A total of $50,000 is available to assist with the enhancement or implementation of youth-serving programs in Kent County. Typically, grant awards range from $1,000 to $7,000, with an average award amount of $3,000.

Primary consideration will be given to programs or projects that address these issues faced by youth:
- Succeeding academically, getting into college and paying for college;
- Anxiety, low self-esteem, family stress, self-harm;
- Social issues including peer pressure, bullying and substance abuse.

In a survey of area youth conducted in the fall of 2018 by members of the YGC, the types of programs that youth identified as most helpful in addressing these issues were:

- Help getting into college (test prep, college visits, financial aid workshops)
- Competitive sports (not school-based)
- Outdoor recreational activities, camps, challenge courses, trails/parks
- Real life learning experiences, including money management/financial literacy, drunk driving simulations, and service projects/volunteering
- Self-acceptance around racial and sexual identities and body image

Non-profit organizations (including churches, schools, government agencies, and community groups with a 501(C)(3) non-profit status) may apply for grants for programs that benefit youth in the greater Grand Rapids area. The YGC values projects that promote inclusiveness and that do not discriminate in hiring of staff or providing services on the basis of race, gender, religion, marital status, sexual orientation, age, national origin or disability. Applications from religious organizations for non-religious purposes will be considered.

Grant applications must be submitted electronically using the online portal by 11:59 p.m. on Friday, January 24, 2020. Decisions are announced the following May.

The online application requires a project budget.
- List all expenses and income sources for your project, including the status of other grant sources (pending or confirmed).
- Specify EXACTLY how requested grant funds will be used (i.e.; 25 calculators @ $10 each=$250.00).

For questions related to the content of your proposal, call Erika VanDyke at 616-454-1751 ext. 135, or email her at evandyke@grfoundation.org.

For technical assistance with the online application, call Keri Jaynes at 616-284-4911 or email kjaynes@grfoundation.org.
YOUTH GRANT APPLICATION QUESTIONS
The grant application must be completed online. The application requires submission of a budget and narrative responses to the following questions:

- **Youth Project Information**
  - Describe your project as instructed below (300 words or less)
    - Provide a SPECIFIC and CONCISE description of the proposed project or program.
    - Include a timeline and expected date of completion (projects should take place between May and December of the grant year).
    - Specify how often the activity will take place, the location, length of each session, and on how many occasions the activity takes place. (For example, an activity occurs twice each week for six hours per week, over a ten week period.)
  - What is the goal of your project? Your goal should be Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic, and Timely. (50 words or less)
  - What issue area or need area (from the list of Priority Areas) does your project or program address? (20 words or less)
  - How does your project reflect the values and North Star of the Grand Rapids Community Foundation? (100 words or less)

- **Youth Involvement**
  - Are youth involved in the planning of this project? Describe any opportunities for youth to take a leadership role or volunteer for this project or program. (100 words or less)
  - Estimate the number of youth who will participate, including age information (based on similar or past projects completed). (50 words or less)
  - How will youth be identified, selected, or recruited for participation in the project? How does the project engage diverse youth audiences? (100 words or less)
  - Describe the role of adults in the project, and their qualifications. (50 words or less)

- **Youth Evaluation**
  - What specific and quantifiable measurement will you use to determine if your project was successful? If it is an existing program, what actions have you taken to improve it? (200 words or less)
  - Which specific portion of the expenses listed in your budget would be paid for with this grant?
  - If this proposal is not fully funded, will you carry out the project? If so, where will you find funding?
  - What makes this project or program unique from others in the community? (100 words or less)

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