increased awareness and understanding of the benefits and feasibility of mass timber construction among developers, designers, builders, policymakers, and communities
- Growth in Michigan's forestry and forest products sectors and the creation of new mass timber manufacturing and fabrication facilities by increasing demand for mass timber in building construction
- Awareness of, and revenue for, sustainable forest management and forest health through expanded use of sustainably sourced wood products, including, where possible, regional wood
- New economic forestry, manufacturing, and construction job opportunities in Michigan's rural communities, small towns, and cities
- The construction of more efficient, high-quality multi-family housing—especially affordable and workforce housing—to help address Michigan's housing shortage
- An increase in mass timber construction as a way to reduce the carbon footprints of Michigan's built environments

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Michigan Mass Timber Catalyst Program provides financial and technical support to project teams engaged in the early planning and design phases of new building construction projects that use mass timber as a primary structural or architectural material.

Projects may include commercial, industrial, public/institutional, multi-family residential, and other building types that demonstrate innovative and optimized use of mass timber.

Awardees’ project teams will become part of a cohort who will conduct technical, financial, and design feasibility analyses to help them successfully implement mass timber in their awarded projects. The program also includes public engagement and knowledge-sharing activities to promote best practices and accelerate adoption of mass timber construction in Michigan.

SELECTED PROJECTS: BENEFITS AND EXPECTATIONS

Projects will be evaluated by a committee based on the Scoring Rubric provided at the end of this document. **Selected project teams will:**

- Receive a cash award of \$25,000 - \$75,000. Awards are intended to help offset additional time and resources invested by early mass timber adopters. Award amounts are at the discretion of the review committee and will be determined based primarily upon project size and budget, but other factors, such as need, may be considered.
- Have access to robust technical assistance through “office hours” and as part of a dynamic technical assistance and peer learning cohort comprising key members of each project team (e.g. owner/owner’s rep; architect, engineer, construction manager). The cohort will meet at least six times over the course of a year, starting in early 2026. This technical assistance cohort and office hours will:
 - Be staffed by personnel from WoodWorks, MassTimber@MSU, Michigan Bureau of Construction Codes and Bureau of Fire Services, and other subject matter experts TBD.
 - Provide cohort members with support through key project planning, design, permitting, and procurement phases, **including:**

Design Decisions on Mass Timber Projects	Mass timber procurement strategy
Mass Timber Products	Support interacting with applicable authorities having jurisdiction
Construction Types including Tall Wood Fire Resistance Design	Key Considerations that Drive Mass Timber Project Cost
Structural Design	Construction management and installation strategy
Guidance on Conducting a Life Cycle Assessment Acoustics	Provide support adding projects interested in being featured on WoodWorks Innovation Network (WIN) once project breaks ground
Case Studies / WIN (WoodWorks Innovation Networks)	
- Participate in mid-term and final program reviews to share project progress and results
- Submit a final report (to be made publicly available) summarizing:
 - Key mass timber design and engineering insights
 - Carbon accounting results (if applicable)
 - Procurement processes, including, but not limited to:
 - Cost estimates (process and outcomes)
 - Decision processes related to mass timber sourcing
- Participate in program-related engagement events, such as a public project presentation at the end of the cohort term.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Eligible applicants include property owners, design professionals, or real estate developers with an active commissioned project in Michigan that is prioritizing or considering mass timber design and construction.

Applicants may be developers, architects, engineers, local governments, nonprofits, or other entities leading building construction projects. Applicants must be registered in the U.S., and licensed (if applicable) to practice in Michigan.

State of Michigan government agencies are not eligible applicants.

DEFINITION OF MASS TIMBER PROJECT

Mass timber is a category of framing styles characterized by the use of large, engineered wood panels, often paired with engineered wood columns, and beams. The mass timber family of products includes cross-laminated timber (CLT), nail-laminated timber (NLT), dowel-laminated timber (DLT), glue-laminated timber (glulam or GLT), and some types of structural composite lumber (SCL). For the purposes of the Michigan Mass Timber Catalyst Program, an eligible mass timber project is defined as a building with one (1) or more of its main structural systems (floors, walls, or roof) utilizing mass timber products. The building's superstructure must include mass timber components equal to or greater than 80% of that structural system (floor, walls, or roof) in the superstructure above the finished grade (ground-level). Any below-grade superstructures are not included. Single-family homes are not eligible projects.

PROJECT ELIGIBILITY

The proposal must be for an active, commissioned project in Michigan that is intended, or under serious consideration as, a mass timber construction project, as defined in the section above. Important: Proposed projects must be early enough in design/development that Catalyst Program support will be timely and influential. Projects can be eligible in all stages of design development (Schematic Design, Design Development, Construction Documents). Projects that are already under construction are not eligible.

Building uses/typologies may include, but not be limited to:



Multi-family housing: Apartments and Condominiums; Bonus points are available for affordable/attainable/workforce housing types



Commercial: Large office buildings and laboratories; warehouses; industrial facilities; data centers; arenas, stadiums, auditoriums; retail spaces



Public/government: Office buildings; laboratories; sports and entertainment facilities; community centers; penal institutions (State of Michigan agency projects are not eligible); pavilions, market halls



Schools: Pre-K; K-12; Colleges and Universities

Other uses/typologies that meet the mass timber definition in the section above are welcome and encouraged. Single family homes are not eligible for this program.

APPLICATION TIMELINE

OCTOBER
2025

22nd:

Public Announcement/Proposal Submission Period Begins
Online Portal for Applicant Questions Opens

NOVEMBER
2025

7th:

Public Information Session (Virtual)

12th:

Online Portal for Applicant Questions Closes

14th:

Responses to Applicant Questions Posted on Catalyst Program Website

DECEMBER
2025

22nd:

Proposal Submission Period Closes at 11:59 p.m.

JANUARY
2026

19th:

Awardees Notified

FEBRUARY
2026

Week of the 9th:

Catalyst Fund Cohort Kickoff Meeting

**MARCH -
JANUARY**
2026-2027

Cohort Meetings and Technical Assistance Office Hours

DECEMBER
2026

Near-Final Team Lightning Presentations at Michigan Mass Timber Update

FEBRUARY
2027

Final Cohort Presentations

PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

Proposals must be for a single project located in Michigan. The proposed project may be part of a larger development, but must be a single, specific building within that project. Project teams may submit more than one project, but must submit a separate application for each project. In addition, individuals and firms may participate on more than one project team.

Proposals consist of character-limited responses submitted through a fillable form, along with required attachments. The attachments must comprise a single, PDF formatted document with a total file size **no larger than 40 MB**. Focused, clear, yet brief responses will enable the Selection Jury to best understand and evaluate the merits of each proposal.

Entry Instructions

Project teams must use the online submission portal to complete and submit their proposals **before December 22, 2025, at 11:59 p.m.** Submissions started by the user but not finished before this deadline will not be accepted. Alternate methods of submission (e.g., email) will not be accepted. Submitted applications are considered final.

The application form will prompt you to provide:

| Applicant Contact Information

- Provide the name, phone number, email address, firm name, and firm address for the principal team contact. All application and selection process communications will be with the Applicant Contact.

| Project Name and Location in Michigan

| Team Profile

- Provide the firm name and lead representative for the primary project team disciplines including developer/owner, architect, structural engineer, construction manager and/or general contractor (if known at time of application). Include any important specialty consultants relevant to the success of the project (e.g. fire, LCA, acoustics). (250 word limit)
- Provide a brief description of the project team's expertise and experience. Although mass timber experience is not required, if team members have mass timber experience, the application should specify and attribute that experience. (300 word limit)

| Project Description (250 word limit)

- Building program and uses
- Building characteristics including area (sf) and height (stories and feet)
- Project planning and permitting status
- Sustainability goals including LEED, carbon neutrality, and resiliency

| Statement of Interest and build with Mass Timber (300 word limit)

- In February 2026, what project phase do you expect to be in. Provide a brief explanation of the project team's motivation for applying to the Michigan Mass Timber Catalyst Program, intent to design with mass timber, and how joining the Catalyst Program cohort will benefit your project at this phase.

| Statement of Mass Timber Procurement Strategy (300 word limit)

- Describe how your team intends to approach mass timber procurement. How will this process differ from procuring other types of building systems? Will you be considering suppliers from around the world? North America? US only? Will you look into specifying regional wood? Your responses to this question are not binding; they are meant to enable assessment of your team's procurement vision/intent at this early stage.

| Catalytic Impact (200 word limit)

- If the project team believes the project would positively influence Michigan's mass timber ecosystem, describe the nature of the expected impact.

Bonus Categories

- The form will prompt you to provide information about any bonus categories that may be relevant for your project, including whether you intend to prioritize using wood from the Great Lakes Region; if your project is a deeply affordable and/or affordable (at least 50% of units are for households earning 30-80% of the Area Median Income – AMI) or workforce housing development (at least 50% of units are for households earning between 80-120% AMI); or whether your project is located in a priority community, such as a Tribal Community or underserved/underinvested rural or urban community (based on Socioeconomic Factor Percentile of 60 or greater in the socioeconomic category of the Michigan Environmental Justice Screening Tool [MiEJScreen: Environmental Justice Screening Tool \(Version 1.0\)](#)). (Each of these categories will have a 150 word limit)

Attachments (as a single PDF no larger than 40 MB):

- Project Planning and Permitting Status
- Project schedule and status
- Project cost estimates and a schedule of expenses
- Project financing plan
- Development illustrations including site plans, building plans, and elevations

APPLICANT SUPPORT

Information Session

The Michigan Mass Timber Catalyst Program team will host an informational webinar and Q&A on November 7 at 9:00 a.m. Eastern Time. Potential applicants are strongly encouraged to register for the webinar and attend in real time. The webinar will be recorded and sent to registrants and posted at MassTimber.msu.edu/Catalyst. To register for the informational webinar, visit the link above.

Questions

Prospective applicants are welcome to submit questions between October 22 and November 12, 2025. Answers to questions submitted by November 12, 2025 will be posted at MassTimber.msu.edu/Catalyst by November 14, 2025.

PARTNERS AND FUNDING

The Michigan Mass Timber Catalyst Program is produced collaboratively by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, MassTimber@MSU (Michigan State University), the Michigan Green Building Collaborative (MiGBC), and WoodWorks, with participation from the Michigan Bureau of Construction Codes, the Michigan Bureau of Fire Services, and InvestUP. Funding to support this program is being provided from a one-time State General Fund appropriation to the Department of Natural Resources in Public Act 121 of 2024. The purpose of this allocation is to aid in the development of a mass timber market in the state of Michigan.

SCORING RUBRIC

	Criteria	Importance	Max Points	Scoring Guidance
1	Likelihood of Mass Timber Success	Most important	10 points	Project demonstrates strong technical and organizational potential for mass timber to be carried through to final construction. Team has relevant experience and/or support.
2	Commitment to Mass Timber	Most important	10 points	Proposal clearly demonstrates deep commitment to using mass timber, including owner buy-in and intent to move forward with this system.
3	Project Stage	Very important	8 points	Project is early enough in design/development that Catalyst Program support will be timely and influential (e.g., not already fully designed or under construction).
4	Permitting Stage	Very important	8 points	Project is at or nearing the early permitting phase—early enough to incorporate learnings from feasibility, but advanced enough to be real and actionable.
5	Catalytic Potential	Important	6 points	Project has potential to inspire others: through visibility, innovation, or demonstration of leadership in mass timber use in Michigan.
6	Contribution to Project Type Diversity	Important	6 points	Project adds to the diversity of the Catalyst Program cohort (e.g., fills a gap in building type: industrial, multi-family, institutional, etc.).
7	Commitment to North American Mass Timber	Important	6 points	Project shows intent to use mass timber products manufactured in and sourced from North America. Stronger or more specific commitments receive higher scores.

Bonus Criteria	Max Bonus Points	Scoring Guidance
Commitment to Regional Wood	4 points	Project intends to investigate using mass timber made from wood sourced in the Great Lakes region. Proposal must demonstrate preliminary knowledge of how to specify such wood.
Affordable, Attainable, or Workforce Housing	4 points	At least 50% of units are affordable or workforce housing. Proposal must describe unit count and income requirements for unit types.
Priority Communities	4 points	Project is located in or serves a Tribal community or an underserved/underinvested rural or urban community in Michigan. To qualify as an underserved/underinvested community, the project must be in a community with a Socioeconomic Factor Percentile of 60 or greater in the socioeconomic category of the Michigan Environmental Justice Screening Tool.



MICHIGAN MASS TIMBER

CATALYST PROGRAM

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