

2005 Cool Cities Grants & Planning Programs

- The level of interest in Michigan's Cool Cities Initiative is overwhelming. The 2004 Cool City Pilot Program has been so successful that we've been inundated with inquiries about how to get involved in the 2005 program. We have been reviewing our progress over the last year to see how we could take a "great" program and make it even better. So we spent countless hours - discussing, planning, evaluating, researching, and most importantly, listening to what you had to say about how we can better serve our communities.
- We are announcing the 2005 Cool Cities Grants & Planning Programs!
- We have an additional wide variety of cool downtown programming for everyone to select from. You decide which program best suits the individual character and current development and organization needs of your downtown neighborhood.
- This time around we will be giving 30 Cool City award designations in total! There will be more cool in 2005 than ever before! The new program includes different levels of participation so ALL communities have a chance at "coolness." The 2005 Cool Cities Grants & Planning Programs will include The Cool Cities Neighborhoods in Progress program (formerly the catalyst grant program) with up to 12 projects selected; the Cool Cities Michigan Main Street, up to 4 selected; Cool Cities Blue Prints for Michigan's Downtowns, up to 10 selected; and Cool Cities Neighborhoods of Choice, up to 4 selected. [Click here to view the program matrix.](#)
- The Cool Cities Michigan Main Street and Blue Prints for Michigan's Downtown programs are available to all municipalities. The "Neighborhoods of Choice" designation is available only to CDBG eligible communities in non-entitlement counties. We are focusing the Neighborhoods in Progress program on major urban centers that have established a Local Cool City Advisory Group with a history of activity, have a Local Historic District Ordinance in place, a revitalization action plan for the neighborhood, an active Local Arts Agency, and at least one 2 to 4 year institution of higher learning.
- Regardless of the size of your community -- ALL of these programs are geared toward energizing our downtowns or downtown neighborhoods.

- Important dates:
 - January 2005 Materials will be available on the website
 - January/February 2005 Pre-Bid Workshops
 - February 18, 2005 on-line Notice of Intent (NOI). This NOI will be the application portal for all of these programs and will be due March 11, 2005.
 - You will be sent the application of the program you selected but the Neighborhoods in Progress program application will be on-line.
 - April 29, 2005, applications will be due
 - June 24, 2005, the 30 Cool City Award Designees announced

The 2005 Cool Cities Grants & Planning Programs

NAME	State Agency Lead	Description	Eligible Applicant	What You Get!
2005Cool Cities Neighborhoods in Progress (up to 12 selected)	MSHDA	Combination of State Agency Toolbox Resources (grants, loans, tax incentives, services, etc.) and Cool City grant for creating a neighborhood that will attract and retain population. Neighborhood must have or be moving to create, a mix of residential and commercial uses, mixed income housing, and a pedestrian–friendly environment.	Local Units of Government; nonprofits, and for-profits in partnership with local unit or nonprofit that are in major urban centers with a local historic district ordinance, LCCAG, revitalization action plan for the neighborhood, local arts agency, at least one 2-4 year institution of higher learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cool Cities Award Designation • Priority access to Toolbox resources • Up to \$100,000 grant
2005Cool Cities Michigan Main Street (up to 4 selected)	MEDC	Grass roots, volunteer based training program to revitalize a downtown in a highly systematic way.	All municipalities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cool Cities Award Designation • >\$150,000 in technical assistance • High priority for MEDC, SHPO and MSHDA funding • Resource Fair
2005Cool Cities Blue Prints for Michigan’s Downtowns (up to 10 selected)	MEDC	Market-driven strategy teams up HyettPalma, and MEDC and MSHDA staff to provide a very public process and action –oriented strategy to revitalize the downtown in a 3 – 5 year period including a market study for the downtown.	All municipalities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cool Cities Award Designation • 50/50 match; MSHDA and MEDC pays for half the consultant fee • High priority for MEDC, SHPO and MSHDA funding • Resource Fair
2005Cool Cities Neighborhoods of Choice (up to 4 selected)	MEDC	A consultant works with the local unit of government to identify a vision and priorities for a target neighborhood; then provides a specific neighborhood strategy for revitalization including a market plan and course of action.	Core Communities (CDBG eligible communities in non-entitlement counties)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cool Cities Award Designation • Up to \$300,000 in CDBG • High priority for additional MEDC and/or MSHDA funding • Resource Fair