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**2006 COOL CITIES GRANTS & PLANNING PROGRAMS  
Pre-Bid Workshop – Frequently Asked Questions & Answers  
March 14, 2006**

*Following is a list of questions that were asked and responded to during the Pre-Bid Workshop held March 14, 2006.*

**Introduction FAQs:**

**Q:** How many awards designations are we awarding this round?

**A:** Neighborhoods in Progress up to 12, Michigan Main Streets up to 4, Blueprints for Downtowns up to 10, Blueprints for Neighborhoods up to 3.

**Q:** Have the specifications changed for the Neighborhoods in Progress program?

**A:** Very little. There have only been a few additions. We will be looking for connections to schools and the T.I.D.E. model (talent, innovation, diversity, and environment). Please refer to the Request for Proposal for more detail.

**Q:** You mentioned about other grants, such as Be Your Own Boss, will you be discussing those today?

**A:** Be Your Own Boss is not a grant program but a website that provides links to entrepreneurs, [www.michigan.gov/beyourownboss](http://www.michigan.gov/beyourownboss). There are also a number of job/career links found on the careers portal at [www.michigan.gov/careers](http://www.michigan.gov/careers).

**Q:** How close did the 2004 pilot program come to success?

**A:** The feedback we had and are still receiving on the neighborhood award designees is very positive. We are working with Public Policy Associates and an Evaluation Advisory Committee comprised of university and business experts in evaluation in the evaluation design of the Cool Cities Initiative. We won't have solid empirical data for another year or two. We will be posting progress reports/updates on the website hopefully in the next few months with some of the successes that are happening around the state with the Cool Cities Neighborhood Award Designees.

**Q:** What provisions, if any, have been done for the growing number of seniors and/or early retirees for new development housing?

**A:** There are agencies involved with the issue that are also part of the Cool Cities Coordinating Team. For example, the Michigan Department of Community Health – Office of Services to the Aging has worked with Michigan State University Extension Office to provide Elder-Friendly

Community Certification. For more information, contact Cherie Mollison, Office of Services to the Aging (517) 373-4072. Another example is the Michigan State Housing Development Authority's [Michigan Affordable Housing Community Five-Year Action Plan](#) workgroup Aging in Place. Go to [www.michigan.gov/mshda](http://www.michigan.gov/mshda), and then click on the link in the middle of the page to the [Michigan Affordable Housing Community Five-Year Action Plan](#). Scroll down the page for a link to Aging in Place.

Q: What's not eligible?

A: Each program has eligibility requirements listed in their respective Requests for Proposals located on [www.coolcities.com](http://www.coolcities.com) under the 2006 Grants & Planning Programs navigation. The Notice of Intent process provides us with an opportunity for threshold criteria review of eligibility.

Q: Are there grants and loans available to repair old homes?

A: There are not at this time.

Q: Are you posting Pre-Bid PowerPoint on website?

A: Yes, under 2006 Grants and Planning/Pre-Bid Workshop.

### **Neighborhoods in Progress FAQs:**

Q: City of Alpena meets requirements for Neighborhoods in Progress except historic district ordinance, which we are currently working on. Are we eligible?

A: The local historic district ordinance would need to be established by the application due date of May 5, 2006.

Q: Holland MI, Trails, Macatawa River: How do we describe neighborhood designation of neighborhood boundaries? We are not centrally located. How do you best define a neighborhood boundary?

A: Refer to the Neighborhoods in Progress Request for Proposal under "What Will Be Considered When the Applications are Reviewed?" question four. The 2005 Neighborhoods in Progress Holland award designation also established neighborhood boundaries when the application was submitted for the Park Theatre. You can check with the Holland City Planning, Julie Hales-Smith, or Karen Gagnon (via [eaarmst@michigan.gov](mailto:eaarmst@michigan.gov)) for those boundaries. There was some additional discussion on a possible project for the Macatawa River area. Bryan Armstrong, Department Champion for the MI Dept. of Transportation (MDOT) suggested focusing on a neighborhood that is working on establishing greenways connecting the adjacent downtown neighborhood to the downtown. Receiving a Neighborhoods in Progress award designation would also give the applicant priority access to the Resource Toolbox which includes trail funding through MDOT and the Department of Natural Resources. Amy Butler, Department Champion for the MI Dept. of Environmental Quality (DEQ) stated that there are additional non point source grants available. She also suggested that projects could be leveraged with resources in the Toolbox. Kevin Sayers of the MI Dept. of Natural Resources suggested taking a look at the Natural Resource Trust Fund grants in the Resource Toolbox.

Q: Is there money available to purchase a building for youth development?

A: Purchasing a building for youth development could be an eligible activity as a catalyst project of the Neighborhoods in Progress program, only if the building is in the neighborhood and is part of the rebirth of that neighborhood.

Q: Focusing on larger urban centers, what are considered larger urban centers?

A: We think in terms of potential to be 24/7 or nearly 24/7. Places where college students and urban pioneers told us they want to live with diverse restaurants, unique shops, arts & culture, a place that has a active nightlife, walkable, business development, historic preservation, a community that offers a sense of place. We changed the focus of the 2004 Cool City Pilot Program requiring that an applicant has be from a city that has (1) a 2-4 institution of higher learning, (2) a local historic district ordinance or national register historic neighborhood, (3) a thriving arts agency, and (4) a Local Cool City Advisory Group.

Q: Is Population a requirement?

A: No

Q: Capitol campaign for arts projects program building toward a project, is there financial help to establish a project campaign?

A: John Bracey of the MI Dept. of History Arts & Libraries/MI Council for Arts & Cultural Affairs stated that there is nothing in state government to establish this; however, a Challenge Grant might be a possibility. Contact John at [jmbrace@michigan.gov](mailto:jmbrace@michigan.gov).

Q: Would we be eligible to apply for two projects from same neighborhood?

A: No

Q: Who is the contact for Tax Increment Finance?

A: Contact your MSHDA Community Assistance Team Member. You can find out who that is by contacting Steve Willobee at [willobees@michigan.gov](mailto:willobees@michigan.gov) or Kara Wood at [woodk1@michigan.gov](mailto:woodk1@michigan.gov).

Q: What is the Resource Tool number for Crime Prevention?

A: Resource Tool Number #78 – Link to the State Resource Toolbox, go to [www.coolcities.com](http://www.coolcities.com), click on 2006 Grants & Planning navigation, then Resource Toolbox.

Q: Tourism is an important role in my community; can these grants be used to increase tourism?

A: Yes, as long as the project is part of a neighborhood revitalization plan.

Q: Staff from Southwest Detroit works for Neighborhood Centers Inc.: A commercial strip already designated the prior year is located in front of us. Are we still eligible?

A: Not if the neighborhood has already received a Cool Cities Neighborhoods in Progress (or former 2004 pilot program) Neighborhood Award Designation.

Q: A tipping point of attracting working people, such as contractors, who instead of moving to suburbs are staying in city. Does this make us ineligible?

A: Urban pioneers include all of the different populations you listed.

Q: I could not get into the Resource Toolbox from my home, are others having problems?

A: We have not had others stating it is a problem. It is possible that you can not open the Resource Toolbox because the file is too large or another technical reason. Karen Gagnon will try to send you the direct link.

Q: Defining a neighborhood. How are they defined?

A: Please refer to the section on Neighborhoods in the Neighborhoods in Progress Request for Proposal under “What Will Be Considered When the Applications are Reviewed?” question four. The applicant defines the neighborhood that the catalyst grant resides in. The boundaries should be manageable. For example, you would not want to define Northwest Detroit as your neighborhood boundary even though that part of Detroit is considered a neighborhood. You would define a smaller area. How do people refer to an area? What are the natural boundaries? If you asked residents what their neighborhood is; how would they describe the boundaries? These are questions to consider. It’s also important to think in terms of future catalyst projects in the same area. Once a neighborhood (or catalyst project in a neighborhood) is awarded a Neighborhoods in Progress (former 2004 pilot program) award designation, the neighborhood can not be awarded for the Neighborhoods in Progress program again.

Q: Can projects in multi-jurisdictional neighborhood be eligible?

A: This isn’t a question we can answer without more information. We would have to have a discussion about it.

Q: Is there availability for technical assistance to help with the applications if we’re eligible?

A: Yes, contact the Cool Cities Collaborative at [eaarmst@michigan.gov](mailto:eaarmst@michigan.gov). Each of the applications will also provide contact information.

## **Main Street, Blueprints for Michigan’s Downtowns, and Blueprints for Michigan’s Neighborhoods FAQs:**

Q: Where can I find the Core Communities List?

A: See Attachment A below.

Q: I don’t know if our city has a Local Cool City Advisory Group, where can I find out? If we do not have one, does this mean we are ineligible to apply for any of the programs?

A: You must have a Local Cool City Advisory Group to apply for any of the programs. You can check the list on the [www.coolcities.com](http://www.coolcities.com) website under “What You Can Do”, Local Cool City Advisory Group list and contacts and can contact the Cool Cities Collaborative at (517) 373-9097.

Q: We are currently applying for a grant through the Michigan Economic Development Corporation. Does it prevent us from applying for Cool Cities grants?

A: Probably not but we would need to know more information. You can check with your Michigan State House Development Authority Community Assistance Team member. Call MSHDA to get in contact with the CAT Team, (517) 373-8370.

Q: What is the cost for assistance for the Blueprints for Michigan’s Neighborhoods program?

A: It depends on the population of your city. Refer to the Blueprints for Michigan’s Neighborhoods Request for Proposal at [www.coolcities.com](http://www.coolcities.com), under 2006 Grants & Planning navigation, RFP.

Q: If we are close to 100% zero lot line development, would we still be eligible?

A: Yes

Q: Can you please define physical improvements with adjacent properties?

A: Think of your downtown neighborhood holistically. What is the revitalization plan for the neighborhood? How does one façade improvement to one building relate to adjacent properties?

Q: What is a catalyst project?

A: The “Catalyst Project” is part of the Neighborhoods in Progress program that is usually bricks and mortar that connects to the neighborhood revitalization plan and that can be a “tipping point” for the neighborhood and city. For more information, please refer to the Neighborhoods in Progress program Request for Proposal located at [www.coolcities.com](http://www.coolcities.com) under the “2006 Grants & Planning” navigation.

Q: If we already have a Main Street designation for our downtown, can we apply for a corridor?

A: If it meets the criteria, you can apply. Also, see response below.

Q: Can more than one neighborhood apply for a Michigan Mainstreet?

A: It would be difficult for a local unit of government to support more than one successful Main Street designation. It would be up to the community to prioritize their resources that would be necessary to commit to more than one Main Street designation. It’s not an easy answer and not a yes or no. It would depend on the strength of information provided in the application.

Q: Can we get contact information for the Department Champions?

A: Contact information for resources can be found in the Resource Toolbox.

## Attachment A – Core Communities

### Core Communities and County Seats

County	Community	2000 Pop	NEZ/ Core	County Seats
Alcona	Harrisville	514		XXX
Alger	Munising	2,539		XXX
Allegan	Allegan	4,838		XXX
Allegan/Ottawa	Holland	35,048	XXX	
Alpena	Alpena	11,304	XXX	XXX
Antrim	Bellaire	1,164		XXX
Arenac	Standish	1,581		XXX
Arenac	Omer	337	XXX	
Baraga	L'Anse	2,107		XXX
Barry	Hastings	7,095		XXX
Bay	Bay City	36,817	XXX	XXX
Bay	Pinconning	1,386	XXX	
Benzie	Beulah	363		XXX
Berrien	Benton Twp.	16,404	XXX	
Berrien	Benton Harbor	11,182	XXX	
Berrien	St. Joseph	8,789		XXX
Branch	Coldwater	12,697	XXX	XXX
Branch	Bronson	2,421	XXX	
Calhoun	Battle Creek	53,364	XXX	
Calhoun	Albion	9,144	XXX	
Calhoun	Marshall	7,459		XXX
Cass	Dowagiac	6,147	XXX	
Cass	Cassopolis	1,740		XXX
Charlevoix	Charlevoix	2,994		XXX
Cheboygan	Cheboygan	5,295	XXX	XXX
Chippewa	Sault Ste. Marie	16,542	XXX	XXX
Clare	Harrison	2,108		XXX
Clinton	St. Johns	7,485		XXX
Crawford	Grayling	1,952	XXX	XXX
Delta	Escanaba	13,140	XXX	XXX
Delta	Gladstone	5,032	XXX	
Dickinson	Iron Mountain	8,154	XXX	XXX
Dickinson	Norway	2,959	XXX	
Eaton	Charlotte	8,389		XXX
Emmet	Petoskey	6,080		XXX
Grand Traverse	Traverse City	14,532	XXX	XXX
Genesee	Flint	124,943	XXX	XXX
Genesee	Burton	30,308	XXX	
Genesee	Genesee Twp.	24,125	XXX	
Genesee	Mt. Morris Twp.	23,725	XXX	
Genesee	Mt. Morris +	3,194	XXX	
Gladwin	Gladwin	3,001		XXX
Gogebic	Ironwood	6,293	XXX	
Gogebic	Bessemer	2,148	XXX	XXX
Gogebic	Wakefield	2,085	XXX	
Gratiot	Alma	9,275	XXX	
Gratiot	St. Louis	4,494	XXX	
Gratiot	Ithaca	3,098		XXX
Hillsdale	Hillsdale	8,233		XXX
Houghton	Houghton	7,010		XXX
Huron	Bad Axe	3,462		XXX

**Core Communities and County Seats**

County	Community	2000 Pop	NEZ/ Core	County Seats
Huron	Harbor Beach	1,837	XXX	
Ingham	Lansing	119,128	XXX	
Ingham	East Lansing	46,525	XXX	
Ingham	Mason	6,714		XXX
Ionia	Ionia	10,569	XXX	XXX
Iosco	Tawas City	2,005		XXX
Iron	Iron River	3,172	XXX	
Iron	Crystal Falls	1,791	XXX	XXX
Iron	Caspian	997	XXX	
Iron	Gaastra	339	XXX	
Isabella	Mt. Pleasant	25,946	XXX	XXX
Jackson	Jackson	36,316	XXX	XXX
Kalamazoo	Kalamazoo	77,145	XXX	XXX
Kalamazoo	Portage	44,897	XXX	
Kalkaska	Kalkaska	2,226		XXX
Kent	Grand Rapids	197,800	XXX	XXX
Kent	Wyoming	63,891	XXX	
Keweenaw	Eagle River	130		XXX
Lake	Baldwin	1,107	XXX	XXX
Lapeer	Lapeer	9,072		XXX
Leelanau	Leland Twp.	2,033		XXX
Lenawee	Adrian	21,574	XXX	XXX
Livingston	Howell	9,232		XXX
Luce	Newberry	2,686		XXX
Mackinac	St. Ignace	2,678		XXX
Macomb	Warren	138,247	XXX	
Macomb	Eastpointe	34,077	XXX	
Macomb	Mt. Clemens	17,312	XXX	XXX
Macomb	Centerline	8,531	XXX	
Manistee	Manistee	6,586	XXX	XXX
Marquette	Marquette	19,661	XXX	
Marquette	Ishpeming	6,686	XXX	
Mason	Ludington	8,357	XXX	XXX
Mecosta	Big Rapids	10,849	XXX	XXX
Menominee	Menominee	9,131	XXX	XXX
Midland	Midland	41,685	XXX	XXX
Midland	Coleman	1,296	XXX	
Missaukee	Lake City	923		XXX
Monroe	Monroe	22,076	XXX	XXX
Montcalm	Stanton	1,504		XXX
Montcalm	Carson City	1,190	XXX	
Montmorency	Atlanta CDP	757		XXX
Muskegon	Muskegon	40,105	XXX	XXX
Muskegon	Norton Shores	22,527	XXX	
Muskegon	Muskegon Heights	12,049	XXX	
Newaygo	White Cloud	1,420		XXX
Oakland	Southfield	78,296	XXX	
Oakland	Pontiac	66,337	XXX	XXX
Oakland	Oak Park	29,793	XXX	
Oakland	Ferndale	22,105	XXX	
Oakland	Hazel Park	18,963	XXX	

**Core Communities and County Seats**

County	Community	2000 Pop	NEZ/ Core	County Seats
Oakland	Royal Oak Twp.	5,446	XXX	
Oceana	Hart	1,950	XXX	XXX
Ogemaw	West Branch	1,926		XXX
Ontonagon	Ontonagon	1,769		XXX
Osceola	Reed City	2,430		XXX
Oscoda	Mio CDP	2,016		XXX
Otsego	Gaylord	3,681		XXX
Ottawa	Grand Haven	111,168	XXX	XXX
Presque Isle	Rogers City	3,322		XXX
Presque Isle	Onaway	993	XXX	
Roscommon	Roscommon	1,133		XXX
Saginaw	Saginaw	61,799	XXX	XXX
Saginaw	Buena Vista Twp.	10,318	XXX	
Sanilac	Sandusky	2,745		XXX
Schoolcraft	Manistique	3,583	XXX	XXX
Shiawassee	Owosso	15,713	XXX	
Shiawassee	Corunna	3,381		XXX
St. Clair	Port Huron	32,338	XXX	XXX
St. Joseph	Sturgis	11,285	XXX	
St. Joseph	Three Rivers	7,328	XXX	
St. Joseph	Centreville	1,579		XXX
Tuscola	Caro	4,145		XXX
Tuscola	Vassar	2,823	XXX	
Van Buren	Paw Paw	3,363		XXX
Van Buren	Hartford	2,476	XXX	
Van Buren	Bangor	1,933	XXX	
Washtenaw	Ann Arbor	114,024	XXX	XXX
Washtenaw	Ypsilanti	22,368	XXX	
Wayne	Detroit	951,270	XXX	XXX
Wayne	Livonia	100,545	XXX	
Wayne	Dearborn	97,775	XXX	
Wayne	Taylor	65,868	XXX	
Wayne	Dearborn Heights	58,264	XXX	
Wayne	Redford Twp.	51,622	XXX	
Wayne	Lincoln Park	40,008	XXX	
Wayne	Inkster	30,115	XXX	
Wayne	Wyandotte	28,006	XXX	
Wayne	Hamtramck	22,976	XXX	
Wayne	Trenton	19,584	XXX	
Wayne	Wayne	19,051	XXX	
Wayne	Highland Park	16,746	XXX	
Wayne	Harper Woods	14,254	XXX	
Wayne	Ecorse	11,229	XXX	
Wayne	Melvindale	10,735	XXX	
Wayne	River Rouge	9,917	XXX	
Wayne	Gibraltar	4,264	XXX	
Wexford	Cadillac	10,000	XXX	XXX
<b>Totals</b>		<b>3,894,033</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>82</b>

Note: \*XXX = A community that is part of a county's CDBG or HOME Consortium  
 \*\*XXX = Ypsilanti is part of a non-county-wide HOME Consortium