



**2013 Annual Awards Entry Form**  
(Complete one for each entry.)

Fill out the entry name *exactly* as you want it listed in the awards program.

Entry Name Legislators Building Communities (LBC)

HFA Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA)

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Entry form with description, check(s), and visual aids (optional) must be received by NCSHA by **Monday, July 1, 2013**.

Use this header on the upper right corner of each page.

HFA MSHDA

Entry Name Legislators Building Communities (LBC)

Communications	Homeownership	Legislative Advocacy	Management Innovation
<input type="checkbox"/> Annual Report <input type="checkbox"/> Promotional Materials and Newsletters <input type="checkbox"/> Creative Media	<input type="checkbox"/> Empowering New Buyers <input type="checkbox"/> Home Improvement and Rehabilitation <input type="checkbox"/> Encouraging New Production	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal Advocacy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Advocacy	<input type="checkbox"/> Financial <input type="checkbox"/> Human Resources <input type="checkbox"/> Operations <input type="checkbox"/> Technology
Rental Housing	Special Needs Housing	Special Achievement	Are you providing visual aids?
<input type="checkbox"/> Multifamily Management <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation and Rehabilitation <input type="checkbox"/> Encouraging New Production	<input type="checkbox"/> Combating Homelessness <input type="checkbox"/> Housing for Persons with Special Needs	<input type="checkbox"/> Special Achievement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES  <input type="checkbox"/> NO

HFA: Michigan State Housing Development Authority  
Category: Legislative Advocacy  
Subcategory: State Advocacy  
Entry Name: Legislators Building Communities (LBC)

## **Overview**

Legislators Building Communities (LBC) is a summer-long opportunity for state legislators to participate in service projects that strengthen neighborhoods in their districts and promote a healthy, vibrant Michigan.

LBC is:

- a way for legislators to learn more about housing and community development activities in their district while volunteering
- a chance for community members to begin or strengthen a relationship with their elected officials
- an initiative of the [Living in Michigan Coalition](#), a broad network of housing and community development practitioners

## **Advance the overall mission of the agency/Demonstrate Coalition Building**

Part of the MSHDA mission states that we must engage in community economic development activities to revitalize and preserve urban and rural communities. Through public-private partnerships and the engagement of local elected officials, LBC is touching Michigan communities from Ironwood to Monroe, and Alpena to Benton Harbor. Through these volunteer efforts, we are forging creative and collaborative partnerships, sharing knowledge, and targeting resources to sustain communities, preserve historic sites, and improve quality of life statewide.

## **Innovative/ReachTarget Audience**

From the outset, the LBC has primarily been simply a “Legislative Build,” partnering with organizations such as Habitat for Humanity of Michigan to work on the many new builds throughout the state. However, in recent years we have moved away from that singular purpose and diversified into other community based volunteer activities. Efforts now include planting community gardens, blighted property remediation, farmers markets, and soup kitchen duties. Any activity we deem to be ‘community enhancing’ will now make our cut and it allows our elected officials to reach a wider demographic of the state’s population.

## **Replicable**

The goal of the Legislators Building Communities drive has always been to identify various volunteer activities within each of the 148 legislative districts, pair respective legislators with the operating service organization, and introduce each elected official to the Living in Michigan Coalition’s, and specifically, to MSHDA’s commitment to communities through philanthropy. The program is easily duplicated with small amounts of time and effort put toward project identification and recruitment of legislative participants.

## **Forge effective relationships with state legislators**

While our Governmental Affairs team already has an established rapport with many of the participating legislators, LBC allows the officials to be introduced to sectors of their constituencies that they may otherwise never have crossed paths with before. The connections

and relationships that develop are priceless and it has been found that repeat volunteer activities often continue even after the legislators have left office.

### **Achieve strategic objectives**

Our strategic objectives have always included responsiveness to community needs, commitment to community resource development, stewardship, and innovation. The LBC program allows us to show state electeds that MSHDA is not solely a lending and affordable housing institution. We go above and beyond in our efforts to engage in these public-private partnerships to make Michigan a great place to live, work and play.

### **Provide benefits that outweigh costs/Demonstrate Effective Use of Resources**

Since LBC is a volunteer based program, the costs associated are simply man hours in organizing, recruiting, and pairing legislators with their projects. The benefits are tenfold to the costs in the development of bonds between elected and their charitable/non-profit project planners. The only resources needed are a legislators time and effort – items that are free to give and immeasurably rewarding upon project completion.

### **Visual Aids - Please see below for links to related websites and stories**

<http://legislatorsbuildingcommunities.org/>

<http://legislatorsbuildingcommunities.org/2013/05/representatives/>

<http://legislatorsbuildingcommunities.org/2011/09/rep-tinsley-talabi-spring-cleans-detroit-lots/>

<http://legislatorsbuildingcommunities.org/2011/09/rep-callton-volunteers-with-barry-county-day-of-caring/>

<http://legislatorsbuildingcommunities.org/2011/09/rep-schmidt-helps-out-at-tc-home/>

<http://legislatorsbuildingcommunities.org/category/stories/senate/>