



NEWS RELEASE

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HOUSING AUTHORITY ANNOUNCES FREE BUSINESS TRAINING TO CONTRACTORS AND SUBCONTRACTORS IN THE GREATER PONTIAC AREA.

Pontiac – A free Contractor’s Assistance Program (CAP) will be offered in the greater Pontiac area the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) and the city of Pontiac announced today. The 40-hour training session will be offered by the CAP East office and is free of charge to those who qualify. The deadline to enroll is December 14 and the toll free contact number to call is 800-820-7662.

“As mayor of the great city of Pontiac, we like to thank MSHDA for their support in bringing the CAP program to the city of Pontiac and to the aid of our local contractors,” said Pontiac Mayor Clarence E. Phillips “CAP is just another one of the great programs that has been offered and taken advantage of since Pontiac became a City of Promise through the Governor's Initiative”.

To qualify for CAP, participants must be a contractor or subcontractor, with outreach to minority and/or female contractors, with at least two years experience in their trade and have current annual sales of less than \$2.5 million and net worth less than \$1 million. A specific license is not required for enrollment.

The deadline for applying is December 14, 2007. The 40-hour training program runs for 6 consecutive weeks, twice per week, on Tuesdays and Thursdays evenings, beginning January 15, 2008 through February 21, 2008. The Pontiac classroom location will be announced by the CAP East office prior to the starting date.

CAP provides business skills training and business development support to eligible/qualified contractors. Industries that would benefit from the course are electrical, drywall, plumbing, landscaping,

flooring/tiling, paint and other construction-related trades. The topics to be covered in the sessions are as follows:

- Bidding and estimating
- Bonding and Insurance
- Bookkeeping
- Financing
- Legal Issues
- Scheduling
- Wage and Labor Issues
- Permits and Equipment
- Project Coordination
- Business Planning, and Marketing

Professionals from business development, the construction industry, government, financial and legal fields will provide instruction; participants will also be provided the opportunity to network with other CAP participants. Applications can be obtained from the Pontiac Growth Group Office (contact Carla Carmouche at 248-758-3906) or contact Lawrence Jackson, the CAP East Coordinator at 800-820-7662 or e-mail mshdcapeast@prodigy.net .

MSHDA is a quasi-state agency that provides financial and technical assistance through public and private partnerships to create and preserve safe and decent affordable housing, engage in community economic development activities, and address homeless issues. MSHDA's loans and operating expenses are financed through the sale of tax-exempt and taxable bonds and notes to private investors, not from state tax revenues. For more information on MSHDA programs and initiatives, visit the Web site at www.michigan.gov/mshda.