GRAND RAPIDS COMMUNITY FOUNDATION CENTENNIAL

Grand Rapids Community Foundation is the oldest community foundation in Michigan, opening its doors in 1922, which means that in 2022, we are celebrating 100 years of philanthropy in Kent County! As we kick off a new century of service and impact, unrestricted fund investments in community-led philanthropy have been made across several internal committees this fiscal year, including an extra $50,000 to the Youth Grant Committee. Each committee is invited to determine how best to utilize the resources in support of racial equity with a strong preference for solutions led by people of color. This aligns with an organizational commitment made in June 2020 to level up our support to Black communities, and the Community Foundation's larger goal of leveraging our existing infrastructure to build a healthy, robust, and increasingly resourced eco-system of people of color-led nonprofits and movements to lessen the impact of racialized outcomes across inequitable systems.

PRIORITY AREAS

A total of $100,000 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.

In the fall of 2020, Youth Grant Committee (YGC) members conducted a needs assessment of students in Kent County. Data from this survey, in conjunction with Grand Rapids Community Foundation's values and North Star, informed a request for proposals that address:

- equity and racial justice
- youth access to mental health services and resources
- college and/or career preparation

Priority will be given to proposals that:

- come from organizations led by people of color (defined as a majority in three or more of the following categories: founder, executive director, internal leadership team, staff, volunteers, and board of directors)
- serve youth of color, and
- build leadership capacity in youth, allowing them to co-create and co-implement programming focused on the issues listed above.

Youth indicated that the following types of programming and activities may be useful in addressing these issues. **This should not be seen as an exhaustive list**, but as a springboard for ideation and creative responses and solutions.

- Programs that teach youth how to plan community events, protests, read laws and policy, and/or speak to elected officials about issues important to them
- Programs where youth learn about the history of people of color and systems of oppression in the United States
- Programs where youth learn to use data to identify racial disparities and propose actions to address them
- Programs promoting a climate of acceptance at youth-serving organizations, including nonprofits and schools, among students and teachers/staff (racial identity, gender identity, sexuality, body image, ability, etc.)
- Culturally competent programs that promote mental health including self-acceptance, coping skills for anxiety, depression, and low self-esteem, creative outlets for stress, and building strong interpersonal relationships and networks of support (socially and within the family)
- Life skills training (ex/ managing time, financial literacy including making budgets, doing taxes, saving and investing money, building healthy habits, cooking, and other practical skills)
- College prep- SAT/ACT classes, financial aid workshops, college visits
- Employment skills training, job placements, internships

ELIGIBILITY

501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations, government entities (including schools), or community groups willing to obtain a [fiscal sponsor](#) (with help from the Community Foundation) may apply for grants for programs that benefit youth in the greater Grand Rapids area. The YGC values projects that promote inclusiveness and do not discriminate in hiring 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.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Grant applications must be submitted electronically using the online portal by **11:59 p.m. on Friday, January 14, 2022.** Students may request a brief evening meeting with a representative of your organization to learn more about your work and proposal during the weeks of February 14 or 21. Decisions are announced by the following April.

Our [Youth Fund and Committee](#) provide a unique opportunity for high school students to learn about philanthropy and experience grantmaking firsthand. We recognize this creates a more labor-intensive application process than you might typically expect from our Community Foundation. We appreciate our partners' willingness to support this experience for our students. We are happy to answer questions or offer support as needed.

NEED HELP?
- For questions related to the content of your proposal, eligibility requirements, or support identifying a fiscal sponsor, call Erika VanDyke at 616-454-1751 ext. 135, or email [evandyke@grfoundation.org.](mailto: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. You may choose to complete a traditional written application in narrative form, or a video up to five minutes in length that addresses the questions below. Video applications will still require submission of a project budget and demographic information.

- **Youth Project Information**
    - Describe your project as instructed below (Suggested length: appx. 300 words)
        - Youth will review your application. 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 November 2022. Reports will be due in December 2022, so youth can review ahead of the 2023 grant cycle.**
        - 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 a 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.
        - Include a website link for additional information on your project, if available.
    - What is the goal of your project? Your goal should be Specific, Measurable, Ambitious, Realistic, and Time-bound, Inclusive, and Equitable. (Suggested length: appx 50 words)
    - What issue area or need area (from the list on page 1) does your project or program address?
    - How does your project reflect the [values and North Star](#) of the Grand Rapids Community Foundation? (Suggested length: appx 100 words)

- **Youth Involvement**
    - Youth grants seek to support projects that not only have youth participants, but also build leadership capacity. Describe how youth take a leadership role in the planning and implementation of this project (Please note that youth participating in programs and submitting pre and post survey data is not sufficient) (Suggested length: appx 100 words)
    - Estimate the number of youth who will participate, including age information (based on similar or past projects completed). (Suggested length: appx 50 words)

- o How will youth be identified, selected, or recruited for participation in the project? How does the project engage diverse youth audiences? (Suggested length: appx 100 words)
  - o Describe the role of adults in the project, and their qualifications. (Suggested length: appx 50 words)

- **Youth Evaluation**
  - o What makes this project or program unique from others in the community? (Suggested length: appx 100 words)
  - o 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? (Suggested length: appx 200 words)

- **Project Budget***
  - o Which specific portion of the expenses listed in your project budget would be paid for with this grant? (Suggested length: appx 50 words)
  - o If this proposal is not fully funded, will you carry out the project? If so, where will you find funding? (Suggested length: appx 50 words)
  - o Organization's Annual Operating Budget. (provide budgeted amount)
  - o Project Budget: List all expenses and income sources for your project, including the status of other grant sources, and specify EXACTLY how requested grant funds will be used. (i.e.; 25 calculators @ $10 each=$250.00)

- **Demographics***
  - o Identify the categories in which people of color are a majority (founder, executive director, leadership team, board of directors, volunteers, staff, communities served).
  - o Provide gender identity and racial/ethnic identity demographic information for the Clients, Staff, Board and Volunteers.

*Submission of project budget and demographic information still required for video submissions.