

# Learn about our COMPETITIVE & STRATEGIC GRANTMAKING



## Community Foundation Values

These values are woven into our daily work, going beyond good intention. We seek to partner with organizations that share these values.

### Create hope and opportunity, particularly for youth

Empowering our community members to have aspirations for a bright future and create opportunities for them to realize their dreams.

### Support collaborative community goals and decision-making

Supporting active partnerships that work together while sharing power, resources, and decision-making for the common good.

### Build an inclusive community

Building a welcoming, accepting community that respects difference and actively promotes full participation by all people; a place where everyone has the opportunity to share their voice, to participate in decisions that affect their lives, and to access all the community has to offer.



Boys and Girls Club of the Muskegon Lakeshore

## Competitive Grantmaking

Nonprofit organizations can participate in the Community Foundation's three annual grant rounds: spring and fall **Committee Grants** and **Strategic Grants** (spring only). Some Committees may choose to award all available dollars in the spring. Each grant request is vetted by staff and reviewed by the grantmaking committee that best aligns with the focus of the request. Refer to *Submittable* for committees offering grants and available grant dollars.

## Strategic Grantmaking

In order to implement our values, the Community Foundation defined three strategic goals with specific areas of focus:

### 1. Advance Educational attainment (Education)

- Life-long literacy, including STEAM and financial literacy
- Educational equity

### 2. Foster a dynamic, local economic ecosystem (Community and Economic Development)

- Workforce supports, including affordable daycare, housing, and transportation
- Business supports, such as entrepreneurship development and capacity of local community and economic development partners

### 3. Enhance community trust and promote prosperity for all (Diversity Equity and Inclusion)

- Through cultural competency, dignity, and social justice, catalyze community to embrace inclusive prosperity and promote spaces where all voices are valued

To reach these goals, Community Foundation staff will partner with organizations whose work addresses the strategic goals. Strategic grants are advised by the Distribution Committee. Strategic grants are offered annually in the spring.

## Grantmaking through Committees

Grantmaking committees are comprised of community stakeholders - volunteers in our community whose personal passion align with the focus area. Grantmaking committees have specific stated priorities and recommend grants from specific funds developed and reserved for that purpose.

### Environmental Endowment Fund

- Educate residents about the environment, including social justice issues related to environmental practices
- Reduction of pollution and waste
- Support land use planning that maximizes use of natural resources
- Promote conservation and restoration of natural areas, through the Mildred Majeski Fund
- Support for acquiring, conserving, or enhancing public accessibility to green space West of US 31 via the James Hanna and Mary Murphy Land Fund



Annis Water Resources Institute

### Greater Muskegon Service League's Women and Children's Fund

Grants from this Committee will address a broad spectrum of programs and projects that address the needs and opportunities of women and children. Funding focuses on pilot projects and program expansion. This Committee does not typically provide general operating support.

### Muskegon County Medical Society Endowment Fund

Grants from this Committee will be targeted at programs and projects relating to health and science education and services.

### Muskegon County Lions Club Fund

Grants from this Committee will benefit organizations working to develop, implement, and support new and innovative programs that assist Muskegon County residents who are experiencing loss of sight and/or hearing, including the prevention of such loss.

### White Lake Community Fund

Grants from this Committee support programs and projects that improve the quality of life for residents of the White Lake Area. Additional areas of focus:

- To improve local library services, provide elderly assistance, for beautification projects or to support recreational facilities and public parks via the Leonard and Edna K. Blomdahl Fund
- Support improvements in Covell Park via the Covell Park Fund
- Support greater cooperation and consolidation between the municipalities via the R. Covell Radcliffe Fund

### Youth Advisory Council Fund

Grants from this Committee will be targeted at specific youth issues as determined by a youth-executed needs survey:

- Current focus: mental health, substance use prevention, and race discrimination
- Teacher Mini-grants for innovative classroom projects

## Questions

Contact the Community Investment team via email at [grants@muskegonfoundation.org](mailto:grants@muskegonfoundation.org) or by calling 231.722.4538.