

2025 SPRING COMMUNITY GRANT CATALOG

The Oceana Community Foundation's grantmaking committees are currently reviewing grant proposals from non-profit organizations serving Oceana County.

We are inviting our donor advisors to partner with us to stretch our limited competitive grant resources and serve more community needs. If you would like to fully, or partially fund, any of these proposals through your Fund, you may recommend a grant by contacting us by email or phone.

Please make grant recommendations by **Friday, April 4**, to help our grant review committee to make decisions with other resources in mind.



**Thank you for your
support!**

Contact us if you have any questions:

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Camp Newaygo*Science Camp Scholarships at Camp Newaygo***FULLY FUNDED****Amount requested: \$4,650** | Total project cost: \$4,650

Camp Newaygo's Science Camp ignites a passion for STEM in young girls, empowering 5th-grade girls, nominated by their teachers, to explore science through hands-on learning and discovery. Your support will fund full scholarships for five deserving girls, removing financial barriers and providing them with an immersive, transformative experience. This investment fosters future female leaders in science, technology, engineering, and math, shaping their potential and inspiring a lifelong love of learning. Give the gift of scientific exploration and empower the next generation of women in STEM.

Family Promise of the Lakeshore*FP of the Lakeshore Oceana County Prevention & Stabilization Program***FULLY FUNDED****Amount requested: \$5,000** | Total project cost: \$11,020

This request for funding will be used to assist families experiencing a temporary emergency that could lead to the loss of housing. It will provide financial assistance for essentials like rent, mortgage payment, utilities, food, car repairs, medication, gas and other essentials in order to ease the temporary burden, so that an emergency such as illness does not cause a family with limited income or living pay check to paycheck to lose housing. The goal is to prevent housing loss before it gets to eviction or foreclosure. Families will be provided Case Management and Life Skills classes and referrals for up to a year (longer if they choose).

Hospice of Michigan, Inc.*Gestures of Grace***PARTIALLY FUNDED - \$500 Still Needed****Amount requested: \$2,500** | Total project cost: \$10,000

The Gestures of Grace Fund, part of Hospice of Michigan's Open Access program, provides essential support for uninsured or under-insured patients and their families during hospice care. This fund addresses essential non-medical needs not covered by insurance, including comfort items, utility assistance, and emergency transportation. By supplying simple yet vital resources—like fans for summer heat or liquid nutrition for patients who cannot eat—the fund significantly enhances the quality of life for individuals in their final days. Funding will help expand this vital support, easing families' financial strain, allowing them to focus on care and comfort.

First Tee—West Michigan in Oceana**PARTIALLY FUNDED - \$3,800 Still Needed***School Partnership Project and Junior Mentor Initiative***Amount requested: \$5,000** | Total project cost: \$32,350

First Tee is an introduction to golf for young people, ages 7-17 where we teach valuable life skills through the game of golf. Our heartbeat is around serving students who ordinarily wouldn't get a opportunity. We feel the platform described in this grant request at school districts is where we make the most impact and have the greatest opportunity to make a difference. First Tee is inclusive, students from all walks of life are welcomed into our program. The funds will be utilized to provide 4-6 sessions (often multiple times a calendar year) at local school districts and at area golf course for absolutely FREE of charge.

Lakeshore Children's Advocacy Center - Ludington*Expanding Services for Oceana Child Abuse Victims***Amount requested: \$5,000** | Total project cost: \$42,000

Lakeshore CAC is seeking support for direct services for Oceana children living who have experienced abuse, as well as their non-offending family members. On January 24, 2025 an interagency agreement was formalized between Lakeshore CAC and Oceana County government. Lakeshore CAC provides forensic interviews, family advocacy, trauma therapy, court preparation, and case coordination for child abuse cases in Oceana County. The expansion of our service area leads to increased costs to our organization. Requested funds will support the expansion of critical services into Oceana County to the community's most vulnerable.

FULLY FUNDED**Local Animal Shelter Support Inc.***Fenced Exercise Area for Oceana County Animal Shelter***Amount requested: \$5,000** | Total project cost: \$13,050

LASSI hopes to help provide funding and labor for construction of an 8' high fenced exercise area for dogs at the Oceana County Animal Shelter. There is an enclosure now, but volunteers and dogs must vacate if someone is visiting to consider adopting a dog. This is unfair to the animal and not helpful for their health. A fenced area is important because shelter dogs needs to be off leash with room to exercise daily to have the best chance of staying well-adjusted while awaiting their forever homes. They need to play, release energy, socialize with people, and enjoy a bit of freedom. If the exercise pen is occupied, they either have their time shortened, or don't get to use the pen at all.

FULLY FUNDED**Michigan Works! West Michigan***Pre-apprenticeship Career Counseling Certificate***Amount requested: \$1,500** | Total project cost: \$3,000

The purpose of this grant to assist those not eligible under our other funding sources, so that all interested individuals can prepare for an apprenticeship career. We will assist youth (ages 16-24) and adults to determine their career cluster and expand their pursuit of training by preparing them for employment into apprenticeships. We will accomplish this through credentials, short-term work experiences, talent specialist one-on-one counseling and soft skills development. Not all individuals fit our eligibility criteria, requested funds will support three participants not funded by other programs.

FULLY FUNDED**New Hope Community Church, Reformed Church In America***New Electronic Accessible Doors for the Entryway***Amount requested: \$5,000** | Total project cost: \$13,070

The purpose of this grant is to acquire funds to help New Hope Community Church replace its existing front entryway doors, with new doors that can be operated electronically, for greater accessibility. As we seek to be a welcoming place for everyone, we are aware that many people struggle with mobility. We want to be able to provide a safe and easily accessible entryway for them. In addition, our church provides a monthly food pantry, and hosts a monthly mobile food truck. Electronically operated doors would not only make our building more accessible, but would greatly increase efficiency in the collection and distribution of the food used to serve needy families in the community.

Oceana County Parks & Recreation Commission**FULLY FUNDED***Cedar Point Accessibility Improvements***Amount requested: \$4,530** | Total project cost: \$25,300

Imagine a park where everyone regardless of mobility can gather, share meals, and enjoy the outdoors together. Accessible picnic area makes this vision a reality. Unlike picnic areas of yesteryear, the purpose of the grant will provide dedicated spaces for wheelchair users, ensuring that no one is left on the sidelines. These accessible picnic areas will foster inclusiveness, allowing families, friends, and community members of all abilities to sit together comfortably. They also support the growing need for accessible public spaces, aligning with ADA guidelines and demonstrating a commitment to equity. Requested funds will create two concrete pads for two of the ADA picnic tables.

Pentwater Historical Society**PARTIALLY FUNDED - \$1,100 Still Needed***Journeys to Pentwater***Amount requested: \$2,500** | Total project cost: \$11,750

The exhibit, Journeys to Pentwater, will be new to the Pentwater museum in 2025. It will tell the story of the people that came to Pentwater: why they came, where they came from, what work they did when they got here, why they stayed, etc. It will include text and audio narratives that visitors can read or listen to and will cover multiple decades of the people that came to Pentwater. It will also include photos where available of these individuals, or of people from the same time period. Requestd funds will support graphic design and interactive multimedia production.

Pentwater Township**PARTIALLY FUNDED - \$2,575 Still Needed***Pentwater Community Beachfront Restoration***Amount requested: \$5,000** | Total project cost: \$165,837.82

The Pentwater community has long been challenged by the impacts of wind-blown sand on the public beachfront at Mears State Park and adjacent public properties. Reconfiguring infrastructure and restoring native dune habitat using nature-based solutions will reduce these impacts. Completion of this project will ensure the long-term protection of public amenities by stabilizing the shoreline, improving environmental biodiversity, maintaining economic viability, and improving accessibility for visitors. The Township and its partners seek funding to support the final design engineering phase which will produce shovel-ready design plans in preparation for the construction phase.

Revive Church**PARTIALLY FUNDED - \$2,500 Still Needed***Create and Run an Essential Pantry***Amount requested: \$5,000** | Total project cost: \$5,000

Revive Church is part of a community-driven group committed to a shared improvement vision (8/18/21, Town Hall Vision) in Hesperia. We are very excited because we have recently acquired a historic building in the center of the village. Revive Church knows this location is easy to access and will be an essential focal point for our community. Facing health and poverty complications due to economic challenges, especially among seniors, families with children, and the unemployed, we plan to establish an Essential Pantry. Requested funds will help set up pantry area and stock nonfood items such as toiletries, feminine products, cleaning supplies, dental hygiene items and self-care essentials.

Rothbury Community Church*Helping Hands Food Pantry: Let's Help Nourish our Body***Amount requested: \$2,576** | Total project cost: \$5,076

The purpose of the Helping Hands Food Pantry: Let's Help Nourish Our Neighbors project is to increase access to local, fresh foods for pantry participants for the growing season. Requested funds will match a GLE People Fund grant.

FULLY FUNDED**Sable Points Lighthouse Keeper Association***Education of Maritime History for Children in Oceana County***Amount requested: \$2,000** | Total project cost: \$3,500

This grant will provide educational materials to both children throughout Oceana and children visiting the Lighthouse. With distribution at the lighthouse and at public spaces throughout Oceana County, the Sable Points Lighthouse Keepers Association (SPLKA) aims to increase maritime awareness and education amongst students in their middle school years. Additionally, SPLKA has designed "old" educational materials for the purpose of sharing stories that align with each location, i.e. materials distributed in Oceana County will be about Little Sable Point Lighthouse.

FULLY FUNDED**Tall Turf Ministries***Defibrillator Needed in Camp***Amount requested: \$2,500** | Total project cost: \$3,000

We aim for diverse groups of people to live, learn, play, and worship together according to God's vision of wholeness. We understand we are all His children whether we are believers or not. For those not choosing to participate in worship activities, we have alternative age appropriate programming. To ensure safety for all, we need a new defibrillator for requested amount.

FULLY FUNDED**The Playhouse At White Lake***Rocking Confidence with Songwriting & Pirate Rocker Musical***Amount requested: \$5,000** | Total project cost: \$15,000

Our White Lake Youth Theatre (WLYT) program plays host to a creative collaboration for the writing of our world premiere youth musical, THE PIRATE ROCKER FINDS HIS VOICE, with the teamed-up talents of performance artists Corey Suesakul (lifelong musician and vocalist and star of THE GIANT BUBBLE CIRCUS) Amber Hellewell (local, published children's author/play editor and the Coordinator for White Lake Youth Theatre Council) and Tyler Quinn (local composer, animator and sound engineer) and Shelby Mason for the original writing and production of this Pirate Rocker musical. Students are also invited to take part in Shelby's National Endowment for the Arts Songwriting Challenge, free of charge.

**PARTIALLY FUNDED
- \$2,600 Still Needed**

Trinity Lutheran Church*Trinity Community Food Pantry Building Expansion***Amount requested: \$5,000** | Total project cost: \$300,000

We are seeking to expand the dry storage area of the pantry by building an 2100 square foot addition attached to the current building. Our current dry storage is in the basement, and is limited as the building is only 750 square feet. We also have to manually load trucks and haul the food to the upper level to prepare for the next pantry distribution. The new storage space, on the same level, more than triples dry food storage. With more storage, we will have a more stable food supply that will enable to us to distribute nutritious dry goods, such as soup, fruit, pasta, canned vegetables, oatmeal, cereal, peanut butter and canned meats. All of these foods come from the USDA, but not consistently.

FULLY FUNDED**Village of Hesperia***HesperiaART Initiative***Amount requested: \$5,000** | Total project cost: \$14,300

HesperiaART is a community-driven public art program designed to celebrate Hesperia as "The Hub of Vacationland." Through vibrant, engaging and locally inspired art installations, we will enhance public spaces, foster community pride, and attract visitors to experience the creative spirit of our community. The long term goal is to raise \$100,000 and install six pieces of artwork, focusing on downtown, prioritizing community engagement and creative collaboration to ensure a long-term impact. Requested funds will help support two projects at Vida Weaver Park - a mural by artist Renae Wallace themed "Beautiful Gardens" for \$2,700, plus \$500 towards a maintenance account. The student-created metal sculpture by the Newaygo CTE Welding Dept embracing Hesperia as a recreational destination has been funded.

PARTIALLY FUNDED - \$3,200 Still Needed**Village of Pentwater***Project E-Reach***Amount requested: \$4,946** | Total project cost: \$5,895

Project E-Reach, simply put, involves using electric bicycles to improve and foster better relationships between police and citizens. Public Safety Officers and police officers will patrol the Village of Pentwater on electric bicycles. Traditionally, officers have patrolled using automobiles and golf carts. These vehicles allow officers to travel over distances at speed, but the mere fact that officers are inside an automobile or riding in a golf cart sometimes inhibits interactions with people walking, riding bikes, or using skateboards. Project E-Reach leverages the novelty of an electric bike to improve the officer's access to citizens and visitors. Requested amount covers the cost of one e-bike.

We Want The Land Coalition Inc.*Removal & Control of Invasive Autumn Olive***Amount requested: \$5,000** | Total project cost: \$7,932

We Want The Land Coalition, Inc. (WWTLC), aims to manage and eradicate the invasive autumn olive species on our 650-acre property in Walkerville, MI. Last year, we organized two different weekend work sessions with 12-15 dedicated women volunteers, who camped rustically and tackled this challenging task. Despite our efforts, limited power tools and time constraints hindered our progress. This year, we plan a ten-day work period with up to 20 volunteers and better power tools to improve efficiency and reduce physical strain. We are partnering with the Land Conservancy of West Michigan and the Oceana Conservation District. The requested amount will help supply needed equipment, supplies & materials.

PARTIALLY FUNDED - \$3,000 Still Needed

West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission**FULLY FUNDED***West Michigan Agriculture Cluster Impact Analysis***Amount requested: \$5,000** | Total project cost: \$250,000

This project will gather and provide information to inform and empower agriculture producers and processors, economic development organizations, and public officials to make strategic investments to enhance efficiency, productivity, and the long-term resilience and sustainability of the region's agricultural economy. Request will help meet remaining local match requirement to US EDA grant.

West Shore Educational Service District**FULLY FUNDED***Defined Careers***Amount requested: \$5,000** | Total project cost: \$5,620

West Shore Educational Service District (WSESD) is seeking funds to support our Oceana County local school districts transition age students with online learning resources in the area of transition and employment. The transition coordinator attended training from Defined Learning after districts requested more virtual transition materials for in person and remote learners. Defined learning will provide 100 site licenses to be used in the Oceana County School Districts to service secondary special education students. This program will provide the necessary curriculum, resources and virtual learning needed to expand transition age students' exploration and exposure to various careers.