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Nonprofits team up for Census

Local nonprofits awarded grants for outreach efforts

Lansing, Mich. – More than a dozen nonprofits across the state of Michigan received funding to support their efforts to increase participation in hard-to-count communities during the 2010 census.

The grants, awarded by the Nonprofits Count! in Michigan campaign, will support public education efforts to reach members of undercounted communities about the importance of a complete census count.

"Census data is more than just numbers, it determines the amount of federal funding given to our communities," said Sam Singh, census consultant for Michigan Nonprofit Association (MNA). "The message is clear: we need a complete count in order to receive funding to keep essential services and provide access to funds, programs and services for Michigan residents."

Nonprofits Count! in Michigan is the statewide campaign organized by Michigan Nonprofit Association (MNA) and the Michigan Nonprofit Complete Count Committee, committed to increasing 2010 census participation in hard-to-count communities. The results of the 2010 Census will affect the dispersion of federal funds, political representation, public infrastructure and private investment. For every 100 people not counted, a community risks losing an estimated \$1.2 million over the next decade for federally funded programs alone.

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Increasing the capacity of Michigan's nonprofits to serve, strengthen and transform communities.

Michigan Nonprofit Association is affiliated with Michigan Campus Compact and Volunteer Centers of Michigan

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“Public education is essential for a complete count,” said Singh. “Nonprofits are in a unique position to communicate with the people who go in and out of their doors everyday – historically undercounted residents. These grantees were selected as critical advocates to advance our community outreach activities for the 2010 census.”

The 2010 Census Grantees include:

- ACCESS (Statewide-Arab-American)
- Saginaw Community Action Committee (Saginaw)
- Michigan Citizen Education Fund (Battle Creek/Kalamazoo)
- Priority Children (Flint)
- Nonprofit Network (Jackson)
- Vanguard Community Development Corporation (Detroit)
- Catholic Social Service of Oakland County (Pontiac-Hispanic)
- Neighborhood Service Organization (Detroit)
- Inter-Tribal Council (Upper Peninsula, but with statewide outreach)
- Asian and Pacific Islander American Vote-Michigan (Statewide)

In addition to the 2010 Census Grantees, the Nonprofits Count! in Michigan campaign has also named three MNA Extension Partners. MNA Extension Partners focus their work in Detroit and Flint – two communities most significantly undercounted in 2000.

The MNA Extension Partners include:

- Michigan 2-1-1
- CityConnect Detroit
- Community Foundation of Greater Flint

“It was tough to narrow it down to only 13 total grant recipients,” Singh said. “But, our selection team worked to ensure that with the limited funding, our recipients will have the greatest impact to ensure everyone in Michigan gets counted.”

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About Michigan Nonprofit Complete Count Committee

Nonprofits Count! is a campaign to mobilize nonprofits to get involved in making sure that every person is counted, with a special emphasis on hard-to-count communities. In Michigan, MNA has organized a statewide Nonprofit Complete Count Committee to guide its work with the 2010 Census initiative. For more information and to view a list of committee members, visit www.MNAonline.org/census.asp.

About Michigan Nonprofit Association

Michigan Nonprofit Association (MNA) increases the capacity of Michigan’s nonprofits to serve, strengthen and transform communities. With nearly 1,200 members, MNA serves as a statewide network for the sector, a resource center on effective management practices, and as an advocate for the nonprofit community. For more information, visit www.MNAonline.org.

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