

## Detroit, Michigan Renewal Community

ID	Renewal Community Name	OLAS#	Population	Sq Miles	Poverty	Unemployment	Low-Income Households
30	Detroit, MI	MI0006	191,065	25	40%	25%	73%

The City of Detroit received a Round I Empowerment Zone designation and now has one of HUD's 40 Renewal Community designations also. The Detroit RC created a Course of Action that explains how the City as well as the State of Michigan will work with community-based organizations to reduce burdens and to improve services for the RC residents and businesses. The major goals of the Detroit RC, as spelled out in the Course of Action, are as follows:

**Reducing Tax Rates.** Detroit began a scheduled reduction in income tax rates that affect income tax liabilities of resident and non-resident taxpayers including commercial, industrial and other business operations within the City. This scheduled rate reduction will lower the City's income tax rate covering a period of 10 years that began on January 1, 1999. Also, the RC has received designation as a State of Michigan Renaissance Zone. In such Zones, most state and local taxes are waived for a specific period.

**Increasing Local Services.** The City, in conjunction with Neighborhoods First, a community organization within the RC, has embarked on an innovative program to increase services and reduce crime. The Neighborhood First project is an effort by the Mayor's Office to better address the neighborhood and community issues affecting city residents. The project has enabled the City of Detroit to provide greater attention to improving infrastructure, code enforcement, community services, and provide neighborhood development assistance to the Neighborhood First project area, which includes the RC.

**Reducing Crime.** The implementation of crime-reducing initiatives is an integral part of the Detroit Police Department's strategy. The *Comprehensive Community Police Strategy* was designed to improve the overall quality of life for Detroit citizens, including those within the RC, through a meaningful reduction in the level of fear of crime, as well as fostering community involvement and neighborhood cohesion. This *Strategy* includes the following programs, as well as others, to promote its efforts: Gun Safety Program; Domestic Violence Unit; Neighborhood Watch; Junior Police Cadets; and the Grill and Chill Program.

**Reducing Government Requirements.** The City of Detroit and the State of Michigan have been pursuing significant efforts in this direction to provide assistance to areas that include the RC. These efforts include the following:

- The three Renaissance Zones in the area feature state and local taxes that are completely waived.
- The City's Buildings & Safety and Engineering Department has pursued an effort to streamline its permitting processes, especially for development in the I-94 Renaissance Zone and nearby industrial areas.
- The City Planning Commission, the planning arm of the City Council, is pursuing a comprehensive revision of the zoning ordinances. When completed, this revision will significantly reduce the time and burden involved in identifying and complying with zoning ordinances. This comprehensive revision will affect all businesses, residences, and organizations, including home-based schools and child-care centers.