

Fall 2024 Community Grant Round



Grantee	Project Name	Project Description	Amount	Fund
<b>American Youth Foundation</b>	MMLI - Michigan Middle School Leadership Institute	The American Youth Foundation is relaunching the Michigan Middle School Leadership Institute (MMLI), a student-centered conference held at Camp Miniwanca which aims to develop youth leaders by providing civic action tools and creating a network of peers. The conference was established and ran successfully serving hundreds of students until 2020 when it was paused due to COVID. This year, Miniwanca will host 36 Oceana County youth for a three-day residential program in October. Participants will collaborate on community impact projects and focus on developing leadership skills. AYF will meet quarterly with groups to support their service initiative over the following year.	\$ 1,000.00	William R. Lathers Foundation Fund
<b>Communities Overcoming Violent Encounters</b>	Trauma Informed Yoga Services	This project aims to expand COVE's healing services for all survivors of intimate partner violence and sexual assault. It has been proven that performing breathing and yoga exercises have positive healing effects on those who have suffered trauma. The project would cover the costs for two staff members to receive a 200-hour certified yoga instructor certificate, enabling them to safely provide free trauma-informed yoga to anyone receiving services from COVE. COVE aims to collaborate with current yoga instructors in our area to create a series of classes that will have a positive impact.	\$ 3,000.00	Bessie E. & Ethan Allen Gray Health Fund
<b>Disability Network West Michigan</b>	Youth Accessible Recreational and Life Skill Activities	The purpose of this grant is to increase accessible recreational and life skill activities for youth with disabilities. Activities would be scheduled based on age group and season. Some activities included would include, however, not limited to accessible fishing, teaching independent Life skills such as cooking activities, and accessible sporting events. Any awarded funds will be used to provide accessible equipment such as accessible fishing poles and other accessible features to enable youth with disabilities to participate in sports and other activities that youth without disabilities are able to participate in. The ultimate purpose is to promote full inclusiveness for all youth within Oceana County.	\$ 5,000.00	Oceana Youth Fund
<b>Girl Scouts of Michigan Shore to Shore</b>	Empowerment Through the Girl Scouts Leadership Experience: Bridging Gaps and Shaping Leaders—Oceana	The purpose of this request is to increase the level of Oceana County area Girl Scout participation by offering financial aid for girls to join the program and reduce barriers limiting participation. Through our national curriculum, the Girl Scout Leadership Experience (GSLE), girls learn about themselves and their values, and stretch to seek and meet challenges beyond what they might in other settings. They also learn to connect with friends, family, and community to create positive relationships and band together on issues of importance to them. Girls are challenged to look and think critically at the world around them and consider how they can best address significant problems they are passionate about solving.	\$ 2,400.00	Oceana Youth Fund (900) William R. Lathers Foundation Fund (1500)
<b>Mid Michigan Community Action Agency</b>	Housing Counseling	Mid Michigan Community Action's HUD-Certified Housing Counselors provide one-on-one counseling and group education workshops. Topics include Rental Rights, Fair Housing, Pre-Purchase Education for Homebuyers, Post-Purchase Budgeting, Foreclosure Prevention, Financial Literacy, and Predatory Lending. Funds will be used to provide services at no cost. Workshops offer customers educational information in a group setting. One-on-one counseling includes a comprehensive financial analysis, including a credit check, to develop a personalized Action Plan. Funding for this project would help pay Housing Counselors wages.	\$ 5,000.00	Homeless Prevention Endowment Fund (900) Community Investment Fund (1600) William R. Lathers Foundation Fund (2500)
<b>Migrant Legal Aid, Inc.</b>	Outreach and Community Building	Migrant Legal Aid (MLA) seeks funding to expand their outreach and educational impact in Oceana County. Aligned with Oceana County's priorities of Health & Human Services, MLA aims to impact the health and wellbeing of migrant workers and their families in Oceana County by investing in more education and prevention measures, strengthened by intentional community partnerships. The funds will support the creation of tailored educational resources and referral network, along with the expansion of legal support in collaboration with the Oceana Hispanic Center (OHC). Moreover, MLA plans to empower OCHC staff with specialized training on health initiatives, wage protection, safe housing, and MLA's legal services. This training will enable OCHC staff to provide informed assistance during phone consultations and in-person inquiries, ensuring individuals receive the necessary guidance or referrals to vital resources.	\$ 5,000.00	William R. Lathers Foundation Fund

<b>Read Muskegon</b>	Building Capacity for Programs Supporting English Language Learners in Oceana County	There is currently no consistent ESL programming in Oceana County. Read Muskegon is currently working with local businesses, agencies, and individuals to determine how to best build and sustain a menu of programs for English Language Learners (ELL) that will meet the needs of the county. This grant will help support: 1) A pilot program in partnership with New Era Christian Reformed Church to train and support volunteer tutors who will provide 1-1 instruction to ELL, 2) Community outreach to assess potential for expanded tutoring and class sites, 3) Strengthening relationships with local businesses to build and sustain funding to support ELL programs linked to workforce development.	\$ 5,000.00 Community Investment Fund
<b>Shelby Public Schools</b>	Pottery Kiln for the Shelby High School Art Program	The purpose of this grant is to provide Shelby High School students with a safe, reliable, and fully functioning kiln to help better and grow the art program. Over the past several years, SPS has had many students express interest in working with clay. While there are many classes that allow students to work 2D, working with clay is something that will allow students who are more hands on and kinesthetic learners to have a safe outlet to express themselves in the medium of clay. A reliable kiln, will allow students to not only create functional pieces of art, it will open up opportunities for the art department to supplement the cost of a pottery program.	\$ 5,000.00 Oceana Youth Fund (4,100) Little Point Sable - Arts for Oceana County Fund (900)
<b>Village of Walkerville</b>	"Let's Paint the Pioneer House"	The purpose of this grant is to secure the funding needed to have the exterior of Walkerville's historic "Pioneer House Museum" scraped, primed, caulked and painted, befitting the home's construction time period. This historic centennial home was moved to its present location in 1990 for use as a public museum. The village has been working with volunteers to reopen it after it being closed during pandemic. The village would like to have its appearance brightened up, making it a point of pride for the community. A licensed and insured contractor will be used to complete the work.	\$ 5,000.00 Community Investment Fund
<b>Total Funded</b>			<b>\$ 36,400.00</b>