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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MINI-GRANT FUNDING TO BE ANNOUNCED AT BLIGHT BOOTCAMP EVENT

DETROIT – June 5, 2014 – Michigan Community Resources (MCR) will announce the next round of its SAFE Mini-Grant program at the Blight Bootcamp event hosted by Detroit Future City on Saturday, June 7th.

Blight Bootcamp is an educational event that brings together residents and community-based organizations to learn how to increase the impact of their blight elimination efforts. Breakout session topics include: Transforming Blight into Urban Gardens and Farms, Securing Vacant Properties, Resident Led Neighborhood Safety and more.

MCR will discuss its SAFE Mini-Grant program at the Blight Mitigation Resources breakout session. This session will identify monetary resources and other tools that support neighborhood stabilization efforts.

“Community-based efforts like MCR’s are essential to moving Detroit forward. Connecting the SAFE program with Detroit Future City and its Blight Bootcamp event will help coordinate similar projects and double the impact of the mini-grants,” said Wendy Jackson, deputy director for the Community Development and Detroit programs at The Kresge Foundation.

MCR’s Security Alternative Funding and Empowerment (SAFE) program supports community-initiated activities that help eliminate blight, reduce the negative effects of vacant property, and promote neighborhood safety. Since 2009, MCR has awarded over \$850,000 in mini-grants to Detroit community-based organizations.

“These are organizations and projects that typically would not receive funding, and they make a little go a long way,” said Jill Ferrari, CEO of MCR. “Even an award of \$1,000 to \$5,000, in their capable hands, does a lot to help increase the safety and sense of community that each neighborhood in Detroit deserves.”

Typical projects funded 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.

MCR will also host an orientation meeting for potential applicants. The meeting will discuss in detail the purpose and goals of the SAFE mini-grant program and address frequently asked questions about the application process.

The SAFE Orientation meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 10th from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Gleaners Community Food Bank at 2131 Beaufait St., Detroit, MI 48207. To attend, contact Dalton Roberson Jr. at 313-969-7197. SAFE applications will also be available at www.mi-community.org.

About Michigan Community Resources

Michigan Community Resources supports and empowers nonprofit community organizations in Michigan that serve low-income individuals and communities – with an emphasis on community and economic development – by providing pro bono legal services and technical assistance. Founded in 1998, MCR has provided over \$13 million in free legal assistance to over 1,200 nonprofits in Michigan and vacant property related assistance to over 200 community organizations in Detroit. Learn more at www.mi-community.org.

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