

Council of Michigan Foundations

CONFERENCE MANDATE COMMITTEE
1980

Attachment 7

18 NORTH FIFTH STREET
GRAND HAVEN, MICHIGAN 49417
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DEVELOPING GOOD WILL

Purpose: To inform government representatives about the purposes and grantmaking activity of charitable foundations.

Goals: To establish continuing relationships with national, state and local government representatives.

To provide a climate such that legislation advantageous to the growth and encouragement of private foundations will continue.

Rationale: No one will be as interested in carrying the good message about foundations to government representatives as foundations themselves. Section 4945(e) of the Internal Revenue Code specifically provides that taxable expenditures do not include any amounts paid or incurred for "Self-Defense" lobbying by foundations, i.e., lobbying with respect to a possible legislative decision which affect the existence of the private foundation, its powers and duties, its tax-exempt status or the deduction of contributions to it.

Methods:

- 1) Initial contact will be directed to the Michigan Congressional delegation.
- 2) At least one CMF representative will be identified in each Congressional district to coordinate plan.
- 3) Each coordinator will be responsible for contacting each CMF member in their district to describe the necessity to communicate with government representatives and to seek their cooperation in communicating with their elected Congressman personally and by mail.

The descriptive materials will be distributed by each coordinator. The CMF office will maintain records for each district. Copies of correspondence and notice of visitations should be forwarded to CMF office by members and/or coordinators.

The legislative program may very well give local CMF grantmakers impetus to meet and discuss their mutual concerns.

- 4) Each CMF member will be encouraged to make member contact each year by letter or in person with at least four of the Michigan Congressional delegation. These contacts may take the form of a personal visit in Michigan or Washington D.C. or a letter. Suggested contacts include two Senators, local Congressmen and Michigan member of House Ways & Means Committee or member of Congressional Committee in particular grantmaking field of interest.
- 5) The Conference Mandate Committee will encourage Michigan foundations not already doing so to print an annual report.
- 6) Contacts with government representatives outside Michigan will be encouraged.