



# CENTER FOR COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## About CCED

For over 50 years, the MSU Center for Community and Economic Development (CCED) has designed, implemented, and evaluated innovative community-based solutions to local problems through responsive engagement, strategic partnerships, and collaborative learning. This innovative approach served as the national model for university-community partnerships established by the Community Outreach Partnership Act. Over 150 university-community partnerships were supported through this federal program.

The Center for Community and Economic Development is an academic unit housed in the MSU Office of University Outreach and Engagement.

## Building Prosperity Through Innovative Development

The CCED, in partnership with on- and off-campus partners, seeks to:

- create and nurture collaborative environments to support innovative learning in community and economic development;
- provide training and direct assistance to increase the knowledge-based skills of community-based organizations, private enterprises, and public institutions;
- conduct and facilitate cutting-edge research to assist the development and implementation of effective problem-solving strategies;
- deploy multidisciplinary university capacity to respond to the complex and interrelated problems of distressed communities; and
- promote and expand the university's capacity to provide training, direct assistance, and research that effectively addresses critical community challenges.

With its Lansing office on Michigan Avenue, CCED has renewed and deepened its commitment to innovative community development. Located approximately midway between the State Capitol and the MSU East Lansing campus, the East Michigan Avenue location symbolizes a bold university-community nexus borne of award-winning performance in the past and strategic imperatives designed for the sustainable prosperity of Michigan communities in the future.

## Mission

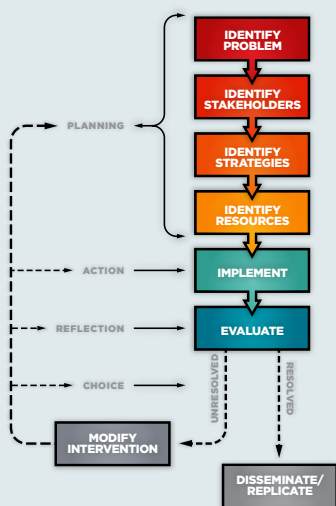
The Center for Community and Economic Development is committed to creating, applying, and disseminating valued knowledge through responsive engagement, strategic partnerships, and collaborative learning. We are dedicated to working with communities to co-create sustainable prosperity and equitable economies.

## Principles of Community Development

The Center for Community and Economic Development embraces the following *Principles of Good Practice* adopted from the Community Development Society<sup>1</sup>:

- Co-Learning
- Collaboration
- Community-Driven Practice
- Community Power
- Dignity within Diversity
- Economic Autonomy
- Social Justice
- Sustainability

## Community Development Problem-Solving



## Current CCED Initiatives

### University Center for Regional Economic Innovation (REI)

The University Center for Regional and Economic Innovation (REI) was created in 2011 by the MSU Center for Community and Economic Development (CCED) and funded by the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA).

Since its establishment, REI has built a network of community and economic development stakeholders, including economic development practitioners, higher education institutions, private- and public-sector leaders, workforce development boards, community action agencies, public utilities, commercial lenders, and EDA Economic Development Districts. This network assists in producing economic development strategies to create high growth entrepreneurship and jobs in distressed regions of Michigan.

The center actively draws upon resources and expertise from within MSU and other Michigan colleges and universities. It also leverages the experience and assets from economic development organizations. REI's Co-Learning and Innovation Fellow projects draw upon the aggregate knowledge and experience of practitioners, scholars, and leaders to create actionable knowledge and design innovative development strategies.

REI leverages four pillars of focus in co-creating with partners:

- Resiliency Planning
- Financial Resiliency
- 21st-Century Communications Infrastructure
- Circular Economies

These strategies come to fruition in three project types: Co-Learning Plans; Student-Led, Faculty-Guided Technical Assistance; and Innovation Fellows.

Each year, REI hosts the Innovate Michigan! Summit highlighting tools, models, policies, and programs that can create a more equitable economic environment in Michigan.

**For more information:**  
[reicenter.org](http://reicenter.org)

## CCED Lansing Initiatives

### Lansing Community Engagement Specialist

CCED's community engagement specialist, Dr. Kevin Brooks, is at the forefront of MSU's proactive strategy in the Greater Lansing region, focusing on neighborhood, community, and economic development. Brooks joined CCED in the spring of 2025 and is engaging non-profit organizations, community and neighborhood organizations, government agencies, preK-12 school districts, and private for-profit organizations to facilitate community-university partnerships.

### Urban Community Engagement Fellows Program

The Urban Community Engagement Fellows (UCEF) Program is a joint initiative of MSU's Graduate School and the Office of University Outreach and Engagement. UCEF pairs a multidisciplinary team of MSU graduate students with Lansing-area community partners to envision and sustain collaborative community-identified projects. Currently, UCEF works with communities in Southwest Lansing.

### Thinkers and Doers

The bi-annual CCED Thinkers and Doers event is a time for practitioners and engaged citizens in the Eastside Lansing community to come together with MSU faculty and economic development practitioners to discuss issues of concern. These informal forums provide an opportunity for scholars and practitioners to share their perspectives on contemporary challenges and opportunities of interest to residents and businesses.

**For more information:**  
[ced.msu.edu/cced-lansing](http://ced.msu.edu/cced-lansing)

## CCED Flint Initiatives

Having established its office presence in Flint in 2014, CCED Flint is dedicated to working with Michigan communities to improve the quality of life through research and innovative strategies. We achieve this mission in the following ways.

### MSU and Community Partnerships

CCED helps bring science and community wisdom to bear on

critical, community-defined issues. Currently these initiatives include:

- the creation of an equitable and sustainable regional food system;
- responding to the Flint water crisis and historical trauma; and
- supporting the College of Human Medicine's Flint Registry long-term health initiative for Flint children coping with lead poisoning.

### Neighborhoods Without Borders

Neighborhoods Without Borders (NWB) is a community-based network that uses an asset-based approach to work on critical issues that improve the overall quality of life in Flint neighborhoods. Facilitated by a core team that includes CCED Flint staff members and grassroots organizations, NWB brings people from all sectors together using Strategic Doing, a process which enables people to form agile collaborations, take quick action toward measurable outcomes, and make adjustments along the way.

**For more information:** [ced.msu.edu/programs/cced-flint](http://ced.msu.edu/programs/cced-flint)

## Project in Brief

### Domicology

Domicology is a new concept describing the built environment and the life cycle of structures. The field of domiciology seeks to eliminate the current landfill-dependent structural demolition waste stream and to reimagine the built environment, recognizing that structures have a useful life cycle and at the end of a structure's life we maximize the equitable use, reuse, or recycling of the materials. Domicology seeks to identify sustainable and innovative tools, models, policies, practices, and programs to eliminate abandonment; develop human-resource training models for the industry; and research present technical, economic, and policy challenges in structural abandonment while seeking to reduce the negative social, economic, and environmental impacts.

**For more information:**  
[domicology.msu.edu](http://domicology.msu.edu)

**ced.msu.edu**



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<sup>1</sup><https://cdsociety.org/about/#aboutprinciples>