



General Grant Guidelines

The Foundation recognizes the need to be flexible in its policies so that it can respond to creative or innovative proposals. However, grant funds are limited and not all proposals can be funded. The following areas are some of those that will be considered when grant requests are reviewed:

- Priority will be given to programs with the greatest impact on the needs and growth of Mecosta County.
- Organizations must be tax exempt under Section 501(C)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.
- Applications from tax supported organizations may be considered if the project is of an exceptional benefit to the people of Mecosta County.
- Grants generally are given one time only, for a specific purpose.
- Grants will not be made for operating expenses.
- No grant money may be used for political campaigning or lobbying.
- Applications from religious organizations may be considered if the project meets a charitable need, is available to anyone regardless of religious preference, and if there is no evangelizing.
- The Foundation operates without discrimination as to age, race, sex, religion, political affiliations, handicap, ethnic or national origin in considering grant requests, and will award grants only to applicants which do not discriminate in any of the same areas.

Healthy Youth and Senior Fund Grant Guidelines

This special fund permits the awarding of grants to eligible charitable programs run by non-profit organizations, schools or local units of government. Eligible programs are those that would improve the health of youth and seniors, which may included, but are not limited to programs that focus on health and nutrition, family counseling, early childhood development, smoking prevention and cessation, day care, preschool and after-school care.

- The priority areas are as follows. The 1 - 5 are for healthy youth and the 6 - 9 are for healthy seniors.
- Smoking prevention and cessation, and substance abuse
- Violence and conflict resolution
- Access to dental care
- Community alternatives for Recreation
- Child Care
- Pharmaceuticals (e.g., access, costs, medication interactions)
- Preventing and managing chronic disease (e.g. cancer, heart, lung, stroke)
- Long Term Alternatives (assisted living, respite care, family caregiver support)
- Mental Health and Aging (e.g. age discrimination, continuing opportunities)

Programs that have demonstrated successful outcomes (existing programs) will receive 75% of the available funds. The remainder will be used on innovative programs with promising outcomes (new programs).

Grant applications should be completed following the guidelines for the MCCF making sure that the applicant notes on the top right-hand corner of the cover sheet that the application is for the Healthy Senior and Youth Fund. The grant application deadlines are April 1 and October 1.



Grant Application Materials Required

1. Grant Cover Sheet provided, with both required signatures.
2. Grant Budget Form provided or you may provide your own form with similar information that must include the explanation of:
 - Financial participation by other sources.
 - Specific proposed use of Mecosta County Community Foundation funds.
 - How the budget figures were determined.
3. Narrative stating the needs or problems being addressed.
4. Additional Information:
 - Description of the target population and how it will benefit.
 - Number of persons served by the project.
 - Description of the project's goals and objectives, plus it is new or ongoing.
 - Timetable for implementation of the project.
 - Other organizations participating, if any, and their role(s) in the project.
 - Names and qualifications of key project staff and volunteers.
 - Long term strategies for funding the project after the grant money is exhausted.
 - How the project results will be defined, measured and evaluated.
5. Copy of a current IRS letter confirming 501(C)(3) tax exempt status.
6. List of the organization's governing board members.

One copy of the Grant Application is required and should be mailed to:

Mecosta County Community Foundation

P.O. Box 1012-C
Big Rapids, MI 49307