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Michigan CARES

Building Stronger Communities for Michigan

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Michigan CARES is a national demonstration project to test the effectiveness of a collaborative, community-based planning process for national and community service. The project is a partnership between the Michigan Community Service Commission (MCSC) and the Council of Michigan Foundations (CMF).

Michigan CARES will:

1. Spark the spread of innovative and self-sustaining service programs.
2. Build strong community partnerships to support proven programs.
3. Foster the development of comprehensive community plans that meet community needs through service and volunteerism.
4. Integrate the best practices of service and service learning into community-based programs.

In a community Michigan CARES is a planning model that will develop and enhance service projects. Michigan CARES will strengthen relationships among community organizations, schools, business, local governments, and community foundations.

The Michigan CARES model will integrate community service by:

- building and strengthening partnerships,
- refining resources and activities to eliminate duplication and redundancy,
- inviting all local interests to become involved in bettering their communities through service,
- developing a model for service that is designed and driven by the community.

Across the state, Michigan CARES will establish a network among the participating communities that will strengthen relationships through peer-to-peer support.

Michigan CARES is a unique collaborative effort between the Michigan Community Service Commission and the Council of Michigan Foundations that demonstrates the potential of public/private partnerships.

MCSC's mission is to enable citizens to engage in public problem-solving through service and volunteerism. Consistent with that mission, the Michigan Community Service Commission will provide technical assistance and overall coordination of the project.

The mission of the CMF is to increase and improve philanthropy in the state of Michigan by providing the means for regular exchange of ideas, experiences, information and expertise among Michigan grantmakers. In service of that mission, the Council of Michigan Foundations will serve as convener of the foundation network, as well as provide coordination of community grants. The local community foundations will serve as community strategic planners, and handle fiduciary responsibilities for the communities.

