

# Fall 2023 Community Grant



Grantee	Project Name	Project Description	Amount	Grant Funded
<b>AgeWell Services of West Michigan</b>	Meals on Wheels in Oceana County	This past fiscal year (Oct 2022 - Sep 2023), we provided 12,561 Meals on Wheels (MOW) meals for 80 older adults in Oceana County. The purpose and goal of this \$2,500 request is to continue to meet the demand for the Meals on Wheels program to provide food security, healthy food and social connection for homebound Oceana County adults 60 and older. The funds will be used to purchase raw food for meals. Our second largest expense for the program is raw food (20% of overall MOW budget). As so many are negatively impacted by historically high food cost increases, we are also impacted. Outcomes include increased food security, eating healthier food and feeling less socially isolated.	\$2,500	Bessie E. & Ethan Allen Gray Health Fund
<b>Family Promise of the Lakeshore</b>	Family promise of the Lakeshore Eviction Prevention and Housing Stabilization Program	This request will be used to provide support to families experiencing a temporary emergency that could lead to eviction. The program will provide financial assistance for things like rent, utilities, car repairs, gas, medication and groceries, to ease a temporary burden on a family, so that they do not get to the point of eviction. Families will be provided case management and life skills classes for up to a year. The intention is to prevent an eviction, before the family gets to the point of having an eviction filed in court.	\$5,000	William R. Lathers Foundation (2,500) Community Investment Fund (1,650) Homeless Prevention Endowment Fund (850)
<b>Hospice of Michigan, Inc. Michigan Area United</b>	Open Access	Hospice of Michigan's Open Access program was created to assist patients, family members, and caregivers with the hospice and palliative care services they need, regardless of age, diagnosis, or ability to pay. The program provides end-of-life care to patients with a terminal illness who 1) do not qualify for Medicaid, Medicare, or are without private insurance, and 2) whose diagnoses are considered to be too costly to manage.	\$2,500	Bessie E. & Ethan Allen Gray Health Fund
<b>Methodist Camping - Lake Michigan Camp &amp; Retreat</b>	Disc Golf Courses (Fairway To Heaven)	We are seeking funds to build a family-friendly disc golf course. Your support will be used for building essential infrastructure like a parking lot, benches, and course materials. This project aims to create a recreational haven for all ages, fostering community engagement and outdoor fun.	\$3,000	Community Investment Fund
<b>Michigan State University Extension - Oceana County 4-H</b>	The Unleashed 4-H Dog Club Fencing Project	We would like to raise funds to create a safe, outdoor training opportunity for our new 4-H Dog Club; The Unleashed. These funds will be used, in addition to club fundraising, for portable outdoor fencing to build an arena for the dogs. This will allow them to have the necessary off-leash work their project requires while keeping all participants safe. Currently, the club practices indoors, which for speed and agility events is unsafe for the dogs for slipping reasons. When they compete, they compete on grass surfaces and providing an outdoor space will also give them a level playing field.	\$1,500	Oceana Youth Fund
<b>Oceana County Animal Friends</b>	OCAF Shelter improvement/vet care project	Oceana County Animal Friends is a cat rescue that saves over 200 cats each year in Oceana County. We are the overflow when the Oceana County Animal shelter is full. We are 100% donation based non profit. We have 20 plus volunteers and no paid employees. We are located in a home in Mears, MI. We have insulated the garage and would like to add heat to the garage. The garage is our staging and quarantine area for our cats/kitten when they come into the shelter. We are looking to add heat for the winter so the animal will stay warm during their quarantine period they can move to the home. We also need funds for vet care for any animals that come in to the shelter.	\$2,500	William R. Lathers Foundation (2,500)

<b>Oceana County Council on Aging</b>	Expansion to Oceana County Council on Aging's Meal Program	Food insecurity is a major need in Oceana County, particularly for the senior population. Oceana County Council on Aging (OCCOA) addresses this issue by serving meals to the 60 and over. As OCCOA continues to grow, maintaining the equipment for the meal program ensures that needs for nutritious meals and a social outlet are met. OCCOA will use grant funds to purchase a new commercial refrigerator, accommodating the increasing demand for meals. The current refrigerator is obsolete, putting a strain on the staff and volunteers who work hard to provide an exceptional and essential service to the seniors served. With a new refrigerator, OCCOA can expand it's services to more seniors.	\$3,059 Bessie E. & Ethan Allen Gray Health Fund (2,000) Community Investment Fund (1,000) Healthy Youth, Healthy Seniors Fund (59)
<b>Oceana County Early Learning Center</b>	OCELC playground update	OCELC would like to purchase sand for our sand box and balance bikes for our cement area. We would also like to purchase shade sails for across our cement area. OCELC would like to finish the playground with sod and add two trees.	\$5,000 Community Investment Fund
<b>Oceana County Medical Care Facility</b>	Senior Virtual Reality	OCMCF desire to introduce virtual reality technology designed specifically for use by older adults to therapeutically improve their quality of life. OCMCF would partner with MyndVR, a leading provider of VR-based, digital therapeutics for senior living communities. MyndVR is building the most advanced portfolio of original and licensed therapeutic VR content that enables older adults to interact with the outside world in innovative ways that promote engagement, wellness, and positive outcomes. Funding for this project would allow for the purchase of 3 headset immersive glasses and tablets that would be shared among the facilities residents.	\$5,000 Community Investment Fund
<b>Pentwater Public School</b>	Music for All	The purpose of this request is to help revitalize the Pentwater Schools Band program. We will purchase percussion instruments the band no longer owns and which are necessary for a full, pleasing sound. Schools encourage students to participate in co-curricular activities to build confidence, try new things, participate well in a group, and have fun. Lately, playing in the Pentwater Band hasn't been so appealing due to lack of instruments, short-term band directors, and, for some, the expense of buying/renting instruments. We now have a dynamic band director who has obtained several good used instruments, but drums, and some others (e.g. piccolo, sousaphone) must be purchased.	\$5,000 Oceana Youth Fund (4,000) Little Point Sable - Arts for Oceana County Fund (1,000)
<b>The Marriage and Family Center dba The Fountain Hill Center</b>	School Services Oceana County	The purpose of this grant is to provide therapist coordination and therapy to school children in Oceana County Schools. We provide this service to the schools at no cost. This makes therapy obtainable for children who would otherwise not be able to have professional therapy. This therapy is done in coordination with parents, school administration and teachers' recommendations. The children are both seen individually during the school day or in groups. This assures the children who have been identified will be seen on a regular basis.	\$7,500 William R. Lathers Foundation (2,500) Community Investment Fund (5,000)
<b>West Central Michigan Horticultural Research, Inc.</b>	Oceana County F.I.R.S.T. Robotics Team	The WCMHR, Inc. in partnership with Oceana County schools to establish a work/build space & training area at the West MI Research Station. This initiative aims to create the county's first county-wide F.I.R.S.T. Robotics team for high school students. We are seeking a sum of \$4500 to cover a portion of the \$25,589 total cost in the equipment needs category. The objective of this program is to centralize student interest & funding resources to create a single county team that will enhance educational opportunities for high school students. These opportunities are not typically available due to a lack of students & funds required to compete & host a robotics program in the rural school areas.	\$4,500 Oceana Youth Fund