

DETROIT InnovateGov



Department of Political Science
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF
SOCIAL SCIENCE



OUR SCIENCE **TRANSFORMS THE HUMAN EXPERIENCE**
AND INSPIRES LEADERS

THE CHALLENGE

In 2013, the City of Detroit became the largest US city ever to declare municipal bankruptcy.

Due to population loss and declining resources, the City of Detroit substantially reduced its local government workforce. These cuts resulted in severe erosion of basic public services that Detroit residents rely on for their daily lives - drinking water, policing, streetlights, and parks. Michigan State University social scientists have been studying the loss of local government capacity in the City of Detroit.

OUR COMMITMENT

We can contribute to Detroit's revitalization. InnovateGov prepares and delivers MSU's most vital resource - talented, diverse, and motivated students - to Detroit's civic institutions. Students are placed in local governments, community organizations and businesses. In addition to the contributions to the city, these students have the unique opportunity to do real and impactful work on social challenges.

IMPACT 2015 - 2019

In five years, over 165 InnovateGov fellows from multiple colleges and majors have provided leaders in over 40 Detroit civic organizations with the capacity and human capital necessary to tackle high-impact projects that touch every neighborhood in the city.

40+ CIVIC & GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

165+ MSU STUDENTS

INCLUSIVE ENGAGEMENT

We recruit and support *doers* - students may struggle in a traditional classroom environment and yet be extremely effective in their jobs. We prioritize diversity, inclusivity, and the recruitment and financial support of MSU Detroiters into InnovateGov.

56%	UNDERREPRESENTED RACIAL & ETHNIC MINORITY GROUPS
67%	FROM DETROIT METRO
40%	FROM DETROIT CITY LIMITS
22	DIFFERENT MAJORS

COMMUNITY IMPACT

SAVED 1000 FROM HOME FORECLOSURE

MSU students devised a process to assist over 1000 Wayne County residents in danger of home foreclosure. The students successfully arranged payment plans to cancel the foreclosure process.

DEVELOPED STRATEGIES TO ATTRACT AND RETAIN TEACHERS

MSU students presented strategies to the Detroit Public Schools Superintendent to attract and retain teaching talent.

IMPROVED THE 2020 CENSUS PROCESS

MSU students worked to prepare strategies for the 2020 census with Detroit's Department of Neighborhoods, ensuring that the City of Detroit is properly represented.

STRENGTHENED BUSINESS CONNECTIONS

MSU students launched an online system to connect businesses through the Detroit Economic Growth Corporation.

ERICA RALEIGH

Director of Data Driven Detroit

This program is wildly valuable, not only to MSU and its students, but also to the organizations in which the students are placed. For the students, they tackle real-world policy issues on the ground. For the participating organizations, hosting students creates an opportunity to see old problems from a new perspective and brings additional capacity to important projects.





STUDENT PROFILES

AYESHA MIAH (2016)

Ayesha, a 2018 Political Science graduate, was raised in Detroit's Bengali community, and worked for Detroit Future City while in InnovateGov. She spent the summer working on Detroit's urban footprint, and how to place Detroit as a leading city in sustainability during her junior year in 2016. In 2017 as a senior, Ayesha worked as the InnovateGov student coordinator, and in 2018 she was the partnership liaison for the program. Ayesha, a Challenge Detroit Fellow, recently accepted a full-time position as Project Coordinator for the Detroit Regional Partnership.

JOCELYN SAMPLE (2016)

Jocelyn, a Human Development and Family Studies major and Detroit native, worked at the Wayne County Treasury during her time in InnovateGov. In 2016, as a senior, she spent her summer walking door to door, helping residents who were behind on their taxes stay in their homes. Her efforts helped establish a lasting partnership with Wayne County Treasury, and MSU students have now helped prevent over 1,000 families from losing their homes. Jocelyn accepted a full-time job at Wayne County Treasury upon graduation in 2017.

TALENT INVESTMENT

After completing the InnovateGov program, over 20 students have accepted full-time positions in civic institutions throughout the City of Detroit, including the Detroit Economic Growth Corporation, the City of Detroit Health Department, Income Tax Department, Build Institute of Detroit, and others.

20⁺ 

STUDENTS ACCEPTED
FULL-TIME POSITIONS



70%
PLAN TO RETURN
TO DETROIT AFTER
GRADUATION
TO WORK

EVAN RAY ADAMS (2018)

Evan was a second year Masters in Public Policy Program student when he interned at Build Institute Detroit through InnovateGov. Evan worked directly with local entrepreneurs, assisting them with the process of starting their own business, and connecting them to available resources. He completely revamped Build's database, to better track their contributions to business ownership in Detroit. Evan was offered a full-time position after graduation, and is currently working for Build Institute.

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Office of Immigrant Affairs

Lean Process Management

Office of Faith Based
& Community Affairs

Office of the Treasury,
Income Tax Division

Office of the Treasury,
Property Tax Division

Office of Grants Management

Assessor's Office

Detroit Police Department,
Criminal Intelligence

Health Department

Office of the Chief Financial Officer

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& Technology

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OF SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

Southwest Solutions

**United Community
Housing Coalition**

**United
Way**

**Welcoming
WAYNE COUNTY**

Department of Health,
Veterans & Community Wellness
Department of Treasury
3rd Circuit Court

CONTACT US POLITICAL SCIENCE

Those interested in getting involved with the program are encouraged to learn more by visiting polisci.msu.edu or contact:

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