



Your Affordable Housing Partner

F**o**cuses on **H**ousing

A Monthly Bulletin Summarizing MSHDA Housing News

August 2004

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SAULT STE. MARIE, FLINT, SAUGATUCK AND JACKSON OFFICIALLY CELEBRATE COOL

\$100,000 Grants Awarded to Promote Creative Urban Development

On behalf of Governor Jennifer M. Granholm, MSHDA officials have joined state and local leaders in four communities to present \$100,000 grants for projects selected as part of the state's Cool Cities pilot program. The projects are four of 20 recently chosen to receive funding. The program, designed to foster the development of vibrant, attractive cities and urban centers, is part of the Governor's overall economic development strategy for Michigan.

Sault Ste. Marie. The Soo Theatre Project proposes to restore and renovate the classic and historic Soo Theatre Complex to its original grandeur of the 1930's. This project is part of the downtown revitalization and will provide economic development and other economic benefits. "The Soo Theatre Project will provide a home for the arts and cultural community in downtown, and will be catalyst for additional investment in the downtown," said Lee Shirey, Downtown Development Director in Sault Ste. Marie.

Flint. The grant will be used to restore the exterior of the Republic Bank Building, which will become First Street Lofts, a 16-unit loft development in downtown Flint. The project will help to additional investment in Flint's downtown. New residents will support existing business and fuel the need for businesses. "This is a great project for Flint because we are saving a building steeped in automotive and financial banking history and providing desired affordable housing," said project manager Scott Whipple.

Jackson. The Jackson Armory Arts Project will include the redevelopment of an abandoned industrial site into a center for the arts and culture, including 39 affordable loft apartments. The new live-work artist development will have a profound impact for arts and cultural development in Jackson. "There is a wonderful energy and excitement throughout the city as this project gets underway," said Director of the Armory Arts Project, Neeta Delaney.

Saugatuck. The project involves the renovation of the old Pie Factory into the Saugatuck Center for the Arts and the enhancement of the adjacent city parking area, including streetscape improvements on Mason Street and Culver Street. "The Cool Cities funding is going to go a long way toward making this project a reality," said City Manager Gordan Gallagher.

Additional projects designated to receive Cool Cities funding are in Alpena, Bay City, Detroit, Ferndale, Flint, Grand Rapids, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Marquette, Port Huron, Portland, Saginaw, Saugatuck, Traverse City, Warren and Ypsilanti. Detailed information about each project is available at www.coolcities.com. Each grant recipient will receive a catalyst grant of up to \$100,000, as well as access to a resource toolbox that includes access to more than 75 of the state's community improvement grants, loans and assistance programs. These resources and the catalyst grants leverage millions of existing dollars that can now be strategically directed to revitalization projects that offer the best opportunity for success. For more information on MSHDA initiatives and programs, visit the Web site at www.michigan.org.

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Seventh Annual Michigan Conference on Affordable Housing Planned for June – Planning is well under way for this year’s affordable housing conference to be held at the Lansing Center May 17-19, 2005. The largest of its kind in the nation, the conference theme this year is “Partners Building Communities.” MSHDA and 27 partners committed to furthering the affordable housing cause in Michigan are planning the 2005 conference that will feature five informative learning tracks which include a wide range of breakout sessions, national keynote speakers, unique entertainment, and more. More than 1,500 participants from around the state are expected, and we invite all members of the media to attend as well. For further information or to make a media request or recommendation, please contact the Communications Office at (517) 373-0011.

MSHDA GRANTS

| <u>Recipient</u> | <u>Amount</u> | <u>Contact Telephone #</u> |
|-------------------|---------------|----------------------------|
| CDBG | | |
| Berrien County | \$300,000 | (269) 983-7111 |
| City of Coldwater | \$256,000 | (517) 279-9501 |
| Gogebic County | \$175,000 | (906) 667-0411. |
| Missaukee County | \$150,000 | (231) 839-4967 |
| Montcalm County | \$275,000 | (989) 831-7300 |

HOME

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|----------------|
| Garfield Development Corporation | \$205,785 | (616) 248-3235 |
| Mid Michigan Community Action Agency | \$210,000 | (989) 386-3805 |
| Ottawa County | \$236,272 | (616) 393-5697 |
| West Grand Development Corporation | \$156,960 | (616) 451-2291 |

HOMELESS DEVELOPMENT FUNDS

| | | |
|--------------------------------|----------|----------------|
| Coalition on Temporary Shelter | \$50,000 | (313) 831-3777 |
|--------------------------------|----------|----------------|

HOUSING RESOURCE FUND

| | | |
|---|-----------|----------------|
| Heartside Nonprofit Housing Corporation | \$351,500 | (616) 454-0928 |
| Mackinac Island Housing Corporation | \$209,284 | (906) 847-3701 |

NEIGHBORHOOD PRESERVATION PROGRAM

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|----------------|
| Neighborhood Investment Corporation | \$210,000 | (231) 727-0809 |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|----------------|

**MSHDA'S JULY HOMEBUYER AND
PROPERTY IMPROVEMENT PRODUCTION**

| | <u>Number of Housing Units</u> | <u>Dollar Amount</u> |
|--|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| Single Family | 53 | \$ 4,225,973 |
| Michigan Mortgage Credit Certificate (MCC) | 83 | \$ 6,354,051 |
| Property Improvement Program (PIP) | 16 | \$ 179,968 |

MSHDA PUBLICATIONS

MSHDA Focuses on Housing is published monthly and is available on the MSHDA Web site, www.michigan.gov/mshda. Click on “about MSHDA” and go to publications. To receive your own emailed copy of Focuses on Housing, contact Mary Lou Keenon at keenonm@michigan.gov and ask to be added to the mailing list.