

EDUCATION GRANTMAKING GUIDELINES

In 2003, the Community Foundation identified and began addressing the most pressing needs in Newaygo County. These efforts intensified in 2011 when the Board of Trustees adopted a strategic framework to guide its community investments and outreach. One of these areas was education. That same year the Community Foundation adopted Goal 2025: **to increase the proportion of Newaygo County residents* with high-quality college degrees, certificates, or other credentials to 60% by 2025.**

In 2012, the Community Foundation publically launched Goal 2025 as the Education Initiative. A **Career and College Access Endowment Fund** was created to support and sustain the work into the future. Thanks to a grant awarded by the Council of Michigan Foundations, the Kresge Foundation matched local contributions to this fund, the fund totals \$115,000.

The following grantmaking guidelines reflect the Education framework and support the realization of this goal. To be competitive, proposed activities must demonstrate a clear connection to college and career awareness and attainment.

**Percentage of adults ages 25-64 years of age.*

Grantmaking Guidelines for Education

Proposals that demonstrate proactive and/or proven approaches to systemic change and long-term impact are encouraged.

Applicant organizations should provide a rationale for their approach based on past program success and/or relevant local, regional and national data. Proposals that align with one or more of the following priorities will be most competitive.

- **Early Childhood Investments** (Kindergarten Readiness)
Example of an appropriate outcome – increased student retention
Example of an appropriate measured benchmark - reading proficiency
Example of an appropriate measurement tool - the Brigance Early Childhood Inventory
Example of a targeted strategy - preschool scholarships
- **STEAM Education Opportunities** (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math).
Example of an appropriate outcome – increased post-secondary student retention/completion
Example of appropriate measured benchmark – 11th grade math proficiency
Example of an appropriate measurement tool - Standardized Test scores
Example of targeted strategy - career exposure
- **Literacy Programs** (Increase Student's Literacy Proficiency)
Example of an appropriate outcome – increased post-secondary student retention/completion data
Example of an appropriate measured benchmark – 3rd-4th grade reading levels
Example of an appropriate measurement tools – STAR Reading scores
Example of targeted strategy – summer reading programs
- **Remediation Opportunities** (enrichment programs or after school programs; summer programming to retain learning and impact the achievement gap from one school year to the next, and/or educational alternatives for older teens/young adults who have dropped out of school).
Example of an appropriate outcome – increased post-secondary student retention/completion data
Example of an appropriate measured benchmark – dual enrollment data
Example of an appropriate measurement tools – ACT scores
Example of targeted strategy – after school college prep program
- **Creating Positive College and Career-Oriented Culture** (community/parental involvement)
Example of an appropriate outcome – increased career attainment.
Example of an appropriate measured benchmark – current level of community engagement
Example of an appropriate measurement tools – attendance statistics
Example of targeted strategy – college and career fair

Public data will be tracked over time to indicate overall community improvement. Measures will include unemployment rates, poverty rates, number of residents living below self-sufficiency wage level, and education attainment from resources like the Opportunity Index at Opportunity Nation: <http://www.opportunitynation.org>