



Community Empowerment Small Grants are tools provided by the Community Foundation for Muskegon County to build a vibrant community with great opportunities for all. We are always looking for ways to build relationships with all groups, big or small, for everyone to see themselves in our work and for the community to know that we are a resource. We want to help, support and encourage groups to be the change they want to see in our community. Our definition of community goes further than geographic location. Community can be defined by identity, race, class and gender. This is an opportunity not only for neighborhood associations in Muskegon County, but also individuals who want to improve their community through education, beautification, relationship-building, community conversations, etc.

CESG grantees are strengthening community partnerships, building relationships, and providing hope and opportunity to many people throughout Muskegon County.

### **Who is eligible?**

- All applicants must be residents of Muskegon County
- Neighborhood associations or block clubs
- Grassroots organizations
- Faith-based organizations
- Any organized group of residents
- Does not have to be a 501(c)(3)
  - If a fiduciary is not available, please contact the Community Foundation

*\*This application is not meant for larger nonprofits. Please see our [Strategic Grantmaking](#) guidelines or call us at 231-722-4538*

### **How much can my group apply for?**

- Groups can request up to \$3,000
- Organizations are only eligible for up to a maximum of \$3,000 per year
- Typical grants will be between \$500-\$2,000

### **When is the deadline?**

- These grants will be available on a rolling basis
- Selections will be made at the beginning of each month until funds are depleted
- Awards will be paid the 2nd Monday of each month.
- **The start date of your project/program must be after the pay date.**

### **How will I be evaluated?**

- You will be asked to complete a simple follow-up form within 30-days after the program's completion.

### **What if I have questions?**

- Contact Jocelyn Hines at [Jocelyn@muskegonfoundation.org](mailto:Jocelyn@muskegonfoundation.org) or 231-332-4118 for more information, a paper application, or any other questions you may have.

*This program supports programs or projects designed to strengthen the community by removing barriers that may inhibit the program from happening.*

### **Examples of projects/programs**

- Neighborhood book clubs
- Community clean-ups/beautification projects
- Financial literacy classes
- Marketing materials for resources, meetings, events and programs
- Programs that build relationships and bring people together
- Activities that involve and support youth
- Professional development opportunities that build skills and capacity
- Community conversations and trainings

*\*This grant will support new programs. Partners who have received grants previously are less competitive. Request related to infrastructure will be considered for those organizations that are accessible by and open to the public.*