TOOLS TO PROMOTE COMMUNITY VENTURES:

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MISSION

MEDC Community Ventures (CV) is an economic development initiative that promotes employment and social enterprise. The mission of CV is to alleviate poverty and promote safe and vibrant communities - in our four highest crime cities (Detroit, Pontiac, Flint and Saginaw). CV has an annual goal of placing 1,000 "structurally unemployed" residents of those communities into full-time, long-term employment.

Since its inception in FY 2013, the CV initiative has recruited over 90 businesses who have hired over 2,000 structurally unemployed persons from our target cities. The average 12 month retention rate for CV placements is almost 70 percent with an average wage over $11 hour.

These are good jobs that can provide financial stability and a career pathway out of poverty for structurally unemployed residents of our target communities.

WHO’S ELIGIBLE?

Companies - who are viable and able in good faith to hire CV participants into the following employment situations:
• Living Wage - $10 hour or more
• Full Time - over 30 hours per week
• Long Term - a permanent position as opposed to seasonal or temporary work

Job Seekers who are “structurally unemployed.” CV eligibility criteria includes one of the following:
• Lack of education
• Lack of functional literacy
Long-term disconnection from employment • At or below the poverty line
• Ex-offenders
• At-risk youth
• Disabled

If a person meets one of these eligibility criteria and is a resident of a CV-designated community then that person may be eligible for the CV program.

After prospective applicants are pre-screened, employers will interview and select the best candidates for their company.

CV EMPLOYER PARTNERSHIPS

Partnerships with employers are critical to the success of Community Ventures. CV employer partnerships are implemented through the following steps:

Step 1: Employer Recruiting - Employers vetted by local partners/MEDC staff and commitment is made.

Step 2: Talent Provided - MEDC works with local partners (e.g. Michigan Works, DHS, Rehab Centers, Faith-Based entities, etc.) to provide talent to the employer.

Step 3: Employer Contracts with MEDC - Employer contracts with MEDC to receive wage reimbursement and provide proof of employment.

Step 4: Support Services Provided - MEDC provides post-employment supportive services and training at the employer work site to assist with job retention.

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Step 5: Career Pathways - Employer and MEDC identify CV participants for career pathway support (e.g. literacy, GED, hard skills training, certification, etc.).

RESOURCES AVAILABLE
Companies interested in learning more about Community Ventures can contact the MEDC Customer Contact Center at 517.373.9808 or email at communityventures@michigan.org