

**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 Detroit Public Schools Superintendent Nikolai Vitti 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.





## 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

## 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.

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### JOCELYN SAMPLE (2016)

Jocelyn, a Detroit native, worked at the Wayne County Treasury during her time in InnovateGov. 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.

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### EVAN RAY ADAMS (2018)

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.

## CORPORATE SPONSORS

**DyKEMA**

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**QUICKEN LOANS  
COMMUNITY FUND**

**Z|A|C**

**ZAUSMER, AUGUST  
& CALDWELL, P.C.**

## INDIVIDUAL SUPPORTERS

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Mott Foundation

**CHRISTINE  
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## CIVIC PARTNERS



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Office of Enrollment  
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Bilingual Education Department  
Health Services

Buildings, Safety Engineering & Environment Department  
Water & Sewerage Department  
Department of Neighborhoods  
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  
Department of Innovation & Technology  
Department of Transportation  
Planning & Development Department



Department of Health, Veterans & Community Wellness  
Department of Treasury  
3<sup>rd</sup> Circuit Court

## CONTACT US POLITICAL SCIENCE

Those interested in getting involved with the program are encouraged to learn more by visiting [polisci.msu.edu](http://polisci.msu.edu) or contact:

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