

2009 Innovations Awards Program
APPLICATION

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ID # (assigned by CSG): 09-MW-07MI

Please provide the following information, adding space as necessary:

State: Michigan

Assign Program Category (applicant): Human Services (Use list at end of application)

1. Program Name :

Voices for Action Network

2. Administering Agency:

Michigan Department of Human Services

3. Contact Person (Name and Title)

Linda S. Schmidt, Poverty Policy Specialist, Michigan Department of Human Services

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8. Web site Address:

www.michigan.gov/poverty

9. Please provide a two-sentence description of the program.

Voices for Action Network links local, state and federal initiatives to reduce poverty and maximize economic opportunity. The Voices for Action Network is founded on the premise that poverty reduction and engaging communities are key components of economic recovery.

10. How long has this program been operational (month and year)? Note: the program must be between 9 months and 5 years old on March 2, 2009 to be considered.

The Voices for Action Network was launched at Michigan's statewide poverty summit held November 13, 2008.

11. Why was the program created? What problem[s] or issue[s] was it designed to address?

Voices for Action – A Comprehensive Approach to Reduce Poverty and Maximize Economic Opportunity

The Voices for Action Network links state and local poverty reduction efforts with the national goals of *Half in Ten* to cut poverty in half over ten years. The goals of *Half in Ten* are:

- Reduce overall poverty by 50% by 2019.
- Reduce child poverty by 60% by 2019.
- Reduce the racial poverty gap by 40% by 2019.

Theory of Change/ Problem Statement:

- **Poverty is a significant and growing problem in Michigan.**
- **We must re-engage our thinking around poverty to shift back to an approach that focuses on poverty reduction – not just managing the effects.**
- **Reducing poverty is an essential component of economic recovery.**
- **Poverty reduction efforts must be linked at local, state and federal levels to be most effective.**
- **People in poverty must be included in designing and implementing poverty reduction efforts.**
- **The state plays a key role in supporting, coordinating and leading poverty reduction efforts; and must partner in new and more effective ways in order to meaningfully impact poverty.**

Supporting Facts:

Current Facts on Poverty:

The current poverty level for a family of four is \$21,200. The Census Bureau uses a similar weighted measure to estimate poverty rates nationally and by state through the American Community Survey. According to the American Community Survey for 2007:

In the United States:

- Nearly 1 in 8 people in the United States are poor.
- One in 4 people in the United States without a high school diploma are poor, compared to 1 in 13 people with some college, and 1 in 25 who had a college degree.
- Half of all people in the United States with less than a high school diploma are considered low income, compared to 1 in 4 of those with some college, and 1 in 10 of those with a college degree.
- Of the 38,052,257 poor people in the United States, 13.5 million are children.
- *The numbers above are based on who is poor at one point in time, when we take a longer view; it becomes clear that poverty affects many more Americans. According to studies using a representative survey over time (Panel Study of Income Dynamics), between 58% - 67% of people in the United States will experience poverty for at least one year.*
- *Education is the main pathway out of poverty. According to the Economic Mobility Project at the Pew Charitable Trusts, education explains more of the difference in income between parents and children than any other factor.*
- *People who earn an Associates Degree can expect to earn 29% more than those with a high school diploma; a Bachelor's Degree increases earnings by 70%.*

In Michigan:

- Nearly 1 in 5 (18.9%) Michigan residents are near or below the poverty level.
- 1,376,658 Michigan citizens live in poverty, including 468,400 children.
- Child poverty in Michigan increased from 14.2% to 19.4% since 2001.
- Families in poverty in Michigan increased from 7.9% to 14% since 2001.
- 44% of all poor families in Michigan include parents who are working.
- 28% of working poor families had a parent without a high school diploma.
- Roughly 1.1 million Michigan residents do not have health insurance.
- It is estimated that 79,940 people in Michigan are homeless.
- In 2006, roughly 15,000 families have identified full-day Head Start as a need but fewer than half (roughly 7,000) were able to receive this service.

Michigan's Response: Michigan has been extraordinarily proactive in addressing issues related to economic recovery and long-term economic strength by enacting the following initiatives:

- Invest in Early Childhood Development.
- Implement a Full Day Kindergarten program.
- Improve and ensure equity in child welfare.
- Increase the number of Family Resource Centers from 64 to 100 in the next two years.
- Ensure that the approximately 40,000 Michigan high-school seniors who live in poverty are able to complete their high-school education and achieve success in post-secondary education.
- Increase enrollment for high school completion and community colleges.
- Promote the Michigan National Career Readiness Certificate.
- Create 400,000 jobs
- Tie workforce development training programs to available job opportunities.
- Provide 100,000 displaced workers with the training needed to access new opportunities through the No Worker Left Behind project.
- Ensure access to healthcare to Michigan's 1.1 million uninsured residents.
- End homelessness in Michigan.
- Promote Asset Building.
- Promote Save the Dream.
- Eliminate 1500 blighted properties.
- Recruit 10,000 more mentors.
- Promote the resources available through the Insurance Advocate

12. Describe the specific activities and operations of the program in chronological order. Please see attached Project Plan and Milestones.

13. Why is the program a new and creative approach or method?

The Voices for Action Network has engaged low-income persons and connected them to local, state, and federal poverty reduction to a greater degree than any other poverty reduction initiative in at least 40 years. Addressing poverty as a key component of economic recovery, while absolutely necessary, is a bold step in challenging economic times.

More than 5,000 Energized Registrants

- This is the largest state summit on poverty in at least 40 years.
- The largest group represented at the summit was consumers – low-income individuals – making up 15.5 percent of the participants. Low-income persons participated in significant numbers in every best practice session and each regional breakout session. Many of these participants continued the energy on the bus ride home. Participants paired up to discuss and support each other in meeting immediate goals like going back to school or sharing transportation.
- Michigan is the only state that has included low-income participation on this scale.
- High school, undergraduate and graduate students made up another significant percentage of participants at the summit.

State Government Involvement

Twelve leaders from nine state departments moderated best practice sessions. The level of interagency and interdepartmental involvement in the poverty summit was truly exceptional; no other state poverty summit has approached this level collaboration. State departments and agencies represented include:

- Michigan State Housing Development Authority.
- Michigan Department of Corrections.
- Michigan Department of Education.
- Michigan Department of Labor, Energy and Economic Growth.
- Governor's Office of Community & Faith-based Initiatives
- Michigan Department of Community Health.
- Michigan Department of Civil Rights.
- Michigan Office of Services to the Aging.

Other key statewide groups that moderated best practices sessions included Michigan's Early Childhood Investment Corporation, Traverse Bay Poverty Reduction Initiative and Council of Michigan Foundations.

Voices for Action Regional Network Launched

- Eight regional breakout sessions provided participants with regional data, information on regional networking, and poverty reduction projects already under way in their communities. Most important, the regional breakouts provided a forum for 5,000 people to discuss issues related to poverty in the context of their own communities.
- Each of the regions completed a preliminary 100-day plan indicating how engagement of key stakeholders, especially low-income persons, will continue after the summit.
- Each participant in the regional breakout sessions worked in small discussion groups to answer the following questions:
 - What are you aware of that is working to reduce poverty?
 - What more can be done to reduce poverty in our area?
 - What can each of us personally do to reduce poverty in our area?
- Each participant made a commitment to what they could do, no matter where they were located or their socioeconomic status. This highlighted the emphasis on community, reframing the role of government and the notion that poverty reduction will require all of us to do our part.
- Participants completed surveys in order to identify poverty reduction priorities for their regions.

14. What were the program's start-up costs? (Provide details about specific purchases for this program, staffing needs and other financial expenditures, as well as existing materials, technology and staff already in place.)

Please see attached budget.

15. What are the program's annual operational costs?
Annual operating costs are currently projected to be roughly \$400,000.

16. How is the program funded?

In addition to some support through CSBG and other sources, the Voices for Action Network garnered \$300,000 in Private Investment to Support Poverty Reduction

- Twenty-two foundations, businesses, universities and private organizations made financial contributions to support the summit.
- About \$52,625 was realized directly from registrations and exhibitor fees.
- Another \$1,829 was raised from individual contributions.

17. Did this program require the passage of legislation, executive order or regulations? If YES, please indicate the citation number.

N/A

18. What equipment, technology and software are used to operate and administer this program?
N/A

19. To the best of your knowledge, did this program originate in your state? If YES, please indicate the innovator's name, present address, telephone number and e-mail address.

The idea of a poverty summit and a network to link local, state and federal efforts is not new; Michigan's ability to take this idea to a greater scale and with significantly more consumer engagement is what defines the project as an innovation.

20. Are you aware of similar programs in other states? If YES, which ones and how does this program differ?

21. Has the program been fully implemented? If NO, what actions remain to be taken?

Voices for Action Network regions continue to work toward the goal of linking every county in Michigan to a poverty reduction initiative that provides connections between all sectors of the community and links with public programs of every relevant state department. In addition, each county will include a System Navigator component to identify, train, and support individuals from every community so that they can better help utilize systems and reach out to others in need.

22. Briefly evaluate (pro and con) the program's effectiveness in addressing the defined problem[s] or issue[s]. Provide tangible examples.

Many regional groups have found very creative ways link local, state and federal initiatives in meaningful ways. For example, in one community the Voices for Action Network is leading an initiative to link EITC to workforce development and micro-enterprise. In addition, regional leaders

in this area have responded to local business leaders by linking economic recovery and job creation and other stimulus initiatives (such as increased food assistance) to a campaign to promote local businesses, especially those that employ low-wage workers.

In other areas, there has been a lack of sustained leadership; especially as local community-based organizations have focused so intently on preparing for the implementation of initiatives related to economic recovery.

Depending on the context of the particular community, the tsunami of attention to economic recovery either reinforced or distracted from the goals of Voices for Action.

23. How has the program grown and/or changed since its inception?

The passage of the ARRA and subsequent initiatives has shaped the development of Voices for Action profoundly.

24. What limitations or obstacles might other states expect to encounter if they attempt to adopt this program?

Many local advocates, business leaders, and consumers of services have strong and sometimes well-founded feeling of distrust toward government. Meaningfully engaging communities, low-income persons, business leaders, and various state departments in order to work together to reduce poverty requires state government to be a different kind of partner than is usually expected. Without this type of purpose-centered leadership, building a network like the Voices for Action Network can become “just another state program.”

	Project Plan Major Milestones	TARGET DATE	COMPLETION DATE
Site & Logistics	Summit Site/Venue Reserved	31-Jan-08	29-Jan-08
Site & Logistics	Preview site to determine logistics	15-Feb-08	14-Feb-08
Communications	Communication theme Established	20-Feb-08	29-Feb-08
Budget	Determine how budget process will work	29-Feb-08	23-Jul-08
Budget	Determine if fiduciary is needed	29-Feb-08	6-Mar-08
Communications	Save the Date Flyer	4-Mar-08	7-Mar-08
Budget	Submit budget to Steering Committee	7-Mar-08	3-Mar-08
Partner/Sponsors/ Speakers	Nationally recognized speakers identified for general sessions	7-Mar-08	Completed
Communications	Web site content (draft)	11-Mar-08	11-Mar-08
Partner/Sponsors/ Speakers	Recommendation of speakers to Steering Committee	14-Mar-08	Completed
Communications	Sponsor Brochure	18-Mar-08	4-Jun-08
CCAEO Planning	Define scope of responsibility and charge for Advisory Group members	19-Mar-08	Completed
CCAEO Planning	Define expected outputs from Advisory Group	19-Mar-08	Completed
Site & Logistics	Submit Site and Logistics Plan to Steering Committee	21-Mar-08	22-Apr-08
Communications	Save the Date Flyer mailed and emailed	28-Mar-08	11-Jun-08
Partner/Sponsors/ Speakers	Submit final general session speakers to Steering Committee	28-Mar-08	Completed
Site & Logistics	Preview site for Audio-Visual needs	30-Mar-08	27-Mar-08
Partner/Sponsors/ Speakers	Contact speakers to determine availability	30-Mar-08	Completed
CCAEO Planning	Advisory Group meeting dates established	2-Apr-08	Completed
Partner/Sponsors/ Speakers	Finalize speakers for general session	4-Apr-08	Completed
Communications	Web site content (final)	7-Apr-08	6-Jun-08
Communications	Press release announcing Summit	7-Apr-08	11-Jun-08
CCAEO Planning	Recommend speakers	16-Apr-08	12-May-08
Mobilization	Submit Mobilization Plan to Steering committee.	2-May-08	28-Apr-08
Site & Logistics	Develop materials for soliciting Vendor/Exhibitors (Resource Tables)	2-May-08	14-May-08
Mobilization	Identify role of subcommittee members in regard to tasks identified w/in the Project Plan.	9-May-08	ongoing
Mobilization	Identify additional subcommittee members.	9-May-08	ongoing
Site & Logistics	Develop Mobilization Plan to Include Transportation (w/ Mobilization Subcommittee)	9-May-08	2-May-08
Site & Logistics	Identify Resource Exhibitors Group to facilitate solicitation and confirmation of Exhibitors (see Resource Exhibitor Milestones)	9-May-08	20-Jun-08

Advisory	Face to face meeting at Capitol Bldg	12-May-08	12-May-08
Site & Logistics	Secure Contract w/Venue (Cobo Hall)	15-May-08	6-Nov-08
Mobilization	Engagement: Identify lead person for CAA Regional Network, i.e., who they will report to and who will keep them on target.	16-May-08	25-Apr-08
Site & Logistics	Develop Site and Logistics Information for Website	16-May-08	20-May-08
Mobilization	Transportation: Present a revised number of consumers needing to be mobilized (reasonable and accurate based on costs, logistics, etc.).	23-May-08	23-May-08
Budget	Identify funding sources and submit to Steering Committee	29-May-08	7-Mar-08
Partner/Sponsors/ Speakers	Secure contracts w/ final speaker choice (MLKIII)	31-May-08	Completed
S & L Resource	Develop Resource Exhibitor Solicitation Materials	2-Jun-08	16-May-08
Site & Logistics	Identify Target Audience (w/ Mobilization Subcommittee)	6-Jun-08	11-Jun-08
Advisory	Assist in planning Content	11-Jun-08	8-Oct-08
CCAEO Planning	Advisory Group members Identified	11-Jun-08	Completed
CCAEO Planning	Draft proposal submitted to Steering Committee for review and input	11-Jun-08	Completed
Advisory	Conference call for follow up and next steps	17-Jun-08	17-Jun-08
CCAEO Planning	Advisory Group members finalized	20-Jun-08	Completed
CCAEO Planning	Develop protocol/process for managing activities of Advisory Group	20-Jun-08	Completed
CCAEO Planning	Letter of invite sent to Advisory Group members Letter to additional members	20-Jun-08	Completed
Advisory	Develop logic model for Advisory Group stemmed from 6-17 conf call	25-Jun-08	25-Jun-08
CCAEO Planning	Follow Up calls to invitees	25-Jun-08	Completed
Advisory	Logic Model to Advisory Group to serve as background for forming specific recommendations	27-Jun-08	30-Jun-08
CCAEO Planning	Implement Call for Presentation process to identify Best Practice presentation at Summit	27-Jun-08	30-Jun-08
CCAEO Planning	Mailing list for RFP presented to Steering Committee for review and additions	27-Jun-08	Completed
CCAEO Planning	Recommend content for agenda	27-Jun-08	3-Nov-08
CCAEO Planning	Call for Presentations ready for distribution and placement on the web site	30-Jun-08	30-Jun-08
Communications	Posters	30-Jun-08	30-Jun-08

Mobilization	Summit Process: Identify role of the consumer.	30-Jun-08	30-Jun-08
Mobilization	Transportation: Identify Transportation Group w/in Mobilization Subcommittee to take lead in developing a regional mapping plan for transportation needs to get approx. 700 consumers to the Poverty Summit.	30-Jun-08	17-Jun-08
Site & Logistics	Develop Timeline/Tasks for Resource Exhibitor Group	30-Jun-08	20-Jun-08
Site & Logistics	Secure Contract w/Audio-Visual	30-Jun-08	6-Nov-08
Site & Logistics	Secure Contract w/Caterer	30-Jun-08	6-Nov-08
Site & Logistics	Secure Contract w/ site set up (Registration counter, etc.)	30-Jun-08	6-Nov-08
Site & Logistics	Secure Contract w/Hotel - Room block	30-Jun-08	6-Nov-08
Site & Logistics	Solicit Registration Vendor(s)	30-Jun-08	No longer No longer Applicable
Site & Logistics	Secure Contract w/Registration Vendor	30-Jun-08	
Partner/Sponsors/ Speakers	Solicit additions to Sponsor list from Core/Steering/Advisory Group, etc.	30-Jun-08	Completed
Advisory	Send out details for July 16th meeting	9-Jul-08	7-Jul-08
Advisory	Assist in designing the plan for Post-Summit action	9-Jul-08	8-Oct-08
CCAEO Planning	Develop an inventory on Poverty Spending in the State	11-Jul-08	pending
Mobilization	Engagement: Identify CAA leads for regional groups, outline roles for members, draft model for regional networks.	11-Jul-08	23-Jul-08
S & L Resource	Establish the Resource Exhibitor Group	11-Jul-08	10-Jul-08
Advisory	Face to face meeting at Kellogg Center	16-Jul-08	16-Jul-08
Mobilization	Engagement: Identify CAA Regional Network Leads	18-Jul-08	11-Jul-08
CCAEO Planning	Identify leads to develop Summit breakout speakers and facilitators	23-Jul-08	23-Jul-08
CCAEO Planning	Proposals due for Best Practice	25-Jul-08	25-Jul-08
Mobilization	Engagement: Make contact with CAA Regional Network Leads	28-Jul-08	28-Jul-08
Site & Logistics	Assure provisions are made for on-site child care	31-Jul-08	No longer applicable
CCAEO Planning	Secure consultant to assist Commission with final Recommendations to Governor	1-Aug-08	23-Jul-08

Site & Logistics	Assist w/recommendations on Regional Breakouts (structure & facilitators to Steering committee)	1-Aug-08	1-Aug-08
Site & Logistics	Develop Volunteer Materials	1-Aug-08	13-Jun-08
Advisory	Draft recommendations from small group leaders to DHS for distribution to full group	4-Aug-08	13-Aug-08
Advisory	Face to Face meeting	13-Aug-08	13-Aug-08
Mobilization	Engagement: Evaluation workgroup established to identify process for measuring engagement.	22-Aug-08	11-Jul-08
S & L Resource	Develop List of Potential Exhibitors	22-Aug-08	18-Aug-08
Mobilization	Transportation: CAA's to survey regions for all mobilization costs associated with getting consumers to the Summit.	22-Aug-08	18-Aug-08
Mobilization	Transportation: Determine motorcoach needs. Re-solicit commercial motorcoach companies w/ specific regions as identified by CAA survey. Obtain information on routes and any additional	22-Aug-08	22-Aug-08
Mobilization	Engagement: Work with Planning Subcommittee to identify content of regional break-outs.	22-Aug-08	18-Aug-08
Communications	Exhibitor solicitation letter	22-Aug-08	18-Aug-08
S & L Resource	Solicit Potential Exhibitors; Distribute Resource Materials	22-Aug-08	18-Aug-08
Mobilization	Engagement: Recommended language for engagement related recommendations to Advisory Group	22-Aug-08	13-Aug-08
Site & Logistics	Identify Volunteer Group (as part of Site & Logistics Subcommittee) to Solicit and Confirm	22-Aug-08	19-Aug-08
Site & Logistics	Develop Orientation for Volunteers	22-Aug-08	12-Sep-08
Communications	Develop Registration Materials	22-Aug-08	22-Aug-08
Partner/Sponsors/ Speakers	Develop Sponsor list	22-Aug-08	19-Sep-08
Advisory	Recommendations from Advisory Group to Planning subcommittee	27-Aug-08	27-Aug-08
Advisory	Strategies document draft to Advisory Group	27-Aug-08	8.27.08
Steering	Finalize content of Summit breakout sessions	29-Aug-08	14-Oct-08
Partner/Sponsors/ Speakers	Finalize breakout speakers and facilitators	29-Aug-08	14-Oct-08

Communications	Invitation Mailing	30-Aug-08	17-Oct-08
Communications	Registration Forms	31-Aug-08	19-Sep-08
Site & Logistics	Assure provisions are made for hearing impaired	31-Aug-08	11-Nov-08
Partner/Sponsors/Speakers	Send out Sponsor letters	31-Aug-08	Aug/Sept/Oct
CCAEO Planning	Complete the review and select 8-10 proposals for presentation at the Summit	31-Aug-08	20-Aug-08
Partner/Sponsors/Speakers	Finalize Moderator	31-Aug-08	8-Nov-08
Mobilization	Transportation: Map out transportation needs locally for each CAA region--determine regional pick up points; determine how CAAs will get consumers to pick up points and all costs associated. Submit to Diane H.	5-Sep-08	13-Aug-08
Mobilization	Transportation: Map out transportation needs and costs specific to southeast sector of the state... similar to CAA plan. Submit to Diane H.	5-Sep-08	13-Aug-08
Mobilization	Transportation: Prepare a comprehensive transportation plan to be presented to the Mobilization Subcommittee for review and approval.	5-Sep-08	8-Aug-08
Mobilization	Engagement: Conference call with DHS Regional Reps for 10 year plan to end Homelessness	9-Sep-08	9-Sep-08
Mobilization	Transportation: Present proposed transportation plan to Steering Committee for approval.	12-Sep-08	30-Sep-08
Advisory	Face to Face meeting	15-Sep-08	15-Sep-08
CCAEO Planning	Review and forward recommendations to Commission	19-Sep-08	19-Sep-08
CCAEO Planning	Review and forward recommendations to Steering Committee for approval	19-Sep-08	19-Sep-08
Communications	Distribution of Registration materials	19-Sep-08	17-Oct-08
Mobilization	Communications: Develop mobilization materials for web site, i.e., map denoting regional structure, contact info., pick-up sites/routes, how to register for transportation, etc.	30-Sep-08	3-Oct-08
Mobilization	Communications: Assure marketing, registration materials, etc. reach potential target networks (PTN).	30-Sep-08	1-Oct-08
Mobilization	Engagement: In-person regional meetings to discuss poverty initiative in general and identify	30-Sep-08	To be done post summit

Mobilization	Engagement: Proposal for evaluation engagement post Summit.	30-Sep-08	20-Aug-08
Communications	Confirmation letters to presenters	30-Sep-08	3-Nov-08
Communications	Summit Packet content completed	30-Sep-08	10-Nov-08
Mobilization	Transportation: Secure contracts (as needed) w/vendors, i.e., buses, public transportation, etc.	30-Sep-08	30-Sep-08
Communications	Final Video ready	30-Sep-08	Completed
Advisory	Face to Face meeting	8-Oct-08	8-Oct-08
Site & Logistics	Prepare for On-site Volunteer Training	10-Oct-08	Nov. '08
S & L Resource	Develop Layout for Exhibitors on Site	10-Oct-08	7-Nov-08
Communications	Confirmation communication to participants	15-Oct-08	Done by MCAA as received
Advisory	themes/recommendations with target communities prior to the Summit	15-Oct-08	Completed
Advisory	Strategies document to 2008 Poverty Summit Planning subcommittee	22-Oct-08	22-Oct-08
S & L Resource	Confirm final details w/Exhibitors	24-Oct-08	22-Oct-08
S & L Resource	Develop a list of Resource Exhibitors for Summit Registrants' Registration Packets	24-Oct-08	Completed
Communications	Evaluation Form	30-Oct-08	27-Oct-08
Mobilization	Engagement: Regional Groups provide feedback on draft recommendations.	31-Oct-08	13-Oct-08
Site & Logistics	Develop Materials for On-site Registration w/ contracted registrar	7-Nov-08	7-Nov-08
Communications	Media Reception	12-Nov-08	12-Nov-08
Site & Logistics	Preview Set-up on Site	12-Nov-08	12-Nov-08
Site & Logistics	Manage Logistics on Site	13-Nov-08	13-Nov-08
S & L Resource	Assist and provide direction for Exhibitor's w/on-site set-up as needed.	13-Nov-08	13-Nov-08
S & L Resource	Provide Oversight on-site, throughout the day, as needed.	13-Nov-08	13-Nov-08
Communications	Thank you letter to presenters	20-Nov-08	20-Dec-08
CCAEO Planning	Utilize resources of DHS Action Learning Team	Ongoing	
Site & Logistics	Communications w/ Detroit CVB	Ongoing	
S & L Resource	Track Exhibitors as they Respond	Ongoing	
S & L Resource	Confirm Receipt of Exhibitor Application	Ongoing	
Communications	Create master mailing database	Ongoing	

Communications	Additional Press releases	As needed	
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Steering Committee Project Plan
Michigan 2008 Poverty Summit – Voices for Action
November 13, 2008 – Cobo Hall Detroit, MI

Summit Purpose

The Michigan Department of Human Services (DHS), The Governor's Commission on Community Action and Economic Opportunity (CCAEO), and the Michigan Community Action Agency Association (MCAAA) will host a poverty summit on November 13, 2008 to launch the Voices for Action Network. The Network will inaugurate an enhanced long-term, grass roots based effort to work toward elimination of poverty as part of Michigan's economic recovery

Summit Mission

Share best practices and strategies for fighting poverty and helping citizens in economic crisis gain more access to economic opportunity. Give Michigan citizens a forum to share their concerns and participate with activists and leadership in further developing a comprehensive, coordinated plan to address these issues.

Summit Outcomes

The Summit will produce the following outcomes:

- Launch the Voices for Action Network
- Create public awareness around importance of reducing and eliminating poverty
- Give Michigan citizens a voice for sharing their concerns about poverty
- Promote action by all to work toward elimination of poverty as part of Michigan's economic recovery
- Give activists and leadership organizations a forum for developing a comprehensive, coordinated plan to address issues
- Share best practices and strategies for fighting poverty and helping citizens in economic crisis
- Communicate findings from poverty forums which gathered input from individuals living in poverty
- Provide information about poverty reduction initiatives already in place to consumers and stakeholders
- Provide skill building and assistance resources to customers
- Provide specific recommended actions that the state and communities can implement to assist families living in or near poverty
- Give communities an opportunity to develop a poverty reduction model that works for them and is supported by the State
- Ensure ongoing engagement at the local and state level
- Strategy for evaluation of Voices for Action Network effectiveness

Steering Committee

A steering committee is formed to plan and implement the Summit and post summit activities. The steering committee is composed of staff from DHS, members of the CCAEO, members of the Michigan Community Action Agency Association, and any other members deemed necessary by those entities. The steering committee will develop a project plan.

The steering committee will convene subcommittees to make recommendations to the steering committee for the following: planning, budget, communications, site and logistics and mobilization for the conference. There will also be a community engagement lead designated by

**Steering Committee Project Plan
Michigan 2008 Poverty Summit – Voices for Action
November 13, 2008 – Cobo Hall Detroit, MI**

the steering committee that will coordinate community engagement activities within the mobilization subcommittee. A lead person for each subcommittee will be designated by the steering committee. The subcommittees will be made up of members of the steering committee and any other individuals needed by the subcommittees. The subcommittees will provide recommendations to the steering committee based upon milestone dates outlined as part of this project plan. The subcommittee lead will be responsible for scheduling meetings that allow the subcommittees to meet the milestone dates. Subcommittee leads will use an Action Item form (attached) to record activities and provide updates to the steering committee. The subcommittees will take action as directed by the steering committees.

Steering Committee: *Ismael Ahmed, Charles A. Jones (Chair), Sonia Harb (Co-Chair), Dwayne Haywood, Stacie Gibson, Mary Hall-Thiam, Maria Candy, Cathy Truss, Larry VanDeSande, Renee Fluker, Greg Roberts, Tricia Headley, Pat Caruso, Barb Young, Dan Piepszowski, Mike Shalley, Sharon Parks, Linda Schmidt, Sheilah Clay, Sally Harrison or Janet Irrer, Debra Porcia-Usher, William (Bill) Warren, Brant Wimbush, Barbara Anders, Mary Ann Vandemark, Edward Woods III.*

CCAEO Planning Subcommittee

The CCAEO Planning Subcommittee will:

- Develop milestone dates (including for the Advisory Group) for inclusion in this project plan.
- Meet the milestone dates in the project plan.
- Formulate recommended strategies that will be presented at the Summit utilizing data from the forums as well as other information that is available.
- Make recommendations to the steering committee on the nationally recognized speaker and may assist in securing a speaker's participation.
- Be responsible for the CCAEO content during the general sessions at the conference.
- Select best practice presenters for Summit break out sessions.
- Recommend the content of the morning break out sessions and the regional break out sessions in the afternoon.

To assist in formulating recommended strategies, and making the content determination, the subcommittee will convene an **Advisory Group**.

CCAEO Planning Subcommittee: *Sonia Harb (Chair), Stacie Gibson (Co-Chair), Mary Hall-Thiam (Co-Chair),
Members: Sheilah Clay, Dan Piepszowski, Karol Bolton, Marsha Kreucher, Gary Gilbert, Sharon Parks, Barbara Young, Maria Candy, Cathy Truss, Bill Dubord, Linda Schmidt, Tracey Nash, Brant Wimbush, Patricia Headley, Eva Ozier, Debra Porchia-Usher*

Advisory Group

The Advisory Group will be composed of experts that will:

- Assist with the charge of the CCAEO planning subcommittee.
- Assist with the charge of the mobilization subcommittee.

Members of the Advisory Group will represent a variety of sectors, and will include low income consumers. The Advisory group will also include representatives of groups that can facilitate

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attendance at the conference by persons living in poverty. The DHS will provide a facilitator to assist with the Advisory group.

Advisory Group: Tonya Allen (Skillman Foundation), Paula Allen-Meares (U of M), Richard Bearup (Children's Trust Fund), Nadia Brigham (W.K. Kellogg Foundation), Rayvin Butler (Community Representative Detroit), Lisa Chapman (Corporation for Supportive Housing), An-Me Chung (C.S. Mott Foundation), Jerilyn Church (American Indian Health & Family Assoc. S.E. MI), Honorable Brenda Clack (Michigan House of Representatives), Jim Crisp (MI Community Action Agency Association), Norm DeLisle (MI Disability Rights Coalition), Hiram Fitzgerald (MSU), Anthony Floyd (Genesee Co. Community Action Agency), Rebecca Fritz (Community Representative Saulte Ste. Marie), Martha Gonzales-Cortes (Hispanic Center of W. MI), Honorable Bill Hardiman (Michigan Senate), Wendy L. Jackson (Kresge Foundation), Don Jones (Oakland Livingston Human Serv. Agency), Corrine King (Community Representative Detroit), Ronald Koehler (Kent Co. ISD), Jack Kresnak (MI's Children), Jeannine LaPrad (Corp. for a Skilled Workforce), Cheryl Liske (MI Voice), Richard Lower (MI Head Start Assoc.), John X. Miller (The Heat and Warmth Fund of MI), Angela Moery (Community Representative Highland), Keith Molin (MSHDA), Jerry Norcia and Karen Bitner (DTE Energy), Sharon Parks (MI League for Human Services), Jeff Patton (Kalamazoo Com. Mental Health & Substance Abuse), Debra Porchia-Usher (United Way- S.E. MI), Brenda Price (John S. and James L. Knight Foundation), Judy Samelson (Early Childhood Investment Corp.), Honorable Chad Schmucker (Chief Circuit Judge, Jackson), Rick Schott II (North Amer. Indian Assoc. of Detroit), David Sebastian (Sebastian Foundation), Robert Szmoniak (Onaway Area Community Schools), Joseph Villalpando III (Community Representative Burton), Lawrence Voight (Catholic Charities of Washtenaw County), Sebastian Wade (Detroit Regional Chamber), Jamie Walker (Accenture Corp.), Rob Hilla (Midland), Alexandria Kiel (Saginaw Valley State), Veda Sharp (Detroit-Wayne County CMH).

Commissioners: Sonia Harb, chair, Karol Bolton, Sheilah Clay, William Dubord, Gary Gilbert, Marsha Kreucher, Tracey Nash, Eva Ozier, Daniel Piepszowski.

Advisory Group Liaison: Linda Schmidt

Budget Subcommittee

The Budget Subcommittee will:

- Develop milestone dates for inclusion in the project plan.
- Meet the milestone dates in the project plan.
- Develop a budget for the Summit.
- Track the budget for the Summit.
- Track funds raised specifically for the Summit separately.
- Track expenditure from funds raised for the Summit separately.
- Get approval from the steering committee for fiduciary process and all expenditures from funds raised specifically for the Summit.

Budget Subcommittee – Margo Yaklin (Chair) Maria Candy (Co-Chair)

Members: Maria Candy Mary Hall-Thiam, Susan Kangas, Russ Hecko, Tricia Headley, Bill Addison, Diane Holley

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Communications Subcommittee

The Communications Subcommittee will:

- Develop milestone dates for inclusion in the project plan.
- Meet the milestone dates in the project plan.
- Develop all communication materials for the Summit
- Develop a video for the Summit
- Develop a poverty Web site
- Work with Office of Communications on media plan

Communications Subcommittee – Lead: Edward Woods III (Chair)

Members: Larry VanDeSante, Linda Schmidt, Colleen Steinman, Anthony Calleja, Renee Fluker, Mike Shalley, Mary Hall-Thiam, Steve Barosko, Jere Stormer, Tricia Headley, Maria Candy, Alexandria Kiel

Site and Logistics Subcommittee

The Site & Logistics Subcommittee will:

- Develop milestone dates for inclusion in the project plan
- Meet the milestone dates in the project plan.
- Work with mobilization subcommittee on development of conference attendance
- Work with communications subcommittee on registration materials & conference catalogue
- Supervise recruitment and training of volunteers
- Supervise registration
- Manage logistics on site
- Manage exhibitor process
- Develop and process all contracts for site and logistics

Site and Logistics Subcommittee – Tricia Headley (Chair)

Members: Mary Hall-Thiam, Maria Candy, Karen Wildrom

Mobilization Subcommittee

The Mobilization Subcommittee will:

- Develop milestone dates for inclusion in the project plan.
- Meet milestone dates in the project plan.
- Determine target networks for the Summit
- Work with partners to ensure diverse attendance at the Summit from consumers, advocates, community service providers, direct service workers, private sector representatives, and others.
- Designate lead to work on logistics for transportation of low income individuals to summit
- Work closely with all other subcommittees

Engagement Group – The Engagement Group lead will work as part of the Mobilization Subcommittee to ensure that intersecting goals and activities are as coordinated as possible. The Engagement Group is responsible for:

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- Managing the process for utilizing the regional network to engage stakeholders around the Advisory Group draft recommendations prior to the Summit.
- Linking regional networks, engaged around the Advisory Group recommendations prior to the Summit, to activities during the Summit (including participation in the regional break-out sessions).
- Identifying supports for the system that will organize local engagement after the Summit. This will include identifying possible resources to support engagement, including technical assistance or training and proposals for funding for continuing engagement after the Summit.
- Develop milestone dates for the Engagement Group as an attachment to the mobilization subcommittee milestone plan.

Mobilization Subcommittee – Dan Piepszowski (Chair), Barbara Anders (Co-Chair)

Members: Barb Young, Sheilah Clay, Marsha Kreucher, Mary Ann Vandemark (Transportation lead), Dwayne Haywood, Frank Pattinson, Kari Mardyla-Goddard, Louisa Wills, Brant Wimbush, Fred Harris, Pat Caruso, Shanetta Coleman, Vicki Cooley, Lynn Hendges, Diane Holley, Jacqueline Jones, Trenda Rusher, Mike Shalley, Sherry Thomas Cloud, Susan Zanley, Mary Hall-Thiam, Susan Fulton, Tricia Headley

Community Engagement – Co-lead: Linda Schmidt Co-lead: Jim Crisp

Partner, Sponsors, Speakers

The Partners, Sponsors, Speakers Subcommittee will:

- Secure a keynote speaker for the Summit.
- Secure Summit sponsors.
- Coordinate art presentation (youth) for Summit and sponsor gifts.
- Coordinate Summit reception entertainment.

Partner / Sponsors / Speakers – Mary Hall-Thiam (Chair)

Members: Renee Flucker, Tricia Headley, Maria Candy

Project Plan Major Milestone Dates are attached