

The Michigan Community Service Commission

Notice of Funds Available for Learn and Serve – Michigan School-Based Grants



The Michigan Community Service Commission (MCSC), in partnership with the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) and the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), is pleased to announce the availability of approximately \$528.700 in federal funds to support Learn and Serve-Michigan School-Based programs to begin September 1, 2010.

What is Learn and Serve-Michigan?

The Learn and Serve-Michigan grant program is part of the Learn and Serve America program for school age youth supported by the Corporation for National and Community Service. The Learn and Serve America program funds and assists in the development of high quality service-learning programs in K-12 schools districts. Grants provide funding for service-learning programs that address local needs in the areas of education, public safety, human needs, homeland security, and/or the environment.

Service-learning is a teaching and learning method that connects meaningful service to the community with classroom instruction that enriches learning, teaches civic responsibility, and fosters personal growth. Service-learning helps youth see beyond the classroom and into the community where they learn math, science, language arts, and other required subjects by addressing community needs and solving real-life problems.

Who are we?

The MCSC is the administrative agent for Learn and Serve - Michigan. The MCSC builds a culture of service by providing vision and resources to strengthen communities through volunteerism. The MCSC works to fulfill its mission through a number of programs, projects, and activities focused on service and volunteerism. Annually, the MCSC distributes more than \$8 million in National Service and volunteerism grants and recognizes exemplary volunteers through the Governor's Service Awards.

The MDE is the MCSC's partner in the Learn and Serve - Michigan program. The MDE strives to ensure all students receive a quality education that prepares them to lead productive and satisfying lives. They administer more than \$1 billion in federal funds that support more than 30 education based grant programs. MDE believes that service-learning is a powerful teaching method that can help to make learning exciting, meaningful, relevant, and lasting for all students. They encourage public schools to integrate service-learning into the classroom learning environment.

Why should my district apply for Learn and Serve - Michigan funding?

If your school district currently places a strong emphasis on connecting academic learning to real life problem solving and you see the value of engaging youth in service to their community, then this is an excellent opportunity to establish or expand service-learning in your school district. Service-learning can have a positive impact on academic achievement, civic engagement, student efficacy and student connectedness. When connected to classroom curriculum service-learning has been associated with student gains in civic skills, valuing school, and enjoyment of subject matters.

Who is eligible to apply?

Local public school districts, intermediate school districts, and public school academies are eligible to apply for Learn and Serve - Michigan funds. Individual public school buildings in Cities of Promise may also apply.
(<http://www.vibrantcitiesandneighborhoods.com/>)

What is the grant amount?

The MCSC has approximately \$528,700 available to fund high quality Learn and Serve - Michigan programs. In order to meet the varying needs of school districts there are three types of grants available: Planning, Implementation and Institutionalization.

Grants will be awarded based on the categories previously mentioned and on classification of the school district by pupil enrollment. Districts with up to 2,500 students and individual Cities of Promise schools may apply for up to \$6,000 for a planning grant and up to \$15,000 for an implementation or institutionalization grant. Districts with 2,501 to 19,999 students may apply for up to \$8,000 for a planning grant and up to \$24,500 for an implementation or institutionalization grant. Districts with 20,000 or more students may apply for up to \$10,000 for a planning grant and up to \$40,000 for implementation or institutionalization grant.

What can Learn and Serve - Michigan funds support?

Learn and Serve - Michigan funds can be used to support the expenses associated with integrating service-learning throughout the district. This may include, but is not limited to, advisory board development, teacher in-services, other professional development opportunities, peer exchanges, supplies and materials, and conference attendance.

Is there a match requirement?

All applicants are required to provide a 1.5 to 1 match. Therefore, applicants must provide \$1.50 of match for every \$1.00 requested. Matching funds may be in-kind or cash and can come from federal and non-federal sources. Match from other CNCS funds is not allowed.

What are the Learn and Serve - Michigan funding priorities?

The MCSC will consider funding schools whose goal is to provide students with sequential service-learning experiences so that, over time, all students will have at least one service-learning experience at the elementary, middle school, and high school levels. School districts will also design service-learning programs to address core and non-core curriculum standards and provide a strong emphasis on disadvantaged youth. Please see the additional goals and priorities in the application guidelines.

What are the responsibilities of operating a Learn and Serve - Michigan grant?

Responsibilities of operating a Learn and Serve - Michigan program include:

- Designating staff time to administer the grant;
- Ensuring grant goals and objectives are attained;
- Submitting semi-annual progress narratives, monthly statement of expenditures, and federal financial reports;
- Participating in statewide grantee meetings, events, and activities; and
- Participating in state and national evaluation efforts.

How do I find out more about Learn and Serve - Michigan?

The MCSC will be offering a technical assistance outreach sessions:

Muskegon - February 16 (9:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m.)

Saginaw - February 17 (9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.)

These sessions will include a general overview of the Learn and Serve - Michigan program, school-based service-learning, funding priorities, and how to apply for the grant. A 90-minute technical assistance webinar will also be offered on Thursday, February 18th from 3:00-5:00. All participants who apply must also participate in a budget development webinar on Friday, February 26th. If you would like to attend either the outreach session or webinar, please complete the request form by February 12th.

For additional information about Learn and Serve - Michigan, please visit the MCSC web site at www.michigan.gov/mcsc or call (517) 335-4295.

Where can I find complete application guidelines?

To download a copy of the 2010-2011 Learn and Serve -Michigan application guidelines visit our web site at www.michigan.gov/mcsc. If you do not have access to the web you may request a copy by completing the request form below. Application guidelines will be put in the mail within five working of the request. Applications will be sent by U.S. mail and will not be faxed or delivered express mail.

Who do I contact if I have questions?

If you have any questions regarding the Learn and Serve - Michigan program or the application process, please contact Angelia Salas at (517) 335-4295 or salasa@michigan.gov.

The Michigan Community Service Commission
Learn and Serve - Michigan
School-Based Grants
Technical Assistance Registration Form



Name: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City, State, and Zip Code: _____

Phone Number: _____ Fax Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Technical Assistance Session (Select one)

Deadline for registering is February 12, 2010

- I would like to participate in the February 16th session in Muskegon, Michigan.
(Location, map and agenda will be e-mailed by February 12, 2010)
- I would like to participate in the February 17th session in Saginaw, Michigan.
(Location, map and agenda will be e-mailed by February 12, 2010)
- I would like to participate on the February 18th technical assistance conference call
(Dialing instructions will be emailed on February 12th, 2010)

Application Guidelines

Deadline for requesting a hard copy of the application guidelines is February 12th.

- I would like to request a copy of the Learn and Serve - Michigan application guidelines.
(Copies can be obtained online at www.michigan.gov/mcsc)

Please fax or email this form to the Michigan Community Service Commission at (517) 373-4977 or to gilmant@michigan.gov.

If you have any questions, please call Tara Gilman at (517) 241-2553.

Learn and Serve - Michigan Application Timeline

- January 25 Application guidelines are available on-line at www.michigan.gov/mcsc.
- February 12 Deadline for registering for the technical assistance outreach session.
- February 16 Technical assistance outreach session in Muskegon.
- February 17 Technical assistance outreach session in Saginaw.
- February 18 Technical Assistance Conference Call
- March 5 Intent to apply form is due to MCSC.
- March 16 Learn and Serve - Michigan applications are due to MCSC.
- Sept. 1 Learn and Serve - Michigan grant start date.



Stay Informed!

You can receive the MCSC's most up-to-date information, including funding opportunities, by subscribing to the MCSC-News Listserv. To be a part of this listserv, visit the MCSC web site at www.michigan.gov/mcsc. From the home page, look down the left margin and click on the MCSC logo. When the sign-up page opens, enter your information and click "Submit."

Michigan Community Service Commission
1048 Pierpont, Suite 4
Lansing, MI 48913

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