Our Mission
To build and manage our community's permanent endowment and lead the community to strengthen the lives of its people.

Our Vision
We envision a magnetic and interconnected West Michigan community.

Our Values
Integrity: ethics matter here. **Excellence:** Outstanding results matter here. **Inclusion:** Feeling welcome matters here. **Sustainability :** the future matters here. **Bold Aspirations:** strategy matters here

Applying to the Fund for Community Good

To build the capacity of the nonprofit sector, the Community Foundation invests in innovative models, proven programs, policy and advocacy efforts throughout Kent County.

If you believe your project is a fit with our grant guidelines, we hope that you will consider submitting a pre-application so that we may join you in your effort.

General Guidelines
To be considered for a grant an organization must:
- Have a current 501(c)(3) nonprofit designation from the Internal Revenue Service or be a governmental entity serving Kent County residents.
- Address one of our grantmaking priorities AND be able to track results that match at least one of our measurables (see page 2).
- Be able to demonstrate inclusive practices leading to diversity of race and ethnicity, sexual orientation, religion, ability and gender in their boards, staff and constituents.
- Have the support of its board of directors and executive director for the project.
- Seek diverse funding sources and have a plan to sustain the project beyond the term of the grant.

Application Process
- The first step is to submit a brief pre-application (rather than an unsolicited proposal or phone call.)
- There is no deadline for the pre-application; they are reviewed throughout the year.
- A pre-application should be submitted at least 90 days before the proposed start of your project.
- If your pre-application is approved, you will be asked to submit a full proposal.

Funding is not available for one-time, special or annual events, annual operating funds, political or religious causes, or endowments.

Where to Apply:

Grant applications are submitted online through Grant Central, Grand Rapids Community Foundation's online application system. To begin a pre-application, go to: https://grantcentral.smartsimple.com

Questions? Our staff is here to help.
Contact Keri Jaynes by email at kjaynes@grfoundation.org or call 616.284.4911

Fund for Community Good Grantmaking Framework

Leadership Goals areas for grantmaking	Grantmaking Priorities our funding strategies	Outcomes short-term things we'd see within the life of a grant
Prosperity	**Career Advancement Opportunities** Support workforce development to increase career advancement opportunities and a sustainable living wage for low-wage workers	Low-skilled, low-to-moderate income residents advance to higher skill jobs paying living wages
	Entrepreneurial Efforts Strengthen the local economy through entrepreneurial efforts	Residents gain entrepreneurial skills The number and diversity of locally owned businesses grows
	Household Financial Stability Improve access to existing community resources	People receive public benefits for which they qualify
Environment	**Tree Canopy Expansion** Increase the tree canopy in the urban core using education and advocacy	Citizens are mobilized to enhance, expand, and protect the urban tree canopy
	River Water Restoration Use assessment and intervention to restore river water in the urban core	Public access rivers and tributaries have improved water quality
	Land Acquisition Support the purchase of land for permanent preservation in the urban core	There is preserved land in areas with insufficient open space
Health	**Chronic Disease Prevention** Address risk factors for chronic, preventable diseases among populations where there are persistent disparities by ethnicity and/or socioeconomic status	There are intervention and education efforts to prevent chronic preventable diseases Socioeconomic or ethnic minorities have increased access to care
Engagement	**Inclusion & Equity** Build community capacity for inclusion and equity	Under-represented populations serve in key leadership, governance or elected positions
	Cultural Opportunities Improve access to cultural opportunities that engage diverse populations	Cultural institutions make data-informed decisions to attract more diverse patrons and volunteers
Neighborhoods	**Housing Options** Support affordable quality housing options in urban neighborhoods	Residents have access to affordable, quality housing
	Neighborhood Business Districts Position neighborhood business districts for greater viability while preserving neighborhood character	Business districts are independently sustainable with businesses that employ and serve neighborhood residents
Education (By Invitation Only)	**Academic Achievement** First generation/low income students obtain a degree or high-quality credential	Challenge Scholars students in the Harrison Park, Westwood Middle and Union High feeder system are socially and academically prepared for post-secondary success

Fund for Community Good Application

In addition to completing the application online, applying organizations must also verify their organizational profile is complete and up-to-date in Grant Central.

Please note that grant application questions are subject to change.

Pre-Application

1. **Which of the Grand Rapids Community Foundation's priorities will the project address?** (select *one* of the following):

   Engagement Environment Health Neighborhood Prosperity Education—By Invitation Only

2. **Grand Rapids Community Foundation is committed to creating a community that is diverse, inclusive, and racism-free. We expect our grantees to share in this commitment**. Please review our Grantee Inclusion Statement. If selected to submit a full proposal, we will request additional information regarding your organization's diversity and inclusion practices.

   a. The applying organization's leadership has reviewed and agrees to the terms of the Grantee Inclusion Statement. (Yes/No)

   b. The applying organization has a diversity and inclusion plan, policy or statement. (Yes/No/In Development)

3. **What need will the project address and how will it be addressed?** (300 words or less)

4. **What are the intended outcomes of the project?** (150 words or less)

5. **How will the project be sustained beyond the term of this grant?** (150 words or less)

Budget: Organizations will be asked to either upload their own budget or manually enter the project budget in the application.

Full Proposal

Narrative

1. Provide rationale for your approach to addressing the need identified in your pre-application. Why is your approach the most effective? (500 words or less)

2. Grand Rapids Community Foundation values a collaborative approach among community partners to address needs. Please list the partners who will assist your organization in addressing the identified need (i.e. staff, board members, other organizations, etc.). (500 words or less)

3. Grand Rapids Community Foundation values engagement. How will you engage constituents throughout your project? (500 words or less)

Please note: Additional questions specific to your proposal may be added to the application.

Diversity & Inclusion

1. How does your organization strive to insure that diverse populations have access to and feel welcome at programs offered by your organization? Please include staff, board and clients served in the response. (200 words or less)

2. If your organization has a documented diversity and inclusion plan, policy or statement, please attach [in the application].

Budget

Provide the following documents:

1. The organization's Year-to-Date Budget to Actual and Prior-Year Budget to Actual Revenue and Expenses.

2. The most recent annual financial audit. If an audit is not available, a certified financial statement may be submitted.

3. Management letter.

4. An updated project budget (if different from budget provided in pre-application).

Demographics

Organizations are asked to provide gender identity and racial/ethnic identity demographic information for the Board, Staff and Clients.

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