



Connecting Lawyers and Communities

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Community Legal Resources Grants to Help Clean Up, Secure and Revitalize Detroit Neighborhoods

DETROIT – April 21, 2011 – Community Legal Resources (CLR) will launch a new program to help community organizations in Detroit complete neighborhood improvement and security plans. The Security Alternative Funding and Empowerment (SAFE) program will support community activities with nearly \$400,000 in grants to help eliminate blight, reduce the negative effects of vacant property, and promote neighborhood safety.

The SAFE program was made possible through funding from the Kresge Foundation, the Hudson-Webber Foundation, the JP Morgan Chase Foundation and the Community Foundation of Southeast Michigan.

“We want to encourage creative problem solving such as collaboration between organizations or unique approaches to creating stronger, safer neighborhoods,” said Heidi Alcock Mucherie, chief executive officer of Community Legal Resources.

Through SAFE, Community Legal Resources will award Detroit community-based organizations mini-grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$5,000. SAFE replaces CLR’s former Community and Property Preservation (CAPP) mini-grant program. Based on feedback from former CAPP grant awardees, CLR expanded the focus of its mini-grant program to include community safety projects.

Funded activities will improve neighborhood safety, appearance and quality of life by targeting security, maintenance and beautification projects for vacant property.

Common projects include boarding vacant properties, removing graffiti, establishing a neighborhood watch program, or neighborhood cleanup projects.

A wide range of community-based organizations – including block clubs, homeowner/neighborhood associations, churches and nonprofits – may apply for the mini-grants. More information and applications are available at www.detroitvacantproperty.org. The deadline is **5p.m. Friday, May 13, 2011**.

Community Legal Resources supports and empowers nonprofit community organizations in Michigan that serve low-income individuals and communities – with an emphasis on community economic development – by providing pro bono legal services and technical assistance. Founded in 1998, CLR has provided over \$10 million in free legal assistance to over 1000 nonprofits in Michigan and vacant property related assistance to over 200 community organizations in Detroit. Find CLR at www.clronline.org and www.detroitvacantproperty.org and on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Peplemovers.

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