

SCI Conference – Session Descriptions

Building Family Wealth and Income

Centers for Working Families

Christopher Tan, Program Officer/Chicago LISC

Christopher will give an overview of the Annie E. Casey's Centers for Working Families (CWF) Program as it is being implemented in Chicago. He will describe the program's three core services areas: workforce development, income supports and financial services, as well as the various ways by which the 12 Chicago CWF sites integrate these services. The discussion will also differentiate the CWF model from previous attempts at offering multiple social services in one location, such as the One-Stop Shops.

Using IDAs and Other Wealth Building Products in Michigan

Don Jones, Director of Resource

Don will discuss how IDAs are used as wealth building tool for families and communities. Information will be provided on the results of the MI IDA Program (MIDAP) and its future. Also, he will discuss other tools to help families and communities thrive, including EITC, Children's Savings Accounts, and Asset Limits in Public Programs.

The Community Development Credit Union Movement

Kathie Black, CEO Inspire Proposed Community Federal Credit Union

Kathie Black, CEO of the organizing Inspire Community Federal Credit Union in Battle Creek, came on board this past June to pick up where the Steering Committee left off. She will summarize the two and one-half years of planning, organizing and community support that led to that point, and provide an update of Inspire's progress toward becoming chartered and preparing to open for business. In addition, she will provide some background on community development and low-income credit unions, which exist "not for profit, not for charity, but for service."

Economic Development Strategies

LISC Commercial Advisory Services

Larisa Ortiz, Program Director /LISC – CMAS

Larisa will delve into the quality of life planning process, and how commercial revitalization planning should be a part of a broader planning process. The focus will then shift to a discussion of commercial corridor retail attraction issues - particularly the challenges that communities need to overcome and strategies they need to incorporate into the planning process to effectively address retailer and developer concerns - concerns that often keep retailers from serving underserved communities.



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Business Improvement Districts

Kathy Wendler, President, Southwest Detroit Business Assoc.

A growing number of Southwest Detroit property, and business owners supported the creation of a formalized Business Improvement Zone (BIZ), commonly known as Business Improvement Districts. A BIZ allows property owners to vote on an assessment, to support improvements and enhanced services in a commercial district. This economic development and management tool has been used successfully in more than 1,000 North American cities resulting in higher sales, occupancy and property values. During this session you will learn the first steps towards formalizing a BIZ in your community.

Micro-enterprise Initiatives

Sue Peters, Program Officer/Michigan Statewide LISC

Sue will provide an overview of micro-enterprise development as a strategy for creating employment opportunities and increased income for low-income residents in distressed communities. As a national intermediary with over 25 year of experience in building local capacity to address community needs, LISC can play a critical role in promoting microenterprise in the state of Michigan. Microenterprise aligns with LISC's mission and Sustainable Communities Initiative (SCI) which in part, aims to increase family income and wealth, stimulate local economic activity and connecting neighborhoods and residents to the mainstream economy.

New Markets Tax Credits

Dennis Sturtevant, CEO Dwelling Place

Dennis will provide a case study of the Martineau Project, a recently completed New Markets Tax Credit project in Grand Rapids. Located in the center of the Avenue for the Arts, Martineau Apartments is a unique location for artists to live and work, and is quickly becoming a destination for art patrons and collectors. Opened in December 2005, the Martineau Apartments project features 23 affordable live/work spaces for low- to moderate-income artists. The project was partially financed with New Markets Tax Credits through LISC.

Engaging Youth and Families

Youth and Recreational Initiatives

Matt Bates, SVP Fund Development – Girl Scouts of Glowing Embers

Matt will describe the history and development process of the Girl Scouts of Glowing Embers' Girl Scout Program and Training Center. The new, state of the art structure will make the most effective use of resources to better serve the local community and create more opportunities in Girl Scouting for even more girls. Girls will have a place they can call their own to hold troop meetings, learn valuable life skills, attend exciting girl programs, and much more. The Girl Scout Program and Training Center was made possible by grants and donations from individuals, organizations, and businesses that contributed specifically to the capital campaign.



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Development of Childcare Centers as Community Development

Amy Gillman, Senior Program Director, LISC Community Investment Collaborative for Kids

Amy will discuss the connection between childcare and sustainable community development. As well as, the challenges of child care facilities development and an overview of the resources and services available through LISC's National Child Care program. Also, she will share examples of LISC-assisted childcare facility projects from around the country.

Youth Farm Stands Project

Susan Cocciarelli, Community Economic Development Specialist – MSU

The Youth Farm Stand Project is one of several Initiatives through the CS Mott Group for Sustainable Food Systems at MSU that attempts to address the larger question, "Who will feed Michigan?" The Youth Farm Stand Project partners with urban and rural communities to directly connect youth with the economic benefits of creating access to fresh fruits and vegetables in communities where it's inaccessible. This community economic development initiative links youth entrepreneurship with the growing consumer interest in local foods to create viable options that help grow Michigan's food economy.

Plenary I

Sustainable Commercial Development: Facts and Fiction

Jake Cowan, Business Manager, MetroEdge

Larisa Ortiz, Program Director /LISC – CMAS

During the lunch plenary, Larisa and Jake will present 'lessons learned' from the field - focusing on the industry rules-of-thumb that are sometimes used to help communities make strategic decisions around retail attraction efforts. There will be some focus on the perceptions and myths around grocery stores development. The message here is to take the time to devise a well thought out strategy and do your homework before attracting retailers.

Plenary II

Multi-Family Housing in a Changing Market

Michael Jacobs, Vice President/National Equity Fund – Chicago

Michael will discuss how Mixed Income and Mixed Use projects fit into a sound community development plan, and he will share case studies to illustrate successful financing strategies. The National Equity Fund, Inc. (NEF) is a LISC affiliate that provides equity investments for projects that support community revitalization across the country, including affordable housing, commercial and retail buildings, and arts and community space. NEF is the nation's largest nonprofit syndicator of federal low-income housing tax credits. In collaboration with CDCs and community-focused investors, NEF, Inc. has provided more than \$5 billion in equity to help fund the development of more than 75,000 affordable homes nationwide.

