



Education Initiative Grantmaking Guidelines

The education initiative intention is to increase college and career access for residents of Newaygo County. The goal is **to increase the proportion of Newaygo County residents with high-quality college degrees, certificates, or other credentials to 60 percent* by 2025**. To achieve this goal, the Community Foundation will focus grantmaking to support Newaygo County nonprofit agencies ingrained in this work. The following grantmaking guidelines reflect the education initiative framework and support the realization of this goal. The Community Foundation is most interested in programs that seek to align with the five education indicators highlighted on the Newaygo County Area Dashboard at ncdashboard.org.

Grantmaking Guidelines for Education

Proposals should demonstrate proactive and/or proven approaches to systemic change.

Effective grant applications should demonstrate:

- Serve residents of Newaygo County
- Community need supported with relevant local data
- Alignment of grantmaking priority areas
- Alignment with measures indicated on the Newaygo County Area Dashboard
- Specific program goals
- Long-term impact
- Realistic implementation plans
- Feasible budget projection
- Sustainability
- Collaboration with community partners

Priority Areas

Grant applications are **required** to meet one of these focus areas:

- **Early childhood investments** (kindergarten readiness)
Programs that align with this priority area demonstrate a measurable approach to prepare students for kindergarten.
- **STEAM education opportunities**
Programs that align with this priority area provide opportunities to explore areas of STEAM: science, technology, engineering, arts, and math.
- **Literacy programs**
Programs that align with this priority area strive to increase individual's literacy proficiency.
- **Remediation opportunities**
Programs that align with this priority area assist student learning retention and reduce the achievement gap.
- **Creating positive college and career-oriented culture** (community/parental involvement)
Programs that align with this priority area focus on programming that offers social/emotional support or removing barriers to college and career success.

Things Fremont Area Community Foundation typically will not fund

Grants to individuals, the purchase of property, sponsorships of one-time or special events, existing obligations, religious programming requiring affiliation and/or religious instruction, or projects that began prior to award notification.

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