



## Request for Nominations: Muskegon LEAD Giving Circle

The Muskegon LEAD (Leading Efforts Against Discrimination) Giving Circle was organized to collectively fund initiatives in Muskegon County specifically and intentionally focused on diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice. The circle is comprised of 45 young community members with a shared vision of creating a vibrant community with great opportunities for all. This fall, the Muskegon LEAD Giving Circle will **highlight, support, and encourage further action** for an organization in our community doing exemplary work around justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion (JEDI).

**Who can apply?** Any nonprofit, religious organization, or unit of government who will use the award to further their JEDI work. Specific areas of interest are:

1. Investing in organizations that support marginalized populations
2. Facilitating community-wide training on JEDI principles
3. Engaging and empowering people to organize with the purpose of increasing the influence of groups historically underrepresented in policies and decision making
4. Creating proximity among diverse groups and facilitating new learning and relationships

**What is the process?** Organizations should submit a compelling, one-page summary that makes the case for investment in your organization as a LEADer. An excellent summary would include the following:

- Mission and vision of the organization and how that mission and vision compel your organization to work and lead towards JEDI.
- Existing programs and activities that highlight work related to JEDI, including how your target community has been engaged in the planning and implementation of that programming
- Future plans and dreams for work that will create a just, diverse, inclusive, and equitable community, including how a grant of \$6,000 - \$8,000 would move that work forward.

The nomination should be in Microsoft Word or PDF format and sent electronically to [grants@muskegonfoundation.org](mailto:grants@muskegonfoundation.org) with the subject "Muskegon LEAD Giving Circle." Nominations must be received by noon on September 30.

**How will winners be selected?** Community Foundation staff and the Giving Circle's steering committee will narrow the nominations down to a minimum of three organizations. Selected organizations will be invited to give a brief presentation to the full Giving Circle on Friday, October 14 at 12 p.m. - please be sure someone from your organization can be available. Giving Circle members will vote on the final recipient of the grant. Selected nominees will be notified the week of October 24; further details will be shared at that time.

**How much is available?** Up to \$8,000 will be awarded.

### Timeline:

- **Nominations due Friday, September 30 by noon**
- **Finalists will be notified by October 7**
- **Presentations to the Muskegon LEAD Giving Circle on October 14 at 12 p.m. - please be sure someone from your organization can be available**
- **Decisions announced the week of October 24**

**Questions?** Contact us at [grants@muskegonfoundation.org](mailto:grants@muskegonfoundation.org) or 231-722-4538.