PRIORITY AREAS
The Ionia County Community Foundation’s Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) makes grants to organizations that benefit Ionia, Belding, Lakewood, Lowell, Portland, Saranac and Pewamo-Westphalia youth, and is composed of students representing high schools located in Ionia County and Lowell. The maximum award available per grant is $1,000, with $7,700 available to award.

The Youth Advisory Council conducts a needs assessment every two years to identify funding priorities. Based on these results, successful grantees will utilize “service-learning” to address the following youth issues in their communities:

- Psychological and economic impacts of COVID-19
- Teen driver safety
- Academic motivation
- Achievement gap
- Substance abuse
- Depression
- Literacy
- Bullying
- Hunger

ELIGIBILITY
501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations, government entities (including schools), or community groups willing to obtain a fiscal sponsor may apply for grants for programs that benefit Ionia County youth. The YAC 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 a non-religious purpose will be considered.

APPLICATION PROCESS
Grant applications must be submitted using the online portal, https://grantcentral.smartsimple.com, by 11:59 p.m. on Friday, February 12, 2021. Applicants are notified of the YAC’s decision the following May.

HELPFUL HINTS
Grant proposals should assist the applying organization to implement a project or program that benefits youth. Proposals developed by youth or with youth involvement in planning are encouraged. The proposed project or program should:

- Have clear goals that are Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic, and Timely.
- Impact a significant number of Ionia County youth from birth to age 18.
- Avoid duplication with other projects and programs in the community.
- Address an identified priority area and make a significant difference for youth.
- Maximum request of $1,000.

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).

NEED HELP?
- For questions related to the content of your proposal, contact Debbie Wagner, YAC Advisor, at 616-522-1405.
- For technical questions about the online grant application, contact Keri Jaynes at kjaynes@grantcentral.com or 616.284.4911.
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 June and November 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.)
    - Briefly address how you will shift your program if COVID restrictions are still in place.
  - 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 on page 1) does your project or program address? (20 words or less)

- **Youth Involvement**
  - Youth grants seek to support projects that not only have youth participants, but also build leadership capacity. Please describe how youth take a leadership role in the planning and implementation of this project. (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)