Community Grants: General Grantmaking Guidelines

In 2016, the Community Foundation board and staff created a strategic framework to guide our efforts over the next five years. This plan draws on our past work, outlines our vision, and defines our role in the community. This framework also serves to lay out broad strategies and refine our grantmaking investments. To achieve our core purpose—to improve the quality of life in Newaygo County—we focus on three key areas and corresponding decade goals:

- **Education**: Increase the proportion of residents with college degrees, certifications, or credentials to 60 percent
- **Poverty to prosperity**: Reduce poverty to at or below the national average
- **Community and economic development**: Maintain unemployment rate at or below the national average

These goals are generational and will require a focused community effort. Lasting change can only be accomplished through collaboration and support of a strong nonprofit infrastructure.

**Grantmaking Guidelines**

General 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

**What We Fund**

The Community Foundation places special emphasis on issues and projects that are poised to transform the quality of life for Newaygo County residents. Through our competitive grantmaking process, we prioritize opportunities with:

- **Impact with measurable results**
  - We seek to partner with and support nonprofit organizations that create long-term solutions to the core causes of social, economic, and educational disparity.

- **Organizational strength to encourage institution sustainability**
  - We focus on creating a stronger nonprofit infrastructure in Newaygo County by providing core operating support to organizations whose work is aligned with our focus areas.

- **Network of partnerships/collaboration for maximum leverage**
  - To increase success in achieving positive outcomes, we fund organizations that are capable of working with other partners in results-oriented collaborations.
  - We support holistic, multi-disciplinary and integrated methods that address local conditions and concerns.
  - Special consideration will be given to applications that incorporate a variety of partners. In order to promote sustainable projects, priority will be given to programs that do not require the Community Foundation to be the sole collaborator or first-dollars-in.

- **Inclusion that demonstrates need**
  - To ensure the inclusion of underrepresented geographic areas and individuals, we encourage applications from organizations that represent and serve people and/or communities historically excluded from access to funding sources.

**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 programing requiring affiliation and/or religious instruction, or projects that began prior to award notification.