

Sanilac County Community Foundation
PURPOSES, RESTRICTIONS AND POLICIES
ON THE
DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS

I. PURPOSE

The Sanilac County Community Foundation (SCCF) is interested in funding projects which will improve the quality of life for citizens of Sanilac County. Eligible projects generally fall within these categories:

Arts and Culture
Community Development
Education
Environmental Issues
Health and Wellness
Recreation
Social Services
Youth Projects
Senior Citizens Projects
Improvement in the Physical, Mental and Community Values of
Sanilac County residents

The Community Foundation aims to support creative approaches to community needs and problems, which benefit the widest possible range of people. The SCCF encourages organizations to apply for seed money for projects, which will meet the changing needs of the community.

II. ELIGIBILITY

The Community Foundation welcomes grant applications from the Sanilac County area or outside areas if a significant number of the persons who will be served reside within Sanilac County. Applicants must be a non-profit organization, unit of government, educational institution, or faith based organization that addresses Sanilac County community needs, has a clearly demonstrated public benefit, is fully accessible to all people regardless of religious beliefs, and does not proselytize. All applicants must serve Sanilac County and not discriminate in hiring of staff or provision of services.

III. FUNDS

There are a number of individual funds administered by the Community Foundation as part of its endowment. Many of these are restricted to certain purposes, in accordance with the wishes of the donors.

Grant requests may be considered by one or all of the following grant-making committees:

- 1) **Board Discretionary Grants** – These grants are available due to the interest generated from select endowments within the Community Foundation. The Grant Advisory Committee membership is comprised solely of SCCF Trustees. These funds are used to support innovative, community-based projects that enhance Sanilac County and the lives of its residents. Eligible programs fall into a variety of categories.
- 2) **Youth Advisory Council Grants** – Funding is made available through grants that were supplied by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. These funds must be used for youth projects in Sanilac County, and must include youth in the planning and implementation of the project. The Advisory Committee consists of Youth Advisory Council members.

IV. GRANTMAKING POLICIES

The Community Foundation gives highest priority to programs which:

- Reach as many people as possible in the county
- Increase individual access to community resources
- Examine and address the underlying causes of local problems
- Promote personal independence and achievement
- Seek challenge or matching grants
- Attract volunteer resources and support
- Strengthen the private, non-profit sector
- Encourage collaboration between organizations
- Build the capacity of the applying organization

* The SCCF reserves the right to make a site visit before or after the grant approval.

In order to follow best practices, the Community Foundation usually does not make grants for the following:

- Religious or sectarian purposes
- Legislative or political purposes
- Loans

V.

EDUCATIONAL GRANT GUIDELINES

The SCCF strives to see that educational grant funds are available to all of the school districts and private schools in the county. Actual grant awards are made for those programs which are in keeping with the mission statement and goals of the Community Foundation and which will benefit the greatest number of our citizens.

The Community Foundation encourages innovative solutions for education problems from youth, parents, administrative, and teaching staff. The committee will use these ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES in accessing all educational grant requests:

A. The SCCF encourages each private school, public school district and/or the ISD to have an informal committee of teachers and/or administrators and parents and youth to formulate grant requests. Each request must carry the approval of the school district board.

B. The SCCF highly favors those requests that represent consortia of districts or the entire county.

C. Educational grant funds can be used for either program or equipment costs.

VI.

GOVERNMENT GRANT GUIDELINES

Grant requests received from a government unit present a slightly different situation and for that reason we will be using the following parameters in addition to those we use to evaluate any other grant request:

A. The SCCF generally does not fund programs or projects that are normally covered by tax revenues. In special cases, the Community Foundation may augment, but not totally underwrite, the costs of these programs.

B. The SCCF encourages special non-recurring requests that usually play no part in normal government funding. An example would be a special-needs playground equipment in a public park.

C. The SCCF encourages requests from governmental units or special committees thereof that are working in a collaborative effort with other non-profits.

VII. APPLICATION PROCEDURES

- If you have any questions, please call and discuss the details of the project with us before you fill out an application. We are glad to offer suggestions that we feel could make your grant more acceptable to the committees.
- Grant applications are to be received by the SCCF by 5 p.m. on the due date specified for that grant round. Grant applications may be delivered in person to the Community Foundation office by appointment or mailed to PO Box 307, Sandusky, MI 48471. If the due date falls on a weekend or holiday, the due date will then be the next business day following the weekend or holiday. Late applications will not be considered for funding.
- The SCCF reserves the right to request additional information about your organization, project, and any added financial details.

Requests for information should be directed to:

SANILAC COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

P.O. Box 307
Sandusky, MI 48471
(810) 648-3634
www.sanilacfoundation.org

If your grant is not approved in this round of funding, the SCCF encourages you to re-apply as desired.