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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Capacity Building Program Application Now Available!**

Michigan Community Resources invites Detroit community-based organizations, such as block clubs and neighborhood associations, to apply for its 2016 Capacity Building Program.

The program, supported by The Kresge Foundation, is designed to strengthen community organizations' ability to improve neighborhoods in Detroit. Selected participants receive one-on-one support tailored to their organization's needs, networking opportunities with fellow participants, and priority access to 10 workshops.

"One of the most valuable aspects of the Capacity Building Program is that it creates a collaborative space for community leaders from across the entire city to exchange unique ideas and best practices that are invaluable to making change in our neighborhoods," says Jill Ferrari, CEO of Michigan Community Resources.

For former participants in the 2015 Capacity Building Program, implemented by Michigan Community Resources and Community Development Advocates of Detroit, workshops and classes were one of the most valuable aspects to improving their neighborhood work. The topics for these sessions range from fundraising to grant writing to effective marketing to recruitment.

"The workshops taught me different topics on activities we can do with youth and adults and ways we can work together. Working with Alisha was an awesome experience! It was like working with a community advocate and family member at the same time!" explains Tammara Howard, former Capacity Building Program participant and President of the Belvidere Community Youth Block Club in the Gratiot Woods neighborhood.

The workshops are open to the public with priority given to Capacity Building Program participants.

"We're proud to support Michigan Community Resources in this initiative to unlock and amplify the talent and vision of Detroit residents," says Wendy Lewis Jackson, deputy director of Kresge's Detroit Program. "The city is rich with dedicated, engaged citizens who deserve the necessary tools and resources to improve the quality of life in their neighborhoods."

Thanks to The Kresge Foundation's support, Michigan Community Resources (MCR) will host a free series of capacity building workshops in 2016, which will take place from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. on scheduled dates at the University of Detroit Mercy - School of Architecture located at 4001 W. McNichols, Detroit, MI 48221. Below is the workshop schedule. For the latest information on these workshops and other MCR opportunities, please subscribe to the [Neighborhood Exchange](#) e-mail list at [JGilmore@mi-community.org](mailto:JGilmore@mi-community.org).

1/14/2016 - Effective Marketing & Media Strategies  
1/28/2016 - Fundraising & Fund Development  
2/11/2016 - Grant Writing 101  
3/10/2016 - Accounting & Budgeting  
3/24/2016 - Evaluation 101  
4/14/2016 - Community Organizing & Resident Engagement  
4/28/2016 - Volunteer Management & Recruitment  
5/12/2016 - Project Management  
6/9/2016 - Creating Effective Collaborations  
6/23/2016 - Succession Planning & Transitional Leadership

To download the application and to find out more information on the 2016 Capacity Building Program, visit [www.mi-community.org](http://www.mi-community.org).

Applications must be submitted via email to Alisha Opperman, Education & Outreach Program Manager, at [aopperman@mi-community.org](mailto:aopperman@mi-community.org), or mailed to Michigan Community Resource, 615 Griswold, Suite 1805, Detroit, MI 48226. The deadline is Thursday, November 12, 2015 at 5 p.m.

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#### **About Michigan Community Resources**

Michigan Community Resources provides vital services to help nonprofit and neighborhood organizations navigate through legal, community organizing and urban planning issues so they can continue to make a positive impact on their communities. Established in 1998 with our pro bono legal referral program, which has leveraged over \$13 million in free legal assistance from the private bar, we have helped thousands of nonprofits improve the quality of life in their communities. Today, Michigan Community Resources is a statewide organization providing legal, urban planning and educational resources to nonprofit organizations that serve low-income communities. Our newest resource, Neighborhood Exchange ([www.neighborhood-exchange.com](http://www.neighborhood-exchange.com)), connects residents and organizations to resources, ideas, events and a peer network to strengthen Detroit neighborhoods.

#### **About The Kresge Foundation**

The Kresge Foundation is a \$3.5 billion private, national foundation that works to expand opportunities in America's cities through grantmaking and investing in arts and culture, education, environment, health, human services, and community development in Detroit. In 2014, the Board of Trustees approved 408 awards totaling \$242.5 million. That included a \$100 million award to the Foundation for Detroit's Future, a fund created to soften the impact of the city's bankruptcy on pensioners and safeguard cultural assets at the Detroit Institute of Arts. A total of \$138.1 million was paid out to grantees over the course of the year. In addition, Kresge's Social Investment Practice made commitments totaling \$20.4 million in 2014. For more information, visit [kresge.org](http://kresge.org).