

## **2004 Cool Cities Program Summary**

“Michigan’s economic future lies in creating vibrant communities that are magnets for people, jobs and opportunity. We are focusing the state’s resources on projects that will become the magnet communities of tomorrow.” – Governor Granholm Governor

Jennifer M. Granholm and Department of Labor and Economic Growth Director David C. Hollister announced a new pilot program on April 1, 2004, designed to help communities across the state create vibrant, attractive places for people to live, work and play. The Pilot Program is about capitalizing upon inherent strengths of Michigan’s cities to be attractive places to live for an increasingly diverse group of residents and that simultaneously retain and attract workers and jobs. The Michigan Cool City Pilot Program combines more than 100 of the state’s community improvement grants, tax credits, loans, and assistance programs into a single “Resource Toolbox” that can be used by cities and communities for revitalization projects. This Toolbox, under the Governor’s initiative, is an effort to promote holistic approaches and ongoing investment in neighborhoods that have, or are moving to create, a mix of residential and commercial uses, mixed income housing, and a pedestrian-friendly environment. This is as important in downtown and near downtown areas as it is in more traditional residential neighborhoods. The program also creates a new “Catalyst Grant” that will serve as a flexible tool for those organizations engaged in neighborhood revitalization projects. Together, the Toolbox and the Catalyst Grants leverage millions of dollars that will be strategically directed to revitalization projects that present the best opportunity for success. The Cool City Pilot Program is a three-year program. Facts for 2004: The application deadline for 2004 is May 7th, 5:00 p.m. In order to apply for the Pilot Program, the project must be conducted within a community that has an established Local Cool Cities Advisory Group (LCCAG). In addition, that community must either be a Core Community, Michigan Main Street Program community, MEDC Blue Prints Program community, one of the 267 “invited” cities identified by the Governor and sent letters in September 2003, or a community that sent a Team to the December 2003 Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs Creating Cool Conference. These eligible cities are listed in a document below. Eligible cities can contact Karen Gagnon, Cool Cities Specialist at 517-241-3203 or kgagno@michigan.gov to form a LCCAG and become a Participating City.