



A fund of **Grand Rapids  
Community Foundation**

## Request for Proposals

You are invited to apply to Grand Rapids Community Foundation for funding available through *Our LGBTQ Fund*. Created in 2014, *Our LGBTQ Fund* aims to fund programs that support vulnerable and homeless LGBTQ youth in West Michigan and plans to remain focused on the issue of homelessness through 2021.

Up to \$80,000 total will be awarded to nonprofit organizations that prevent or address needs of runaway or homeless LGBTQ youth in the Allegan, Kent, and Ottawa County area. It is anticipated that **one to five organizations** will be selected during this funding round. Grant requests can encompass up to three years of support and should not exceed \$80,000 total. Smaller projects are also welcome and encouraged to apply.

### Eligibility Criteria

Eligible organizations include all nonprofit organizations classified as 501(c)3 and/or public agencies providing services in the counties of Allegan, Kent, or Ottawa or those sponsored by a 501(c)3 organization. Ideally, projects will include collaborative partnerships among multiple organizations.

### Priority Areas

A wide range of issues facing vulnerable and homeless LGBTQ youth will be considered including—but not limited to—health, education, basic needs, employment, housing, family preservation, and creating safe, affirming and inclusive environments. In particular, the Fund hopes to support work that builds on the [West Michigan Recommendations to the Community to Address LGBTQ+ Youth Homelessness](#), available online at [www.arborcircle.org/blog/truecolors](http://www.arborcircle.org/blog/truecolors), in two ways:

Immediate Impact - Projects that are focused on implementing recommendations, which also demonstrate a broad base of funding support and possess a firm plan for long-term sustainability are preferred. Projects that fall outside the issues or geographic scope of the recommendations will also be considered.

Strategy Development - As the recommendations suggest, they are intended to be seeds of ideas and to spark further planning and consideration. Projects that work to broaden the topics identified in the recommendations or provide a deeper level of analysis and strategy development are also welcomed. The Fund seeks to support planning and strategy development efforts that are highly collaborative, community based, and inclusive of individuals experiencing or at risk of youth homelessness.

### Application Process

Proposals must be submitted electronically at <https://grantcentral.smartsimple.com> by 5:00PM on Friday, October 26, 2018. Decisions will be announced by December 14, 2018.

### Proposal Format

The proposal requires submission of a project budget and narrative responses to the following items:

- ⇒ Brief description of the proposed project, including project goals and objectives
- ⇒ Explain how the project is aligned with or builds on the West Michigan Recommendations to the Community to Address LGBTQ+ Youth Homelessness
- ⇒ Define how you plan to evaluate success
- ⇒ Describe the roles of collaborative partners

⇒ Provide the long-term strategies for funding the project beyond the grant period

**You will also be asked to update your Organization Profile, which requires:**

- ⇒ Most recent annual financial statement independently audited
- ⇒ Listing of the organization's Board of Directors

**Need Help?**

- Contact Carol Sarosik, *Our LGBT Fund* Chair, at [carol@padnos.com](mailto:carol@padnos.com).
- For technical assistance with the online system, contact Keri Jaynes, Grants Manager, at 616-284-4911 or email [kjaynes@grfoundation.org](mailto:kjaynes@grfoundation.org).

For more information on *Our LGBT Fund*, please visit [www.grfoundation.org/community-leadership-initiatives/lgbt-fund](http://www.grfoundation.org/community-leadership-initiatives/lgbt-fund)