This time of year is a whirlwind with the approaching Building Michigan Communities Conference, coinciding with our Annual Membership Celebration. Though we have the opportunity to see and talk with you throughout the year, we always look forward to spending more time with our members and catching up between sessions. The conference sessions evolve each year to encompass what those of you need to support your work from both local and state level, as well as provide best practices and interesting case studies. You’ll find that the programs CEDAM has in place connects all of these supportive initiatives to help improve your communities. We encourage you, as members, to take advantage of all of the different opportunities to engage with us throughout the year, and don’t hesitate to connect with us to find ways for us to better serve you.

Thank you for your continued support, and please feel free to contact us at any time. Hopefully, we will see you at the Annual Membership Celebration and conference!
In 2013, CEDAM began pairing the bi-monthly policy committee meetings with legislation luncheons hosted by different CEDAM members across the state. Recent discussion centered on scrap metal theft legislation, financial empowerment and other services our members offer. Plan to join us for an upcoming luncheon in your area. Contact Jessica AcMoody at acmoody@cedam.info for more information or to RSVP.

2014 Schedule:
- April 21 at Salem Housing in Flint
- June 23 at Housing Resources, Inc. in Kalamazoo
- August 25 at CDAD in Detroit
- October 27 at Avalon Housing in Ann Arbor

**Michigan Rural Council (MRC)**

We awarded the first round of community grants and completed assessments in five communities. The projects we awarded include a community visioning project in Nashville; a project to address community hunger in Lenawee; a weekend workshop teaching participants to build picnic tables, which will be used in an area facilitating summer programming at the Huss Project in Three Rivers; financing to build a children’s playhouse to demonstrate permaculture principles to children and adults; and supporting a strategic community promotion strategy for the Farmer’s Market in Bath. We will award another round of grants in August and make the community assessment application available this fall.

The 2014 Small Town and Rural Development Conference took place April 14-16 at Crystal Mountain in Thompsonville. The conference provided an opportunity to share, learn and connect with leaders across Michigan working to support and promote vibrant rural communities. Sessions included placemaking, rural healthcare, beginning farmer and youth retention.

For more information on the Michigan Rural Council, contact Jessica AcMoody at acmoody@cedam.info.

**Michigan Economic Impact Coalition (MEIC)**

The Michigan Economic Impact Coalition supported initiatives across the state to provide free tax assistance to qualifying individuals. There are currently nineteen MEIC members working to improve the financial stability of Michigan residents and even more free tax preparation sites providing individuals with high-quality services from IRS-certified volunteers.

MEIC members members will convene June 6 in Lansing at a day long Learning Exchange to share best practices and set the agenda for the coalition in the upcoming year. For information, visit our website or contact Ross Yednock at yednock@cedam.info.

Visit MichiganFreeTaxes.org for the most up-to-date list of tax preparation service providers across Michigan. Share your story for a chance to win a $100 gift card!

**The Bright Side Television Show**

The next Bright Side episode, featuring the Michigan Housing and Community Development Fund (MHCDF), will feature projects related to housing developments. Projects range from just breaking ground to fully operational, from large scale development to small family homes and mixed use. The episode will be available online and on TV in late May and is part of CEDAM’s larger policy goal to secure dedicated funding for MHCDF.

The Bright Side’s following episode will be about microenterprise and small business. CEDAM members active in business development are welcome to ask about featuring their program in a video. Contact Olivia Courant at courant@cedam.info if interested.

*Photographs: Before and after of Willow Haven Apartments in Linden, MI.*
The Microenterprise Network hosted the 2014 member meeting in January at The Entrepreneur Institute in Lansing. The meeting featured Susan Rahn, a Stakeholder Liaison for the IRS, and presented on the numerous physical and online resources that they have developed to support small businesses. The MNM will focus on incubators and downtown development authorities to increase membership and enhance the online resource directory.

Next member meeting:
June 3 from 10 am – noon at the Kellogg Foundation in Battle Creek.

Welcome Marcy Bishop Kates, the new MNM Coordinator! Keith Lambert received a new position with the Lansing Economic Area Partnership, and we wish him the best. Marcy took over in February, and we are excited to welcome her!

Michigan Communities for Financial Empowerment (MCFE)

Throughout January and February 2014, Michigan Communities for Financial Empowerment supported initiatives connecting tax time to greater financial opportunity. Show Me the Money Day events were held in eleven communities across Michigan, promoting access to free tax assistance, low-cost financial products, financial education, savings programs and asset building tools. Almost 1,000 Michigan residents attended Show Me the Money Day events in 2014. MCFE also partnered with the Michigan College Access Network (MCAN) to support collaborative events in five Michigan communities that connected free tax assistance with FAFSA-completion for high school students and their parents.

The City of Grand Haven, Oakland County and the City of Taylor, grantees of the Michigan Financial Empowerment Initiative Grants Program, are working hard to develop their Financial Empowerment Centers to launch July 1. The Financial Empowerment Center in Grand Haven will connect with a number of community-based programs to refer individuals to financial counseling; Oakland County’s Center will target residents facing property tax delinquency; and the City of Taylor’s Center will integrate referrals to financial counseling for public housing recipients. Finally, the Lansing Financial Empowerment Center reached its one year birthday on March 12, 2014, celebrating with a dinner and awards ceremony where more than 200 clients, partners and staff joined Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero to commemorate achievements during the first year of service.

Michigan Foreclosure Task Force (MFTF)

The Michigan Foreclosure Task Force monitored and advocated on behalf of its members regarding the new, Michigan foreclosure legislation in the state legislature. The foreclosure bill signed into law July 3, 2013 went into effect January 10, 2014 along with new federal CFPB regulations. New legislation was introduced (HB5277) in February as a response to the Governor’s request to address concerns from the former legislation. HB5277 is expected to pass. The MFTF continues to pursue the resources and ability to update the statewide foreclosure data project from 2010.

Next member meeting:
August 21 from 1-3pm at the MSHDA office in Lansing

The Michigan Foreclosure Prevention Corps is halfway through the program year with 18 members currently serving. As of the mid-year report, MFPC members have served 3,222 at-risk homeowners. The program rolled out a new client outcome survey in March 2014. Of clients who returned survey results, 90% of those surveyed have secured safe, affordable housing. The 2014-2015 MFPC Host Site Application has been released and is due back to CEDAM on May 30.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>MFTF Membership Meeting</td>
<td>April 28-30, 1-3pm in Lansing</td>
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<td>Building Michigan Communities Conference (BMCC)</td>
<td>April 28-30, 9am-4pm in Lansing</td>
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<td>CEDAM Annual Membership Event</td>
<td>April 29 (during the BMCC) 5-7pm in Lansing</td>
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<td>May</td>
<td>Poverty Simulation</td>
<td>May 2, 9am-12pm in Lansing</td>
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<td>September</td>
<td>CEDAM Training: Placemaking Module 1: People, Places and Placemaking</td>
<td>September 24, 9am-12pm in Lansing</td>
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<td>Placemaking Module 2: The Economics of Place</td>
<td>September 24, 1-4pm in Lansing</td>
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<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>Real Estate Development Boot Camp</td>
<td>October 15-17 in Tustin</td>
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Check online for the most updated Connect & Share: Lunchtime Webinar schedule. Live webinars and recordings of past webinars are available for FREE for CEDAM members. cedam.info/connect-and-share

**Opportunities to Participate**

CEDAM has five committees that work to serve our members. If you are a member and interested please let us know!

- **Public Policy Committee**
  Directs CEDAM’s advocacy efforts

- **Training & Technical Assistance Committee**
  Works with partners to plan, coordinate and evaluate training opportunities for members

- **Membership Committee**
  Directs CEDAM’s membership efforts

- **Communications Committee**
  Guides CEDAM’s print, online and multimedia communications

- **The Bright Side Advisory Committee**
  Develops ideas and content for CEDAM’s television show, The Bright Side

For more information: cedam.info/committees