

## Citizens Bank Growing Communities Micro-Grant Program

Citizens Bank and the Michigan Economic Development Corporation are proud to announce a new round of the Growing Communities Initiative. To date, the Growing Communities initiative has invested \$450,000 in the Eastern Market Corporation and the Detroit Community Market Network for neighborhood revitalization through small business development.

Through Growing Communities, enterprises with a connection to Eastern Market, the Detroit Community Market Network or urban growers in Detroit, Highland Park and Hamtramck can apply for business enhancements including signage, custom stands, equipment and land.

### Who is Eligible (A-E)?

- A. Businesses that sell in the Sheds at Eastern Market
  - Business must be current in rent and other obligations
  - Have completed one complete season at a Eastern Market
- B. Eastern Market District Businesses (bricks and mortar retail, wholesale or production facilities)
  - Business must own or lease a facility in the district bound by Mack Avenue, Service Street, I-75 and St. Aubin
- C. Businesses that sell at one of the Detroit Community Markets
  - See [www.detroitmarkets.org](http://www.detroitmarkets.org) for a complete list
  - Have completed one complete season at a neighborhood market
- D. Detroit Kitchen Connect Participants
  - Business must be current in rent and other obligations
- E. Urban Growers
  - Operate on land owned outright or secured by a permit or lease in Detroit, Hamtramck or Highland Park
  - Completion of an approved partners training program (Urban Roots, EarthWorks Agriculture Training Program, DBCFSN internship programs, Market Garden Training Program, Greening of Detroit Agriculture Apprenticeship Program or other comparable program.)

### What Can I Apply for (pick 1-3)?

#### 1. Equipment

Merchants in the district and vendors at the Eastern Market are eligible to apply for specialized equipment that will increase their current capacity. Grants can be used for equipment that will be used at their business or directly at a market. Equipment proposals will be considered up to a maximum of \$5,000. Proposals must include a complete budget with prices and general information/cut sheets on the specific equipment and explanation on how it will improve capacity.

**Who is Eligible? (A, B, C, D, E)**

#### 2. Land

Individuals or groups are eligible to apply for up to \$3,000 of assistance to help purchase land for growing vegetables, fruit or flowers in Detroit, Highland Park or Hamtramck.

**Who is Eligible? (E)**

#### 3. District Business Signage, Canopies or Lighting

Businesses operating in the Eastern Market District are eligible to apply for up to \$5,000 of assistance for the creation and installation of new signage, canopies and/or lighting.

**Who is Eligible? (B)**

## The Fine Print

Grants are awarded as a reimbursement. If selected, the grantee will receive a contract, detailing the amount of the grant awarded and obligations, to sign. Once the contract is returned to EMC, grantee can purchase equipment, land, etc. Once equipment has arrived (and assembled/planted/constructed, if necessary), grantee can submit for reimbursement (reimbursement checks are typically turned around within two weeks). Receipts, proof of delivery and photographs are required. Grantees will have until Friday, April 15, 2016 to submit for reimbursement. Grantees will receive a Form 1099-Misc. from Eastern Market for the amount of the grant. Please consult your tax professional if you have any questions.

- **At the end of the grant cycle, all grantees are required to complete and submit a final program evaluation that explains how the Growing Communities Grant has helped your business or farm.**
- **The form will come directly from EMC and grantees will have 2 weeks to fill it out and return it.**
- **Failure to complete evaluation results in an automatic disqualification from any future grant programs.**

## The Very Important Print

### Application Deadline:

Applications are due by **4pm on: Friday, August 21, 2015**

**\*Completed applications must be mailed or hand-delivered.**

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EMC is open from 8am-4pm Monday-Saturday.  
**Faxed or emailed applications will NOT be accepted.**

Questions? [rfogelman@easternmarket.com](mailto:rfogelman@easternmarket.com)