



Michigan's Campaign to End
HOMELESSNESS

Press Release

TheCampaignToEndHomelessness.org

Michigan Conference on Affordable Housing to Offer Strategies for Michigan's Economic Recovery

Ending Homelessness Track to Give Local Nonprofits an Inside Track

Monroe County, Mich. – Leaders in the homelessness, affordable housing and community economic development industries will gather at the Lansing Center in Lansing April 26-28 to discuss and develop creative strategies to jump start the state's economic recovery for the Michigan Conference on Affordable Housing. The theme of the event is "Rebuilding Michigan Together," which reflects a message of hope for Michigan's future. The "Ending Homelessness" track is one of six conference tracks and addresses the importance of rapid re-housing of the homeless and those at risk of homelessness.

"Affordable housing for everyone and vibrant communities where people want to live, work and invest are the key to healthy and thriving economies," said Stephanie Kasprzak, Executive Director of MCOP. "The Conference is in its 12th year now, and this is probably the most significant conference ever in light of the economic struggles we have faced here in Michigan over the last few years. This conference is to acknowledge that our industry is vital to that rebirth and that housing our most vulnerable is crucial."

more

The Campaign to End Homelessness: A Declaration

Homelessness ends with a place to live. Michigan's Campaign to End Homelessness is driven by public and private groups across the state, working together toward a single goal: making stable, sustainable, and affordable housing available to every person in Michigan. This goal guides our more than 60 dedicated and coordinated partner organizations. Together, we know that:

- We must plan together, focusing all of our energies on the single goal of permanent, affordable housing for every individual and family in Michigan.
- We must understand that homelessness is a risk that we all share – people of all means, of all backgrounds, of all abilities, in all regions.
- We must be willing to speak in one voice, throughout our communities, for the need for supportive housing and systems-based solutions to make housing for all an accessible reality.

Because only through our united efforts can homelessness be eradicated in Michigan.

The NSP2 grants to local communities and nonprofit housing developers are part of a \$2 billion initiative to remove blight, revive neighborhoods and spur local economies. Michigan's award was the nation's largest statewide grant under the second round of NSP grants. MSHDA's "New Michigan Urban Neighborhood" plan marked the first time in its 43-year history that MSHDA sought HUD funding through a coalition that included 12 city government partners and eight of the state's most progressive land banks. Strengthening the nation's housing market to create jobs, bolster the economy and protect consumers, and promoting housing as a platform to improve quality of life is at the center of the message Donovan is bringing to Michigan.

"The Affordable Housing Conference is where we go to connect with leaders at the state and federal levels who can help us end homelessness right here in Monroe County," Kasprzak said. "Michigan is leading the nation in plans and programs to end homelessness. We can end it but we have so much more to do. As the economy has faltered, many in our community have lost jobs and many are becoming increasingly vulnerable. As we come together in Lansing, we will gain access to the tools and resources we need to meet the challenge."

###

The Campaign to End Homelessness: A Declaration

Homelessness ends with a place to live. Michigan's Campaign to End Homelessness is driven by public and private groups across the state, working together toward a single goal: making stable, sustainable, and affordable housing available to every person in Michigan. This goal guides our more than 60 dedicated and coordinated partner organizations. Together, we know that:

- We must plan together, focusing all of our energies on the single goal of permanent, affordable housing for every individual and family in Michigan.
- We must understand that homelessness is a risk that we all share – people of all means, of all backgrounds, of all abilities, in all regions.
- We must be willing to speak in one voice, throughout our communities, for the need for supportive housing and systems-based solutions to make housing for all an accessible reality.

Because only through our united efforts can homelessness be eradicated in Michigan.