



**Grand Rapids**  
community foundation  
For good. For ever.

**Grand Rapids Community Foundation**  
Novah™ Grantmaking Framework

[www.grfoundation.org](http://www.grfoundation.org)

**Our Leadership Goals**

**Our Grantmaking Priorities**

**What We Measure**

**Academic Achievement\***

First generation/low income students successfully complete a course of post-secondary study that prepares them for a career

*\*Grant applications for Academic Achievement are accepted by invitation only.*

- Good Social Supports: support for school-based health and human services so children are ready to learn
- Good Schools and Classrooms: resources for innovative projects at the classroom and building level
- Good College Opportunities: provide students with resources for college
- Good Growth Experiences: support out-of-school enrichment experiences for students

- Chronic Absenteeism
  - Youth Involvement
- In Grand Rapids Public Schools:
- Graduation and Dropout Rates
  - Student Achievement
  - School Progression – 3rd/4th & 9th/10th

**Economic Prosperity**

Developing resources that allow the community to compete and thrive in a changing economy

- Support workforce development to ensure a trained & ready workforce and to attract & retain regional business investment
- Stimulate the local economy through new job creation
- Ensure that families achieve stable employment, affordable quality housing and ongoing financial stability

- Employment Rate
- Growth of Business Establishments
- New Job Creation
- Population with Housing
- Population without Housing Burden
- Financial Stability Index

**Healthy Ecosystems**

Preserving natural resources for the benefit of all people

- Protect sustainable & healthy ecosystems
- Promote urban sustainability & smart growth
- Support productive & efficient use of land & resources
- Advance environmental justice

- Commute Method
- Miles of Clean River
- Urban Canopy
- Parks and Greenspace Index

**Healthy People**

Promoting personal safety, healthy behaviors and access to quality healthcare for all

- Address risk factors for chronic preventable diseases & persistent disparities by ethnicity and/or socioeconomic status
- Reduce domestic violence and child abuse & neglect
- Reduce youth obesity

- Access to Care Index
- Healthy Behaviors Index
- Population in Safe Homes
- Youth Health
- Youth Obesity

**Social Enrichment**

Cultivating an attractive, desirable community that enriches the lives of all people

- Improve access to cultural, social and recreational opportunities that attract diverse populations
- Foster civic engagement
- Promote inclusion

- Discrimination Index
- Involvement Index
- Political Voice Index
- Problem Solving Index

**Vibrant Neighborhoods**

Supporting safe, attractive and self-sufficient communities of residences and businesses

- Support affordable quality housing options
- Promote viable neighborhood business districts
- Promote neighborhoods in the city of Grand Rapids that are diverse by income, race, ethnicity, age, and other characteristics

- Commercial Rehabs
- Occupied Addresses
- Residential Rehabs

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**Measurement Descriptions**

**Academic Achievement**

- In Grand Rapids Public Schools:
- Chronic Absenteeism
  - Graduation and Dropout Rates
  - Student Achievement (reading and math, measured through MAP)
  - School Progression – 3rd/4th and 9th/10th
  - Youth Involvement – The percentage of children involved in extracurricular activities

**Economic Prosperity**

- Employment Rate - % of unemployed workforce currently unemployed subtracted from 100%.
- Growth of Business Establishments - % change in the number of business establishments from one year to the next.
- Population with Housing - % of residents who are not homeless
- Population without Housing Burden - % of residents whose housing costs account for less than 30% of their annual income.
- Financial Stability index – To be defined
- New Job Creation – To be defined

**Healthy Ecosystems**

- Commute Method - % of workforce who does not work from home and commutes to work with some method other than driving alone (for example: mass transit, carpooling, or walking)
- Miles of Clean River - % of stream miles that attain EPA standards for water quality.
- Parks and Green Space Index – acres of preserved parkland and green space per 1,000 residents.
- Urban Canopy – % of ground in the City of Grand Rapids covered by trees when viewed from above.

**Healthy People**

- Access to Care Index – average of % of residents with health coverage, % who sought needed medical care (need care/got care), % who sought needed mental health care, % who have a usual health care provider, and % who did not have difficulty affording prescription medication in the past year.
- Healthy Behaviors Index – average of % of residents who do not smoke, % who do not drink heavily, % who are not obese, % who eat at least five servings of fruit/vegetables daily, and % partaking in adequate moderate physical activity.
- Population in Safe Homes – annual cases of abuse, neglect, and domestic violence per 100 residents.
- Youth Health – Asthma and Diabetes hospitalizations per 100 residents under age 18.
- Youth Obesity – Michigan Care Improvement Registry data

**Social Enrichment**

- Discrimination Index - % of residents indicating they had not been discriminated against for any reason in the past year.
- Involvement Index - % of residents indicating that, in the past week, they had done one or more of the following: gone to church, temple, or other place of worship for services or other activities; gone to a movie, play, concert, restaurant, sporting event, club meeting, card game, or other social activity; or gotten together with friends or neighbors in any other setting.
- Political Voice Index - % of residents indicating they had done one or more of the following in the past 12 months: contacted or visited a public official; contacted the media to express an opinion; taken part in a protest, march, or demonstration; or signed a petition about a political or social issue.
- Problem Solving Index - % of residents indicating that they: had talked about current events or politics with anyone in the past week; belong to a club or organization; done any volunteer work in the past 12 months for a charitable organization; donated money in the last 12 months to a charitable organization; worked formally or informally with someone or some group to solve a problem in the community; or had done some combination of these.

**Vibrant Neighborhoods**

- Commercial Rehabs - % of buildings that underwent renovations of over \$5,000.
- Occupied Addresses - % of addresses vacant subtracted from 100%.
- Residential Rehabs - # of residential buildings per 1,000 that underwent renovations of over \$5,000.