

Learn about our COMPETITIVE & STRATEGIC GRANTMAKING



community foundation
Muskegon County

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 youth 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 access all the community has to offer.

Competitive Grantmaking

Many nonprofit organizations and grantmaking committees participate in the Community Foundation's competitive grant rounds. In 2021, both a spring and a fall round will be offered by our specific committees, although some may choose to award all available dollars in the spring. A competitive round focused on strategic grantmaking will be offered in 2021 – timing TBA. Each grant request is vetted by staff and forwarded to corresponding grantmaking committees to align with specific funding opportunities. Each committee has a specific area of focus. All applications are made online through *Submittable* and utilize the Community Foundation's general grant application.

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



Boys and Girls Club of the Muskegon Lakeshore



Read Early Read Often

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 meet with partners engaged in similar work and support that work through strategic grantmaking. Grants from unrestricted funds (those without predefined specific purpose) are advised by the Distribution Committee.

To be eligible for a strategic grant, a potential grantee must address one of the strategic goals, and we will give preference to those who do.

Opportunities for strategic grantmaking and use of unrestricted funds will be available in 2021, timing TBA.

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.

The spring 2021 grant round focuses on committee grants. The deadline is **February 11** for Application of Intent and **February 25** for complete applications. A grantee workshop will be held **January 20 at 4 p.m.** via Zoom – reach out to grants@muskegonfoundation.org for registration information.

Spring grants will be made by the following grantmaking committees:

- **Environment** – environmental projects and programs
- **Muskegon County Lions Club** – hearing and vision services
- **Muskegon County Medical Society** – medical training and STEM education
- **Greater Muskegon Service League's Women and Children's Fund** – needs of women and children
- **Youth Advisory Council** – mental health needs for youth
- **White Lake Community Fund** – programs and projects that benefit the White Lake Area

Environmental Endowment Fund

- To educate residents about the environment, including social justice issues that relate to current or past environmental practices
- Improve the quality of the environment through the reduction of pollution and waste
- Support a balanced and innovative approach to local and regional land use planning that maximizes use of available land and natural resources
- Promote conservation and restoration of natural areas, air quality, shoreline and dune areas, wildlife habitat and freshwater ecosystems through the Mildred Majeski Fund
- Support for acquiring, conserving, or enhancing public accessibility to green space, open lands, natural parks, or undeveloped land in its natural state 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 in Muskegon County.

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 issues for youth
- Teacher Mini-grants for innovative classroom projects

Julia E. Hackley Memorial Fund

This fund was left by Mrs. Hackley with her directive to provide for the support, maintenance, and relief of the poor people in the City of Muskegon. Grants from this Fund are now considered as part of the Foundation's Strategic plan, including:

- Projects that support self-sufficiency of low-income families
- Projects that address childcare and transportation issues of low-income families

Questions

Contact the Community Investment team via email at grants@muskegonfoundation.org or by calling (231) 722-4538.

Field of Interest Funds

Field of Interest funds are also available to support nonprofit agencies engaged in similar work. They were created by donors with specific “interest” that align with community need. As such, they may or may not align with our strategic goals. These funds are advised by the distribution committee and are typically used to support grant requested submitted with the general grant application.

- **A. J. Flogge Performing Arts Fund:** Performing arts
- **Janice Marie Agard & Norma May Agard Fund:** Animal-related causes
- **African American Celebration Fund:** Celebration of African American culture and heritage
- **Beautification Fund:** Beautification projects throughout the City of Muskegon, such as parks, natural areas, and publically owned properties
- **Brookhaven Fund:** Needs of seniors
- **Children's Wish Fund:** Terminally ill children in Muskegon County
- **Clita R. Anderson Child Care Center Fund & Next Generation Child Care Fund:** Childcare centers
- **Dietrich Fund for the Prevention of AIDS & Drug Abuse:** Prevention of AIDS and drug abuse
- **Douglas A. Rosen Fund:** Lung disease, the arts, and United Way agencies
- **Edith and Jack Lipman Fund:** Improved quality of life for ill children in ways other than providing for healthcare costs
- **ESCO Company Fund:** Environmental issues, safety improvements, and economic development
- **Father Jack Foundation Fund:** Help for those with unmet needs
- **HEALTHY Muskegon Endowment Fund:** Sustainably increase access to healthy food, especially among children and seniors living in poverty
- **Healthy Youth-Healthy Seniors Fund:** Improving the health of youth and seniors
- **Jayne Rollin and Leo Williams Trust Fund:** Classical music concerts and lessons; environment
- **John and Christine Schumann Fund, John and Mary Schumann Fund, Sebastian and Frances Kielar Fund, Muskegon Quadrangle B.P.W. Fund:** Programs or organizations assisting women in crisis to gain independence and improving the lives of children who are disadvantaged, neglected, or abused
- **Muskegon County College Access Fund:** College access programs
- **Nick Pool Performing Arts Fund:** Programs and projects that enhance the lives of the elderly through performing arts
- **Raymond C. Alstrom Memorial Fund:** Music programs
- **Rhoda R. Rosen Fund:** Health-related activities, especially programs that relate to the psychological care of the terminally ill, as well as the prevention and education of cancer
- **Roy R. Burch Fund, W. William and Kathleen E. Joy Fund, Harry J. & Katherine Jean Knudsen Fund:** Education
- **West Shore Mental Health Fund:** Identification, prevention, and treatment of mental health impairments of children and adolescents
- **William Munroe/Friends of the Disabled:** Camperships and recreation for people with disabilities