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City of Lansing Hosts National Financial Empowerment Coalition

(LANSING) – What does the City of Lansing have in common with New York, San Francisco, Louisville and Savannah? They’re all members of an elite, by-invitation-only group of municipalities called the Cities for Financial Empowerment (CFE) Coalition, which is co-chaired by Lansing Office of Financial Empowerment Director Amber Paxton. Ms. Paxton and Mayor Virg Bernero are pleased to announce that Lansing will host the CFE Coalition in Lansing this week for a series of meetings and workshops. “We are so honored to be part of this group,” Paxton stated. “Membership allows us to share best practices, and largest challenges, with those doing the most innovative work in the field.”

“We are delighted to host the CFE Coalition in Lansing. It’s a terrific opportunity to showcase Michigan’s capital city as well as our extraordinary financial empowerment successes,” Mayor Bernero said. “Our Financial Empowerment Center has assisted more than 10,000 metro Lansing residents in getting their personal finances in order, helping them reduce their collective debt by more than \$6 million and increasing savings by more than \$500,000. This is economic development at the family level and it is making a difference every day in the lives of city residents.”

The City of Lansing first began blazing a progressive financial empowerment trail in 2013, when it launched a Financial Empowerment Center (offering free, one-on-one financial counseling to residents, regardless of income level) overseen by a new Office of Financial Empowerment (OFE) within the city’s government structure. The OFE now oversees three programs, including a post-secondary education savings account for kindergartners called Lansing SAVE, in partnership with the Lansing School District and Michigan State University; and Bank On Parole and Probation, which helps reentry citizens to access safe, affordable bank accounts and to get their finances, including child support, back in order after incarceration.

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The presenting sponsor for the 24th Convening of the CFE Coalition meeting in Lansing is Jackson National Life. The platinum sponsor is Michigan State University's Office of University Outreach and Engagement.

About the CFE Coalition

With support from the CFE Fund, the CFE Coalition brings together pioneering municipal governments from across the country that have begun to use their power and positions to advance innovative financial empowerment initiatives. Its 15 member cities representing almost 22 million people have made tangible, measurable commitments to supporting financial empowerment programming, and both teach and learn from one another. The CFE Coalition also leverages its members' collective power to advance the financial empowerment agenda on a state and national level, including through advocating for key policy priorities.

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