



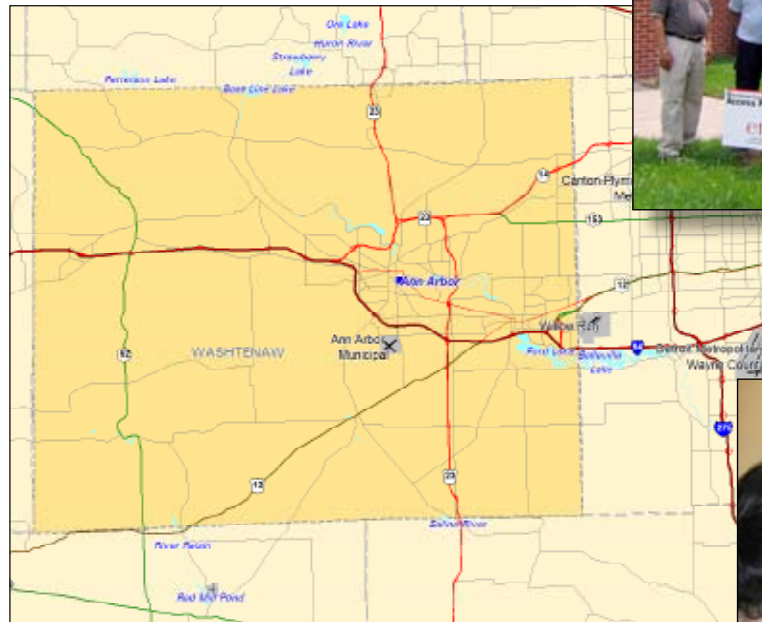
- Increasing the number of people served by the one-stop system.
- Increasing supportive services made available to customers through community partners.
- Building relationships among community partners.
- Creating positive publicity for the one-stop system.

To learn more about the ETCS Access Points program or to become a part of the team, contact:

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Proud pastors at Mt. Hermon Missionary Baptist Access Point.



Map of Washtenaw County area.



Ypsilanti Public Library Access Point.

Access Points

Aid In Milan
Ann Arbor District Library
(five branches)
Brown Chapel A.M.E. Church
Community Church of God
Eternal Rock of Ann Arbor
Faith In Action
Greater Shiloh Church of God
in Christ
Jewish Family Services

Manchester Community Resource-
Center
Mt. Hermon Missionary
Baptist Church
Mt. Olive Baptist Church
New Covenant Missionary
Baptist Church
New Creed Missionary Baptist Church
New Testament Baptist Church

Northfield Human Services -
People's Express
POWER, Inc.
St. John Baptist Church
St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church
Second Baptist Church
SOS Community Service
Ypsilanti District Library
(two branches)



Expanding the Talent Pool by Expanding Access to Services

Washtenaw County Leads the Nation in Establishing Access Points

In Washtenaw County-Faith and Community-Based Organizations have joined forces with Employment Training and Community Services (ETCS)/WASHTENAW COUNTY MICHIGAN WORKS! to create Access Points that greatly expand resident access to information about employment and training opportunities, as well as community services to address basic needs. No other community in the country has embraced the Access Points concept more than Washtenaw County. Since 2005, the U.S. Department of Labor's (US-DOL) Employment & Training Administration has been helping states implement both Access



Faith in Action Access Point in Chelsea, MI.

Points and Web- Based Resource Directory projects to expand access to workforce development services. This involves development of SHARE Networks (Sharing How Access to Resources Empowers). The SHARE Network is part of US-DOL's Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives that seeks to empower faith-based and community organizations (FBCO) as these organiza-

tions help their neighbors enter, succeed and thrive in the workforce.

Description

To date, more than two dozen Access Points have been established in Washtenaw County to help community residents learn about and gain access to a variety of employment, training, and community services. Access Points are satellite offices located in churches and other community locations that are outfitted with computers linked to a streamlined menu of services/information and staffed by trained volunteers. In the past access to this type of information was only available at the county's Michigan Works! One-Stop Service Center.



Ambassador Greg Jones at his Access Point in Ypsilanti, MI.



In Washtenaw County the groundwork had been laid to make it fertile ground for this effort. Access Points is a component of Commitment to Change (C2C) that ETCS developed as a faith-based driven partnership committed to addressing quality-of-life issues and pursuing community and economic development opportunities that are vital to ETCS partners, stakeholders and residents of the community. The C2C initiative has received recognition from both other CAAs and Michigan's Governor. Locally, C2C also looks to improve literacy, assist with prisoner re-entry and neighborhood economic development.

This group together with a variety of other churches, community service organizations and public libraries across the county stepped forward to try to better serve the community by making these services more accessible to residents in both rural and urban areas of the county.

A Memorandum of Understanding is used to describe the relationship between ETCS and partner organizations, as well as services to be provided. Each location is given a computer



Access Points Annual meeting.

for use with Access Points. The computer becomes the partner organization's property. A spreadsheet is maintained with complete contact information from each partner, along with the beginning and ending dates for each MOU.



Ambassadors hard at work.

(The Access Points are very much a team sport. An ETCS team conducts training for volunteer ambassadors who are designated to coordinate services at their respective Access Point location. This includes guidance on how to electronically access information on services that can help residents with job search, resume writing, education and training opportunities, and basic needs. Material about ETCS programs is also made available at each site.



Access Points Ambassadors finds 100 new jobs!

All Access Point sites are open for a minimum of two hours per week. Some like community agencies are open full time. A number of the churches have volunteers available on Sundays following church services. Activity at each site is tracked via sign-in sheets and a sign with an Access Point logo is displayed at each location to help create an identity for the project.

ETCS Access Point partners are referred to as SNAP (SHARE Network Access Point) organizations since the project is also part of SHARE Network Michigan that serves as a unique resource to help customers become self-sufficient. This includes a web site with an Advanced Search feature to help identify important resources that can address resident needs. The Share network is a state-wide push to bring faith-based and community organizations and one-stop centers (MI Works!) together.

Results

In just over a year, more than 24 faith-based and community organizations are serving as Access Point locations in Washtenaw County. The first series of MOU's were established between December 2006 and December 2007. Efforts are also underway to link the project with the overall database being developed by ETCS to delineate the types of assistance offered to residents through Access Points.

According to USDOL's Bridging the Gap Report, Access Points benefit communities and the residents they serve by:

- Increasing in the number of faith-based and community organizations participating in the one-stop system and the number of service points.
- Offering neighborhood-based locations.
- Providing one-on-one and specialized assistance at the mini-career centers for customers with service barriers; where otherwise they might feel uncomfortable at the full-service one-stop center. This includes those who have limited English proficiency.
- Helping customers who would not get to the one-stop system.



USDOL and MI Dept of Labor & Econ Growth Officials.