



A Michigan Works! & Community Action Agency

For Immediate Release: April 18, 2007

News Release

Contact: Martha Welsh 734.253.6009

Washtenaw Residents Gain New Access to Employment and Community Services Signs Point the Way to New Access Points

Ypsilanti, MI -- More than 10 faith and community-based organizations throughout Washtenaw County have become Access Points for a variety of employment, training and community services that were formerly only available at Washtenaw County's Michigan Works! Service Center at 304 Harriet Street in Ypsilanti.

"We hope residents will soon realize that when they see one of the new "Access Point" signs, that access to a variety of Michigan Works! services is a mouse click away," said Trenda Rusher, Executive Director of Washtenaw County etcs which directs Michigan Works! and community action programs in the county.

Rusher points out that for a variety of reasons many residents never access the programs and services at the Michigan Works! One Stop center in Ypsilanti.

"Many people don't even know we are there, or if they do, the center is too far away or difficult for them to get to," said Rusher. "This program is part of our effort to reach out to the community by working with faith-based and community partners to provide services more conveniently and locally."

Access Points are mini 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. To date, more than 30 volunteers have gone through the Access Point training. Among the information and services that residents can obtain via an Access Point are access to online resources to help in their job search; assistance with resume writing; and information about education and training opportunities.

The Access Points now open include:

Table with 3 columns: Organization Name, Address, and Phone Number. Lists various community service locations like Jewish Family Services, POWER, Inc., and various churches.

(more)

Organizations or churches interested in learning more about the program or becoming an Access Point can contact at Yvonne Taylor at 734.544.6855 or go on line to <http://etcs.ewashtenaw.org> or <http://www.sharenetworkusa.org/sharenetworkmi.org>.



*etcs* is a multi-service organization that strives to bridge the activities between community economic development and workforce development.

###

*Note: Access Point signs like the one pictured are expected to be installed over the next couple of weeks.*