



GRANTMAKING GUIDELINES 2022

Who is the Community Foundation?

The Capital Region Community Foundation is a public charity organized as a collection of permanent endowments. The income from these endowed funds is awarded to charitable 501(c)(3) nonprofits and other eligible entities, for projects and programs that predominately benefit the residents of Ingham, Eaton, and Clinton counties.

The Community Foundation values projects and organizations that promote inclusiveness and that 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.

As a community leader, we have a responsibility to take action to create a more just and equitable society. We condemn racism, inequity and injustice, and we believe it is vital that all people in our community are valued and respected, especially those who have been historically marginalized. We are passionate about building vibrant, thriving and inclusive communities that uplift everyone who lives in our tri-county region.

The four Community Foundation competitive grant categories

The Community Foundation has four types of grants – Impact, Capacity Building, Mini and Youth. The Foundation accepts applications from all eligible entities. However, we strongly encourage requests from small and mid-size nonprofits who are making a difference in underserved and/or diverse communities.

Detailed information and applications can be found on our Grant Information web page:

<https://ourcommunity.org/nonprofit-support/grants-at-the-community-foundation>

The following requirements apply to all Community Foundation grant opportunities.

- Requests must be for projects and programs that predominantly benefit residents of **Clinton, Eaton and Ingham Counties, Michigan**.
- Federal tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code; OR a fiscal agent that meets these criteria.
- State of Michigan Charitable License to Solicit. If you need additional information and/or the application to apply for a license, please click here: [Michigan Charitable Organizations and Solicitations Act](#)

A nonprofit organization may apply in more than one grant category per year. However, organizations should be thoughtful before submitting applications for multiple categories. Only one grant application per category will be accepted from each organization. Applications will be reviewed, and selections made by a committee of community volunteers.

What the Community Foundation generally will not fund

The Community Foundation is unable to fund the following through the grant application process: Individuals, international organizations, sectarian or religious programs, endowment funds, existing obligations, debts or expenses incurred before the grant approval date.

Regarding Capital Campaigns

The Community Foundation will consider leadership gifts early in the capital campaign process to help leverage other giving. Please contact us to discuss.

❖ **Impact Grants - \$10,000 – 75,000**

Impact grantees may not receive funding in consecutive years. Impact Grants require a 1:1 cash match be secured before the grant is paid.

CRITERIA:

Projects must meet at least one of the following Impact Criteria:

- **Significantly increase the long-term impact of an organization or program, not to provide cash assistance for ongoing operations.** *Operating expenses are defined as routine expenses in an organization's operating budget, such as costs for ongoing programming, occupancy, administration, etc. We do not award grants for operating deficits.* For example: Impact grants will not purchase food for a pantry, but our committee may consider purchasing equipment that would help a food pantry stock healthier options to improve community health.
- **Significantly increase the organization's ability to reach underserved populations, not to simply serve more people.** For example: Impact grants are not designed to increase the number of people utilizing an existing program, but rather to help expand a successful program to serving a new high-need population. You must substantiate the need and provide a detailed sustainability plan.
- **Enable two or more nonprofits to work collaboratively to create transformative and sustainable community change.** For example, two organizations serving the same constituents may implement a new or expanded program together that would otherwise be impossible without collaboration.

IMPACT GRANT TIMELINE:

- The preliminary application period is Monday, December 6, 2021 – Monday February 7, 2022.
- The Impact Grant Committee reviews the preliminary applications in late February and decides which will be invited to submit a full grant application. Applicants will be notified in early March.
- Full applications are due in April, reviewed by committee in mid-June. Applicants notified by end of June 2022.

❖ **Capacity Building Grants**

Capacity Building grants help an organization increase its sustainability and effectiveness by strengthening its governance and management systems. The Foundation does this by partnering with our Capacity Building grantees and other experts in organizational management.

- ***The first step is a phone consultation before you complete the application. You can schedule your consultation by contacting Cindy Hales, Director of Community Investment, 989-560-4786 or chales@ourcommunity.org.***
- The second step is an application. The application seeks to identify the specific problem(s) you need to solve in your organization. We are looking for a clear understanding of the capacity issue(s) that create challenges within the governance or management systems of your organization.
- Step three involves meeting with Community Foundation staff to co-design a detailed plan of action to address your capacity issue.

CRITERIA

- Request must focus on strengthening governance or management systems.
- It is strongly recommended that applicants have at least one paid staff person and an annual operating budget of **at least \$100,000**.
- Applicants must agree to partner with Community Foundation staff to co-design a plan of action.

Examples of Capacity Building issues include:

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|-----------------------------------|--|----------------------|
| *Board Development | *Fundraising Planning | *Governance Models |
| *Executive Leadership Development | *Long-range Planning | *Succession Planning |
| *Staff Training and Development | *Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Training | |

CAPACITY GRANT TIMELINE:

- The grant application period is Monday, December 6, 2021 – Monday, February 7, 2022.
- Applications will be reviewed by committee in late February with notification to awardees by early March

❖ **Mini-Grants – up to \$5,000**

Mini-Grants are perfect for smaller organizations that seek programming or project support. These opportunities are presented for consideration to donors with funds at the Community Foundation. Mini-grants may be funded at any time throughout the year based on the giving interests of the fundholder. *Historically, our donors support requests for initiatives that provide direct benefit to residents of the Capital Region.*

CRITERIA

- The **applicant's** annual operating budget cannot exceed \$250,000.
- Mini-Grants can be requested for ongoing programming or operations.
- Mini-Grants are best suited to programs or projects that are **not time-sensitive**. There is no guarantee that your proposal will be selected for full or partial funding, or that it will be funded within a certain time frame.

MINI-GRANT TIMELINE:

- The grant application period is Monday, December 6, 2021 – Monday, February 7, 2022.
- Mini-grant requests will be presented to our fundholders three times throughout the 2022 calendar year for their consideration.

❖ **Youth Grants – up to \$5,000**

The Youth Action Committee (YAC) is a group of high school students from across the tri-county capital region. The YAC makes grants from the Youth Fund to support programs that help teens age 12-18, based on the most recent youth needs assessment survey.

CRITERIA

- Organizations eligible for Youth Grants must serve youth and teens in Ingham, Eaton or Clinton counties.
- The Youth Action Committee is especially interested in proposals that provide teens with skills to handle with the most pressing issues identified in the most recent Youth Survey, which currently are:
 - ❖ Teen Mental Health (Depression, anxiety, suicide, eating disorders, etc.)
 - ❖ Abuse (substance, sexual, emotional, racism, sexism, bullying, etc.)
 - ❖ Stress (academic, family, social, emotional, employment readiness, etc.)

YOUTH GRANT TIMELINE:

- The grant application period is Monday, December 6, 2021 – Monday, February 7, 2022.
- Final grant decisions are made by the Youth Action Committee in April/May.
- Applicants will be notified by the end of May 2022.

Please visit our website for links to the 2022 Grant Applications.

<https://ourcommunity.org/nonprofit-support/grants-at-the-community-foundation>

Capital Region Community Foundation Program Staff

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