



## CCED LANSING UPDATE

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### MICHIGAN TALENT PARTNERSHIP GRANT: LANSING'S REO TOWN

The State of Michigan budget for FY25 includes funding for the Michigan Talent Partnership Program which is designed to “support the development of talent-magnet neighborhoods in Michigan central cities”.

The Talent Partnership Program goals are to 1) increase Michigan’s population of young talent and 2) create local business opportunities for local residence. As stated in the legislative language, “The Michigan talent partnership program under this section must be used to implement transformational public space development projects in central cities neighborhoods or concentrated districts and leverage interdepartmental and cross-sector coordination through local talent plans that are designed to increase this state’s population of young talent by creating high-density , high-amenity, walkable, vibrant street life neighborhoods or districts, and to create business ownership opportunities for local residents”

Of the \$25 million program budget, \$18 million will be used to fund one eligible project in each of four Michigan cities: Detroit, Grand Rapids, Ann Arbor and Lansing. The remaining \$7 million will be used to fund other eligible initiatives under the Talent Partnership program throughout the state.

Lansing put together a team of people representing Lansing institutions and residents to develop a focus for the proposal. It was decided that the Talent Partnership proposal should be centered on REO Town, which is adjacent to Lansing’s downtown. On March 12, 2025, the National Charrette Institute at Michigan State University conducted “City of Lansing REO Town Vision Community Workshop”, a planning charrette to develop objectives for the Talent Partnership proposal. Building upon previous design work that had been done by the REO Town community (including REO Town Commercial Association, Studio Intrigue, and neighborhood groups), over 60 people participated in the workshop to develop a shared vision of REO Town and strengthen relationships among REO Town interest-holders, residents and partners.

The Visioning exercise was conducted at tables of 8 to 10 people and designed to give each participant the opportunity to express their hopes and aspirations for the future of REO Town. Participants brainstormed five



REO Town Sign in Lansing Michigan

ideas that would create a vibrant REO Town, focusing on public spaces, then sharing them with the group and drawing them on a map. The ideas were then grouped together and prioritized by the table participants. The top three categories from each of the seven tables were reported out. All the ideas from this exercise were collected and organized into the following seven major categories: mixed use and infill development, support for businesses, housing options, historical character of community, parks and riverfront activation, connectivity and livability, and aesthetics and beautification. This output from the workshop will serve as content material for the development of the Talent Partnership Proposal.

A group of organizations have come together to form the Talent Partnership Grant Consortium and will be responsible for supporting the Lansing Economic Development Corporation as applicant for the Talent Partnership Grant. The Consortium members include Capital Area Transportation Authority, City of Lansing, Lansing Economic Development Corporation, Lansing Economic Area Partnership, MSU Center for Community and Economic Development, MSU Foundation, REO Town Commercial Association and Tri County Regional Planning Commission.

The proposal will be developed over the next several months. Three documents will need to be created. The first is an estimated total project budget for the district or neighborhood and is due in April. Second, a draft plan for the district or neighborhood is due in July. The third document will be a final project budget including the required matching funds and will be due in August.

## MICHIGAN MITTEN FUNDING UPDATE

The Michigan High-Speed Internet Office (MIHI) awarded \$10.6 million in grants to 13 organizations that will create regional hubs as a part of the Michigan Inclusive Training, Technology and Equity Network (MITTEN). The hubs will provide digital skills training, device distribution programs, online accessibility training, and access to affordable broadband services among other activities. The awards were made based on Michigan's Property Regions, with slight modifications. In mid-Michigan (Region 7) Ingham County was awarded \$857,909 to serve the tri county area including Clinton, Eaton and Ingham counties.

The selected organizations, listed by prosperity regions, are:

- Region 1c: Eastern Upper Peninsula Intermediate School District (\$857,909)
- Region 2: Grow Benzie (\$857,870)
- Region 3: Northeast Michigan Consortium (\$446,023)
- Region 4a: Mid-Michigan Community Action Agency (\$857,909)
- Region 4b: West Michigan Works! (\$857,908)
- Region 5: Central Michigan University (\$854,304)
- Region 6: Regents of the University of Michigan – Flint (\$746,405)
- Region 7: Ingham County (\$857,909)
- Region 8: Southwest Michigan Planning Commission (\$857,909)
- Region 9: Southeast Michigan Community Alliance (\$857,909)
- Region 10: Tejara (\$820,080)
- Detroit: United Way of Southeastern Michigan (\$857,909)
- Grand Rapids: Hispanic Center of Western Michigan (\$857,909)

## MICHIGAN BEAD PROGRAM UPDATE

The Broadband Equity, Access and Development (BEAD) Program awarded Michigan \$1.559 billion to build broadband to unserved or underserved households. The window to receive applications for first round funding from internet service providers (ISPs) closed on April 9, 2025, with MIHI receiving 392 applications to provide service to 194,000 locations of the 248, 253 eligible locations. Over the next several months MIHI will read, score, and deconflict the applications. Grant agreements will be developed and negotiated with award announcements being made in the next several months.