

**Michigan Promise Zones Association
C/O Michigan College Access Network
200 North Washington Square, Suite 420
Lansing, Michigan 48933**

Ms. Lottie Ferguson
Chair
Flint Promise Zone Authority
519 S. Saginaw St. Suite 200
Flint, Michigan 48502

Dear Lottie:

I am writing on behalf of the Michigan Promise Zone Association (MPZA) to invite the Flint Promise Zone Authority to become a member of the Association. The MPZA, first formed in November of 2016, currently represents 12 of the 13 operating Promise Zones in Michigan. The Association is an affiliate of the Michigan College Access Network which provides the MPZA with financial and logistical support in addition to giving us a physical presence in Lansing.

The MPZA is led by a board made up of one representative from each of the member Promise Zones. The board meets quarterly with a four person Executive Committee providing leadership between these four meetings.

The Association is committed to enhancing cooperation and collaboration among the Promise Zones. While our activities change from year to year, there are several areas we address consistently.

Advocacy—The Association organizes the Promise Zones to participate in MCAN's College Access related advocacy work including participating in its Advocacy Day at the Capitol each spring.

Professional Development—The Association organizes workshops on relevant topics that provide Promise Zone leaders and staff the opportunity to learn from each other and from outside experts on key topics including fund development, communications and student success programming.

Common Data Management—Most of the Promise Zones have chosen to use Salesforce as their data management platform which has allowed them to share costs and to develop capabilities that are unique to the needs of the Zones.

Shared Consulting—The MPZA provides consulting services to the Promise Zones through its own staff and through the employment of outside consultants to assist both individual Zones and collaborative projects among Zones.

The MPZA's activities are funded through a combination of membership dues and an annual operating grant provided by MCAN through its state appropriation. The dues for our current fiscal year are set through a formula. Zones pay either \$2,000 per year or 2% of the tax capture they received in the fall of 2020, whichever is less. This formula is designed to cushion Zones that are not yet enjoying robust tax capture. New Promise Zones that have not yet realized their first tax capture are asked to pay dues of \$1,000 per year until their tax capture begins.

The MPZA's practice has been to invite Promise Zones that are considering membership to participate in any of our group activities in the interim. I will make sure that you will be kept aware of such activities over the coming weeks.

Our members are aware to the great work that led to creation of the Flint Promise and look forward to meeting you and other members of your Promise Zone Authority. If you or your board members have any questions about the Association that I can address I would be glad to do so. I can be reached at cwilbur@publicpolicy.com or at 517-881-2689.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Chuck

Chuck Wilbur
Executive Director
Michigan Promise Zones Association

Cc: James Avery