



CREATIVE CONNECTIONS

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WHY CREATIVEEMPOWERMENT.ORG?

Creative Empowerment Opportunities website is filled with useful information for Persons Served, families and caregivers. Click on www.creativeempowerment.org find the monthly greater community activity calendars for each Community Empowerment Center location to see what outings are planned for each day. In addition, you will also find CEO's upcoming events, fundraisers, newsletters such as our monthly newsletters, program descriptions and annual reports. And while you are there, you may also want to check out CEO's Person Served Handbook which contains a variety of pictures as well as an audio version for increased accessibility to persons served.



Resources



Visa has a wonderful resource called "Practical Money Matters" located online at [Practical Money Matters \(practicalmoneyskills.com\)](http://practicalmoneyskills.com)

This site provides opportunities for persons served to access expert personal finance tips in English and Spanish as well as utilize interactive tools and resources to teach money skills to all ages and skill levels. Topics include saving, budgeting, credit & debt, life events, taxes, retirement, insurance, making decisions, making money, shopping wisely, living on your own, banking services and so much more!



PROGRAM CLOSURES

Aside from scheduled holiday breaks there may be times when CEO may have to close one or more of their Community Empowerment Centers. Conditions such as inclement weather, flooding, water main breaks, hazardous driving conditions, unsafe temperatures (severe heat or severe cold), power outages, etc. are all potential causes for cancelling services. Creative Empowerment Opportunities realizes that it is often difficult for persons served to disrupt their routine or simply be away from their friends. Closing is not a decision that we take lightly and rest assured that management takes into consideration all known risk factors as well as impacts a closure may have on persons served.

To facilitate accessible and timely communication of a program location closure CEO has teamed up with Channels 2, 4, 7, 50 & 62 to simplify the closing process. So just switch on the TV one of the previously listed news channels and look for "Creative Employment", "Creative Empowerment Opportunities," "C'tive Employment" or "C'tive Empowerment." to see if we are closed. You may also go online to the following local news station's websites and check for closings.

Channel 2- www.myfoxdetroit.com

Channel 4- www.clickondetroit.com

Channel 7- www.wxyz.com

Persons Served, family members or caregivers may also tune in to AM 950 & News Talk Radio WJR for our closure status. If you are unable to access these resources or are unsure of how to navigate the closings resources, please call your specific program location to ensure they are open before venturing out in inclement weather. Our goal is to limit any unnecessary trips in hazardous situations and keep everyone safe.



Please note: C.E.O. has 6 service locations in Macomb, Oakland, St. Clair and Wayne Counties. The service sites include Clinton Twp., Mt. Clemens, Anchorville, Pontiac, Washington Twp., and Westland. Please watch for the county and service site you attend.



Clearing the Air on Air Quality



As we are all sadly aware, this past Summer, Michigan has had some dangerously high particle pollution caused by relentless wildfires ravaging Canada. Particle pollution can affect anyone, but it bothers some people more than others. Persons who are vulnerable to negative health effects caused by particle pollution include people with heart or lung diseases (for example, asthma), older adults, babies and children. Adverse health effects linked to particle pollution include: Eye, lung and throat irritation, difficulty breathing, lung cancer and heart disease. If you have heart disease, breathing in particle pollution can cause serious problems like a heart attack. As a result of this emerging safety concern, Creative Empowerment Opportunities is pleased to announce that they have fortified their Emergency Safety Plan (Policy #1102) with safety measures to address Air Quality emergencies and prevent health complications that may result from exposure to extremely hazardous air quality. The Air Quality Index (AQI) tells you when air pollution is likely to reach levels that could be harmful. The Air Quality Index scale rates air quality on a scale from 0 to 500, with 0 being the cleanest to 500 being the most dangerous. You can use the AQI as a tool to help you avoid particle pollution. Local TV stations, radio programs, and newspapers report the AQI as well as the website AirNow.gov

In the event of an Air Quality Alert or Air Quality Action Day, CEO Program Managers or Program Supervisors will:

- Check the air quality index for their service area.
- Consult the following AQI precautionary steps as outlined in the following list of protocols:

Air Quality Index	Protocol
HAZARDOUS 301+	*300 or greater AQI is considered hazardous and it's likely that an emergency or evacuation warning would be issued. Services will ONLY be held following "Very Unhealthy/Purple" protocol if deemed safe to do so based on governing authority guidance.
VERY UNHEALTHY 201 to 300	An AQI of 151 to 200 & 201 to 300 is considered unsafe and anyone could experience negative health effects from pollution in the air. Everyone: Remain indoors and keep activity levels low. Follow tips for keeping particle levels low indoors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don't use candles or smoke indoors. • Keep windows and doors closed. • Air filter will be utilized if available. • Clean or replace filters according to manufacturer recommendations. *Note: If an air conditioning system is not working, staying inside with the windows closed may be dangerous in extremely hot weather and the CEO designated alternate shelter should be utilized until arrangements can be made for persons served to go home. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ If a trip in a vehicle is necessary be sure to a) keep the vent settings to recirculate mode to lower amount of air brought into the vehicle from outdoors and b) keep all windows closed while driving. ▪ Persons served and employees will be encouraged to wear N95 masks if available when outdoor activity is necessary to reduce your exposure to pollutants. If these are not available surgical masks or even a scarf is better than nothing and will be encouraged. Persons may put a scarf over their nose and mouth to minimize the amount of particulate matter entering their lungs.
UNHEALTHY 151 to 200	An AQI of 101-150 means there is a health risk for children, older adults and people with heart disease and lung disease. The general healthy population isn't likely to experience health risks. Sensitive Persons: Avoid outdoor activity/keep it to a minimum. If necessary to be outdoors take more breaks. Watch for symptoms such as coughing or shortness of breath. People with asthma: Follow your asthma action plan and keep quick relief medicine handy. People with heart disease: Symptoms such as palpitations, shortness of breath, or unusual fatigue may indicate a serious problem. If you have any of these, contact your health care provider. Non-Sensitive Persons Served: Make outdoor activities shorter and less intense.
UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS 101 to 150	*51-100 AQI designates acceptable air quality, but some people who are sensitive to pollution or experience breathing issues may experience adverse effects, depending on the type of contaminants in the air. Unusually Sensitive Persons: Consider making outdoor activities shorter and less intense. Watch for symptoms such as coughing or shortness of breath. These are signs to take it easier. Non-Sensitive Employees & Persons Served: It's a good day to be active outside
MODERATE 51 to 100 air.	*0-50 AQI means there is little or no health risk associated with air quality All Employees & Persons Served: No accommodations needed
GOOD 0 to 50	

For more resources visit:
AQI Basics | AirNow.gov



Creative Empowerment Opportunities has been working diligently to ensure that the persons served receive face to face services in a safe/healthy environment and will continue to do so.

Creative Empowerment Opportunities provides a Person First learning environment for persons served. Our agency fully embraces the culture of "Gentle Teaching". We provide care and support to people with intellectual disabilities and those in recovery from mental illness. Each Person Served is encouraged to select individualized and meaningful goals to increase their skill set and independence. CEO fully embraces and comply with all Home and Community Based Federal Rules.

Don't forget to visit our Creative Empowerment Opportunities Facebook page to keep up to date on all our news and events!

