



Building an Inclusive Community – a Request for Grant Proposals

As part of our 2016 Strategic Plan, the Community Foundation for Muskegon County's Board of Trustees charted a bold course that is now guiding our community engagement, leadership and grantmaking priorities. Several bold goals were set, including creating **hope and opportunity for youth**, moving toward **collaborative community goals and decision making**, and building an **inclusive community**.

Working towards the goal of building an inclusive community meant we had to reflect on the inequities based on race in our health, income, and education outcomes. In Muskegon County, 28% of our children live in poverty, but if you happen to be an African American child, you have a 65% chance of living in poverty. The racial educational disparities in Muskegon County are well known, and African Americans have poorer health outcomes– shorter life expectancy, higher infant and child mortality rates, and higher teen birth rates. Hispanic families experience similar disparities.

These inequities cannot persist in our community if we are to realize a Muskegon County where all have the opportunity to thrive. To address the racial disparities faced by many in our community, the Foundation is offering a minimum of \$25,000 in grants for programs or projects that implement strategies that can help *celebrate diversity, create equity, and foster inclusion*:

- **Creating proximity** – encouraging community member to interact in meaningful ways with individuals who are not like them.
- **Truth-telling and understanding of the historical context of our community** – providing forums for community members to share the truth of their experiences, and publically sharing the historical conditions and experiences faced by people of color – the good, bad, and ugly.
- **Training** – engaging in activities that grow and individual, business, or nonprofit organization's cultural competence, developing skills to promote equity and foster inclusion.

Who can apply: Grant requests must be initiated by non-profit organizations, including schools, governmental units, faith-based organizations, and 501(c)3 non-profits

How much is available: At least \$25,000 will be granted over the next year. We are open to awarding the entire grant pool to a single applicant working in partnership with other organizations with the capacity to do transformational work in Muskegon, but will also consider awards for smaller-scale projects.

Priority will be given to projects that:

- Create **local teams and partnerships**, and utilize grassroots efforts to increase collaboration
- Demonstrate in-kind and financial support from other sources
- Utilize existing community assets
- Have potential to continue beyond the life of the grant

Timeline:

- January 2, 2019 – Application opens
- February 14, 2019 – Application of Intent Deadline
- February 28, 2019 – Grant Application Deadline
- March-April 2019 – Committee Review
- May 2019 – Notification of Awards

How to Apply:

Application process and instructions live online at www.muskegonfoundation.org/grants

How will decisions be made?

We recognize that all organizations – including our own – are on a learning journey as we embrace diversity, equity, and inclusion. We will review applications – and the organizations submitting them – for effective leadership, cultural competency, use of data and best practices, a culture of learning and evaluation, strength of partnerships and collaboration, and community engagement. We are committed to providing support to organizations that are still building their capacity in these areas.

Decisions will be made by our Distribution Committee – a committee of board and community members. Final grant decisions will be made by the Foundation’s Board of Trustees.

Questions or Comments?

Please contact the Community Foundation’s Program department at 231-722-4538 or grants@cffmc.org