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## News Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### ***GENESEE COUNTY LAND BANK KICKS OFF \$12 MILLION HARDEST HIT FUND DEMOLITION PROGRAM***

**FLINT, MI** - In 2015, the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) awarded the Genesee County Land Bank (GCLB) an additional \$12 million in Hardest Hit Fund (HHF) dollars for demolitions in the City of Flint. This new funding will enable the GCLB to continue the largest blight elimination effort ever to take place in the City of Flint. From 2013 to 2015, the GCLB demolished a total of 1,954 blighted structures in the City of Flint using more than \$25.7 million in grant funds from the state and federal government. The GCLB will demolish approximately 900 more blighted, publicly-owned houses with this new funding. "We are pleased to continue this massive blight elimination effort in the City. Demolishing blighted houses will help to stabilize and restore neighborhoods throughout the City" said GCLB Board Chair, Deborah Cherry. The demolition process is already underway starting with inspections and utility cuts. A Demolition Contractor Workshop will take place today, January 11<sup>th</sup> from 3:30 – 5:00 pm at Genesee County Community Action Resource Department (GCCARD).

A searchable list, map and demolition schedule for the first 838 properties to be demolished under this new round of HHF funding are now available online at <http://www.thelandbank.org/blightfree.asp>. As funding permits, additional properties will be added to this list in the spring of 2016.

Demolishing approximately 900 additional blighted structures will help to stem the cycle of decline in neighborhoods. However, it will not rid all neighborhoods of blight. Last November the Land Bank identified 1,055 houses in structurally

deficient condition, according to the City of Flint Housing Condition Assessment and Land Bank inspections, located in HHF areas, and owned by the Treasurer or the GCLB. The list of 1,055 properties was narrowed down to 838 using the City of Flint's Blight Elimination Framework criteria based on Imagine Flint Master Plan place types. According to the framework, traditional neighborhoods, green neighborhoods, mixed residential areas, neighborhood centers, city corridors and university avenue core are the first priorities for demolition. Blighted houses in blocks with more residents living in existing homes were further prioritized for demolition. The GCLB continues to seek additional funding for approximately \$35 million in unfunded demolitions currently in its inventory.

The 2016 HHF program will kick-off with 124 emergency demolitions throughout HHF areas. The GCLB will work through the city neighborhood by neighborhood to demolish the remaining 714 properties. Updates to the demolition list and schedule will be posted on the Land Bank's website.

### **About HHF**

The HHF was established in 2010 with \$7.6 billion awarded to 18 states and Washington, D.C. to fund foreclosure relief programs after the housing crisis. In all, Flint will receive a total of \$34.685 million in HHF grant dollars to demolish an estimated 2,706 blighted houses in the Flint area.

The U.S. Department of the Treasury's Hardest Hit Fund, part of the federal Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP), is designed to help homeowners in states hit hardest by the housing crisis. In 2013, Michigan designated \$100 million of its Hardest Hit Fund allocation for blight elimination activities in an effort to further prevent foreclosures and stabilize neighborhoods.

### **Genesee County Contractor Workshop**

The GCLB invites experienced and qualified demolition contractors to attend the Genesee County Land Bank Demolition Contractor's Workshop today, January 11<sup>th</sup> from 3:30 – 5:00 pm at Genesee County Community Action Resource Department (GCCARD) located at 601 N Saginaw St, Flint, MI 48502. Contractors who are interested in bidding on demolition or hazardous material abatement are required to attend.