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# Henry M. Jackson Foundation

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## **A Short Summary**

On September 15th, 2007, the Michigan Higher Education Land Policy (MIHELP) Consortium will hold a national symposium for the review of its progress. The goals of this conference will include increased visibility for the organization, a sharing of best practices, and an auditing of the programs put into place by the Michigan Metropolitan Initiative (MMI) and the MIHELP Consortium. While funding has already been secured for portions of the conference, the MIHELP Consortium needs additional funding for securing nationally-recognized speakers, for advertising, and for elevating the conference to a national level. The funds granted by the Henry Jackson Foundation will be used to these ends, connecting national and state policy makers with influential community members and academics in the public and private sectors.

## **Background of the MIHELP Consortium**

The Michigan Higher Education Land Policy (MIHELP) Consortium is a research and outreach initiative that conducts policy research to improve the understanding of problems facing Michigan's metropolitan areas and delivers a range of options and analytic tools that will assist policymakers and stakeholders in the improvement process.

The Michigan Metropolitan Initiative (MMI), a component of the MIHELP Consortium, has the opportunity to be at the forefront of applied metropolitan affairs research. By working directly with stakeholders and assembling multi-institutional, multi-disciplinary teams to pursue major competitive grants, MMI can deliver research, outreach, and teaching that is relevant to effective metropolitan policy making and facilitates local intergovernmental cooperation. The Michigan Metropolitan Initiative is designed to frame metropolitan issues in contexts that matter and provide relevant information, appropriate tools, and focused expertise to local, regional, and state stakeholders. A key component of the MMI is its online information system to provide access to the wide body of knowledge and information being developed as metropolitan policy science by the MMI and other research initiatives. This searchable resource for local decision makers will be modeled on systems widely used by federal data-rich organizations including USEPA, NASA, NIH, and others

The Michigan Higher Education Land Policy Consortium (MIHELP), headquartered at Michigan State University's Land Policy Institute, is the only multi-institutional, multi-disciplinary, public-private consortium in the United States focusing on metropolitan land use. Drawing on more than 200 academics at three institutions – Michigan State University, Wayne State University, and Grand Valley State University, plus the re-

sources of public sector consultants, MIHELP and its component initiatives are uniquely positioned to impact public policy, applied research, and cross-curricular development while being both robust and flexible enough to respond to the ever-changing needs of stakeholders, not-for-profit institutions, and local units of government.

## **The Need for Setting New Parameters: A Hopeful Outcome**

### ***The Need for Review***

After two years, both the MMI and MIHELP Consortium have an opportunity to review the work they have completed and the areas, policies, and thinking they have influenced. In 2005, the Kellogg Foundation granted \$400,000 dollars over two years for various research and outreach initiatives, and MIHELP has put the money to use in a variety of areas. After two years, the time has come to set new parameters for the future of those projects, and move their results into the daylight, so to speak.

To that end, the MIHELP Consortium will hold a conference in September of 2007. The “National Symposium on Metropolitan Policy Science” (tentative title) will take place over a single day, but will succeed in putting a capstone in the arch of the organization’s work over the last two years. Without such a conference, the project has the chance of a certain type of failure: that the research done might not reach the practitioners and policy makers who most need informed and honest data regarding the areas they wish to improve. Without the conference, these projects and others risk duplication and a stagnation of ideas. The work has been done, but the tone still needs to be set.

While the generosity of the Kellogg Foundation has assured that a small part of this conference will already be funded, the MIHELP Consortium and the MMI require that another granting organization heed the call to supply funding for a gathering of influential leaders and academics. The opportunity posed in this request is one that the granting agency will find most salient in terms of the broad effects. Simply by supplying the funds for a single-day conference, the granting organization will be unlocking the doors to years of important discoveries, millions of dollars of research, and countless hours of effort.

### ***The Need for Networks***

As a part of the MIHELP Consortium’s commitment to transparency and quality in its work, periodic reviews of the project are not only a requirement, but an excellent way to ensure that the MIHELP Consortium is having an impact inside and outside of Michigan. The National Symposium on Metropolitan Policy Science will be an important nexus for academics, stakeholders, and policy makers to review and evaluate the work already completed, and focus on what work needs still needs to be done.

By using the forum of a conference for the disclosure and discovery of best practices, the MIHELP Consortium will encourage networking between the members of the Consortium and influential scholars and policy

makers. This conference will energize those in the positions to affect the most change, as well as those doing the day-to-day groundwork in local politics, academic organizations, and local businesses. By funneling interested parties and like-minded people with similar goals into the same area on the same day, the conference will allow for the comparison of goals, sharing of ideas, and for the creation of a professional familiarity.

### ***The Need for Data Auditing***

This conference is designed to provide groundbreaking policy research on the role of federal agencies and their impacts on sprawl, research on new dimensions in intergovernmental (federal, state, local) cooperative relationships, and innovative techniques in the proper stewardship of natural resources and farmland. Additionally, this conference will integrate international best practices from the perspective of the practitioner and stakeholder, as well as those brought forth in academic presentations. This blend of applied research, theory, practice, and outreach will help in the core goals of both the Michigan Metropolitan Initiative and the programs involved: fostering economic development and protection of the environment and enhancing the quality of life.

## **Before the Conference**

### ***Arrangements***

The conference will receive attendees from all over the country; to that end, the facility chosen will need to be large enough for workshops, paper presentations, and reception activities. A conference of this size will require a good deal of preparation, and to that end, the Land Policy Institute will direct and plan the conference.

Michigan's major metropolitan zone of Detroit will serve as host to the conference attendees. Detroit is a city in need of dramatic repair and the unstated goal of the conference is an evaluation of areas of practical improvement for Detroit. While a site has not been selected at this point, the major candidate sites include the Renaissance Center, the Marriot attached to the Center, and the Detroit Athletic Club.

Portion of Budget: \$5,000

### ***Advertising***

Part of the grant money necessary for holding the conference will go to advertising the \$1,000 honorarium given to the presenters of selected papers, and soliciting submissions from academics at nationally-recognized institutions of learning.

Paper proposals will be selected based on how well they address the following criteria:

1. Research directed to pressing problems facing Michigan metropolitan communities.

2. Methodological soundness encompassing quantitative, qualitative or case study research.
3. Contribution to knowledge about metropolitan studies.
4. Clarity and quality of writing.
5. Implications for policy solutions in Michigan.
6. Requirement to present paper at Michigan Metropolitan Seminar Series.

The conference will also be generally advertised in publications dealing with metropolitan land-use issues. These targeted advertisements will seek to attract a national audience. Candidate magazines include Urban Planning Magazine and the Financial Times.

Portion of Budget: \$5,000 (advertising), \$,7000 (honorarium)

### ***A Banquet for Networking***

Prior to the conference, the organizers will retain the services of a catering service. While not a part of the general conference itinerary, the dinner will be an exclusive event for the paper presenters, speakers, board members of the MIHELP Consortium, board members of the granting organizations, and other special guests. The primary goal of the banquet will be framing the tone of the conference and networking between interested parties.

Portion of Budget: \$2,500

## **The Day of the Conference**

### ***The Presentation of Papers***

The aforementioned call for papers has gone out with the deadline of December 15th, 2006. These papers will be reviewed by a board of the MIHELP editors. Winning writers will present six to eight original papers related to the MIHELP Consortium and the MMI's practices at the conference, and organizers may present some papers from previous summits. This will be the heart of the conference, as the discussion portion and disclosure of findings will testify not only to the successes of the MIHELP Consortium and MMI, but will also explore their failings. From these presentations, it will be possible to determine future funding for certain areas (which have been successful or show potential for success), and the termination of funding for project areas that have fulfilled their goals or have failed.

These papers will address three main themes: economic prosperity in Michigan metropolitan communities (with regard to infrastructure, technology, sprawl, etc.); environmental stewardship in Michigan metropolitan communities (with regard to preservation, redevelopment, land use, etc.); and social well-being in Michigan metropolitan communities (with regard to housing, gentrification, talent retention, etc.).

A goal of the conference is to attract distinguished and dynamic leaders of unquestioned intellectual ability to participate in a groundbreaking and candid series of discussions which would help define the future of metropolitan land use issues for state policy makers and local government officials. As with previous conferences, this portion will open up a sharing of best practices, and a dialogue on the search for truth. Individual papers will be discussed in workshop meetings and in disclosure sessions; others will be presented as case studies to educate attendees. New technological components and prospects will be evaluated.

Because the conference hopes to attract a good number of academics and policy makers, the audience should be made up of individuals who understand the rhetoric of land policy, and to that end, the papers will have a receptive and knowledgeable audience eager to contribute to and learn from the presentations.

### ***The Field Component***

Depending on the nature of the papers submitted, the conference will take advantage of its location, using funds to schedule a bus tour of sites relevant to presentations. With 80% of Michigan's residents living in urban areas, the MIHELP Consortium's geographical interests are very broad. Linked with the 2007 Transatlantic Conference (tentatively titled) on Comparative Land Use Issues and Solutions (with Pennsylvania State University and Ohio State University), the conference will have attendees from outside of the state and from outside of the country. By touring areas either improved by the MMI or areas in need of improvement, conference attendees will have a first hand understanding of the reality facing Michigan's cities.

Without the field component, the conference remains entirely an exercise in theory and academic presentation. The field component is a necessary undertaking for the sake of transferring the ideas generated by the conference into the real world. It will furthermore allow for demonstrations of technological innovations potentially presented at the conference, including the use of government cell phones, GPS modeling, and podcast tours.

### ***Nationally Recognized Speaker***

At the Planning for Prosperity Summit in 2006, over five hundred academics and policy makers gathered to review papers and discuss the future of metropolitan land systems. Eliciting a large turnout was a presentation by Governor Parris Glendening of Maryland. His presentation and discussion with conference attendees not only garnered attention and publicity for the conference, but it also had the effect of ending the affair on a high note.

While a good deal of the requested grant funds will go to securing and compensating two nationally recognized speakers, it will be well-worth it. One of the main goals of the National Symposium on Metropolitan Policy Science is to draw publicity for the work of the MMI and the MIHELP Consortium. The draw of a na-

tional figure will allow for a higher rate for entrance to the conference, which will aid the goal of the conference to be partially self-sustaining.

While we are currently approaching several figures to speak, Governor Glendenning as well as Joseph T. Howell, author of *Hard Living on Clay Street*, are both prominent possibilities. The speaker's qualifications will necessarily relate to metropolitan policy. In addition to the nationally-recognized speaker, Jennifer Granholm, Governor of Michigan, will most likely be invited to address conference attendees. Also expected to be in attendance is Lou Anna K. Simon, President of Michigan State University.

Portion of Budget: \$5,000 (Speaking fees, each), \$3,000 (Travel expenses, each)

### ***The Intended Audience***

The conference hopes to attract at minimum one hundred and fifty academics, stakeholders, and policy makers. While national academics will certainly be in attendance, the majority should be (and most likely will be) from the Midwest. This number reflects past conference attendance but has also been factored in when considering the level of funding that should come from charging for admittance to the conference.

### **Following the Conference**

The winning papers presented at the conference will be published by the Michigan State University Press, in a book tentatively titled *Metropolitan Affairs in Michigan: Case Studies and Best Practices*. The intended result of this production is the proliferation of data collected and analyzed at the conference. The publication of these ideas is a step toward ensuring that they are available to other states and indeed, other countries, and is central to the sharing of best practices.

The MIHELP Consortium and the MMI will work to maintain the networks formed at the conference, using its new ties with qualified and motivated individuals to improve conditions in Michigan's metropolitan areas and beyond.

All that remains following the publication of papers and the formation of networks is the actual application of the new parameters developed at the conference.

### **Qualifications of Individuals Involved**

The consortium is led by Dr. Adesoji Adelaja, John A. Hannah Distinguished Professor in Land Policy, the principal investigator for this proposal. Dr. Adelaja is a renowned team builder who is widely recognized for his ability to direct faculty expertise toward pressing issues facing government and industry and for developing and managing numerous university-public partnerships that directly impact public policy, both nationally and internationally. Dr. Adelaja is also the Director of the widely acclaimed People and Land Initiative in Michigan.

Bill Rustem, President of Public Sector Consultants, served as Chief of Staff to former governor Milliken, and is a recognized leader in the policy arena in Michigan. He is co-director of the People and Land Initiative in Michigan. Both Gary Sands and Richard Jelier of Wayne State University and Grand Valley State University, respectively, are recognized academics in the metropolitan policy arena in Michigan and beyond and are the co-investigators for this proposal. This leadership team will coordinate the organizational effort that this proposal calls for, with the goal of creating a one of a kind connective infrastructure that furthers metropolitan affairs research and outreach.

## Budget

Through contributions by the W. K. Kellogg Foundation, \$9,000 has already been secured for the conference. We expect to procure an additional \$7,000 through conference attendees, in addition to privately raising \$9,000 from sponsorships for a total of \$25,000. The additional funding requested in this proposal will flesh out the conference in terms of speakers and events.

### NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON METROPOLITAN POLICY SCIENCE BUDGET

#### Travel

Travel/Room and Board	2 people each at 3000	6000
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#### Communications

Advertising		2500
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#### Line Item

Honorarium for Winning Papers	7 people each at 1000	7000
Honorarium for Speakers	2 people each at 5000	10000
Banquet		2500

#### Total

28000