



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Three Michigan Communities Will Launch Financial Empowerment Centers in July

The City of Grand Haven, Oakland County and the City of Taylor will provide residents free one-on-one financial counseling, with support from the Community Economic Development Association of Michigan.

(Lansing, MI) – The Community Economic Development Association of Michigan (CEDAM) today announced its support for three local governments to provide free, one-on-one financial counseling to residents through Financial Empowerment Centers launching on July 1. The City of Grand Haven, Oakland County and the City of Taylor received \$25,000 grants and technical assistance from CEDAM to implement the Financial Empowerment Center model in their communities in 2014. The grants program is part of the Michigan Communities for Financial Empowerment (MCFE) network, generously supported by the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation.

Over the next few weeks, each community will celebrate the launch of their Financial Empowerment Centers. The City of Taylor will launch its initiative this Friday, June 13th, Oakland County on June 25th and Grand Haven on July 10th. Specific information about each launch event and local press contacts are listed at the end of this media advisory.

“CEDAM is excited to work with the City of Grand Haven, the Oakland County Treasurer’s Office and the City of Taylor to help residents create better financial stability through the assistance of free financial counseling,” said Megan Kursik, Coordinator of the Michigan Communities for Financial Empowerment network at CEDAM. “The Financial Empowerment Centers in each community will target residents facing challenging financial times, helping consumers to reduce debt, improve credit and plan and save for their futures.”

Professional financial counselors serving at Financial Empowerment Centers in each community will provide consumers one-on-one counseling and guidance on issues such

as managing and paying down debt, opening safe and affordable bank accounts, building strong credit and creating a plan to save for the future.

Beginning July 1, 2014, the City of Grand Haven will provide counseling at Neighborhood Housing Services Tuesdays – Thursdays from 8AM-5PM. Oakland County is working with Jewish Vocation Services to provide financial counseling on Wednesdays from 9AM-4PM at the Oakland County Treasurer's Office. The City of Taylor will provide counseling through a partnership with the Information Center.

The new Financial Empowerment Centers in Michigan are inspired by a national replication of the Financial Empowerment Center model, led by the Cities for Financial Empowerment Fund. The City of Lansing launched a Financial Empowerment Center in 2013, as a result of investment from Bloomberg Philanthropies in the CFE Fund to support replication of the model in five cities nationally.

Michigan Financial Empowerment Center Launch Event Details

City of Grand Haven – Open House and Ribbon Cutting

Date: Thursday, July 10, 2014

Time: 3pm – 6:00pm; Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at 4:00pm

Place: Neighborhood Housing Services, 20 N. Fifth Street, Grand Haven, MI

Press Contact: Char Seise, 616-935-3270

*Light refreshments will be served

Oakland County Treasurer's Office – Ribbon Cutting

Date: Wednesday, June 25, 2014

Time: 10:30am – 11:30am

Place: Oakland County Treasurer's Office, 1200 N. Telegraph, Pontiac, MI

Press Contact: Ross Gavin, 248-858-0627

City of Taylor – Father's Day Picnic at Phoenix Park

Date: Friday, June 13, 2014

Time: Noon – 4pm

Place: Phoenix Park, Taylor, MI

Press Contact: John Carter, 734-759-0159

To learn more about the Michigan Communities for Financial Empowerment (MCFE) network at CEDAM, visit mcfе.cedam.info.

Michigan Communities for Financial Empowerment (MCFE) is a program of the Community Economic Development Association of Michigan (CEDAM) and generously supported by CS Mott Foundation, State Farm and Consumers Energy. It is a network for Michigan's local leaders working to advance effective financial empowerment initiatives. MCFE communities reduce poverty by providing residents with tangible opportunities to manage financial crises, increase income, save and plan for their futures. CEDAM is a nonprofit membership organization that represents hundreds of individuals and organizations committed to revitalizing and rebuilding Michigan through community economic development. For more information about CEDAM, visit cedam.info. For more information on MCFE, visit mcfе.cedam.info.

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