



MICHIGAN STRATEGIC FUND

July 14, 2010

300 N. WASHINGTON SQ.
LANSING, MI 48913

Dear Local Government Official:

The Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) is accepting Notices of Intent (NOI) for new projects under the State of Michigan's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Farm to Food 2010 program funding cycle until August 25, 2010. This offer to communities will be the first since the program's introduction earlier this year. As a community leader, you are encouraged to review the program criteria identified below and determine if your community is eligible to apply for funding under this program.

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The CDBG Farm to Food program is designed to assist communities seeking to construct, rehabilitate, acquire, expand or improve a facility for the support of a three or four season farmers market. Activities eligible for funding include construction, acquisition, expansion of and/or improvements to existing farmers markets located in eligible low and moderate income communities. Eligible communities can be found on the Low and Moderate Income Communities and Project Areas List. The list can be viewed on our website at www.michiganadvantage.org/CAT.

The maximum grant award will not exceed \$750,000. The total amount of grant funds available is \$1,500,000. Due to funding limitations, only one submission per community is allowed. Communities may request CDBG funds for grant administration. The maximum amount of CDBG funds that will be allowed for administration is \$5,000 for grants up to \$500,000 or \$10,000 for grants over \$500,000.

Please note that federal regulations prohibit the use of CDBG funds for projects that have already started or have contractually obligated funds. All project activities or costs (both CDBG and non-CDBG) cannot have started, and/or been incurred, except for preliminary engineering cost estimates.

Submission Instructions:

If you determine your project is eligible and qualifies for this initiative, please see www.TheMEDC.org/farmtofoodnoi to download the Notice of Intent.

Upon completion, return two NOIs, one electronically in Word format (no PDF's) and one hard copy signed by the authorized local government official. Both NOIs, the electronic and hard copy, will be reviewed. Please ensure there are no discrepancies between them. Return the electronic NOI to CDBG@michigan.org. The subject line should reference CDBG Farm to Food. Include the NOI, pictures, estimates, documentation and maps as attachment(s) in the email. Mail the second signed hard copy, with printed attachments, to:

Michigan Economic Development Corporation
Community Development Block Grant
300 N. Washington Square
Lansing, MI 48913

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Applicants must address *all items* on the NOI to be considered for funding and *NOIs for the Farm to Food competitive round must be received no later than close of business August 25, 2010*. The selection of award recipients is at the complete discretion of the Michigan Strategic Fund Board of Directors. Award decisions are not subject to appeal. Awards are subject to applicable state and federal policies, procedures and regulatory requirements. Award announcements are anticipated in September 2010.

The MEDC looks forward to working with you, in partnership with your community, to make this program a success. If you need assistance regarding the CDBG Farm to Food program, please contact your regional Community Assistance Team member. Contact information can be viewed at www.michiganadvantage.org/CAT under the Technical Assistance heading.

Sincerely,

Katharine V. Czarnecki, Manager
Community Programs