



Grantmaking Guide



STURGIS AREA
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

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FOUNDATION PROGRAMS

SACF is committed to making a positive, lasting impact on the quality of life in the communities we serve.

Our grantmaking framework is the vehicle that provides funding to nonprofits, creating impact and empowering the people and organizations that best understand how to serve their communities with the resources they need. These investments are powered by the generosity of donors who have entrusted the Foundation to meet our community's greatest needs.

At our Foundation, we believe that effective grantmaking involves more than just writing checks. We work closely with our grant recipients to understand their unique needs and challenges, and to provide the support they need to achieve their goals. Our approach is collaborative and inclusive, and we strive to build strong, long-lasting relationships with our grantees.

Through our grantmaking framework, we support a wide range of programs and initiatives that aim to improve the lives of people in our community. We prioritize organizations that are working to address systemic issues like poverty, inequality, and discrimination, and we seek out innovative and effective solutions to these complex challenges.

We are grateful for the support of our donors, who share our vision of a more just and equitable world. With their help, we are able to fund programs and initiatives that make a real difference in the lives of people in our community. Together, we are working to build a brighter future for all.

OUR MISSION

To make a positive, lasting impact in local communities through charitable giving, leadership, and action.

It is important to recognize that giving back to local communities can have a significant impact on the individuals and families who reside there. By donating time, resources, and expertise, we can help create a better future for those in need. Charitable giving is just one aspect of this process, as it allows organizations to provide essential services and support to those who require it most. However, true change also requires leadership and action. By stepping up as community leaders and advocating for positive change, we can work towards a brighter future for all. Whether it's volunteering at a local food bank, donating to a charitable organization, or advocating for policy change, every action we take can make a difference. By working together, we can create a more equitable and just world for all.



Cool quote from
Lindsay or Grant
Recipient

PARTNERING WITH SACF

Through Community Impact Grants

Eligibility Requirements

- The Foundation will only make grants to federal 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organizations, government entities, school districts, and universities.
- While grants to religious organizations are considered, sectarian religious programs are not eligible.
- We do not make grants to individuals or grants to cover deficits or other previously incurred obligations.
- We will only grant to entities that have submitted all final reports that are due to the Foundation on previous grants they have received from us.
- Grants must serve residents of the communities in St. Joseph County, Michigan.

Deadlines & Timelines

Application Opens	Deadline Date	Applications Reviewed	Notifications to Applicants
January 2nd	April 1st	Mid-April	End of April
April 2nd	July 1st	Mid-July	End of July
July 2nd	October 1st	Mid-October	End of October
October 2nd	January 1st	Mid-January	End of January

COMMUNITY IMPACT GRANT PRIORITIES

People who are engaged in their communities are more likely to be healthy, well-educated, and secure. The Sturgis Area Community Foundation aspires to build a community where individuals seek to live, work, and visit.

01

Vibrant Communities

Creating a place people gravitate to and take pride in being a part of.

Examples: Arts & Culture, Public Spaces, Parks & Recreation, Community Engagement, Neighborhood Revitalization, etc.

02

Educational Attainment

Ensuring access to quality education and career training programs for all.

Examples: Early Childhood Education, Adult & Continuing Education, Career Preparation, Youth Programs, Vocational Education, etc.

03

Community Development

Building a stronger, more resilient community.

Examples: Housing, Talent Attraction & Retention, Workforce Development, etc.

QUALITIES OF A STRONG COMMUNITY IMPACT GRANT

High Impact Projects

● **Energy**

There's a clear enthusiasm and passion for the project.

● **Expertise**

The statement of need reflects a deep understanding of the problem being addressed and the plan and program is contrasted with expertise from the field.

● **Clarity**

The goals and objectives for the projects are measurable and the evaluation plan for the project is clear and outcome-based.

● **Collaboration**

The organization has formed collaborative and cooperative relationships as appropriate in order to advance their mutual goals.

● **Comprehensiveness**

The complexity of the program is matched by the sophistication of the proposed solution.

● **Effectiveness**

There is a plan in place to measure the success of meeting the project's goals and objectives.

OTHER GRANT PROGRAMS

Grants	Description	Deadline Dates	Amount
Community Micro-Grant	No specific funding priorities. Project supports surrounding communities in St. Joseph County.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April 1st (Notifications mid-April) • July 1st (Notifications mid-July) • October 1st (Notifications mid-October) • January 1st (Notifications mid-January) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requests up to \$5,000
Youth Advisory Council (Sturgis & Constantine)	Grants support Sturgis and Constantine youth-related projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March 1st (Notifications mid-March) • November 1st (Notifications mid-November) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sturgis YAC - Up to \$5,000 • Constantine YAC - Up to \$1,000
Newell A. Grace A. Franks Fund	Supports charitable and educational programs in the Sturgis area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applications accepted year round 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$1,000 or greater
Healthy Youth & Healthy Seniors Fund	Support for programs focusing on healthy lifestyle choices and activities for youth and seniors in St. Joseph County.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • October 1st (Notifications mid-October) • One competitive grant cycle per year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requests up to \$1,000
William & Helen Doyle Exchange Club Fund Community Service Award	Supports charitable and educational programs in the Sturgis area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May 1st (Notifications mid-May) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requests up to \$3,000

HOW TO APPLY

Applicants submit grant applications through CommunityForce, our online grants management system. Only online applications for grants will be accepted.

Submitting your grant application through our online grant portal is a quick and easy process. Simply create an account on the platform and follow the application instructions. Our grant portal is designed to be a one-stop shop to find all available grant opportunities offered through the Foundation.

Thank you for your interest in our grant program, and we look forward to receiving your application!

01

Applications Submitted Online

sturgisfoundation.org/grants

02

Independent Review

Committee Members review requests individually

03

Committee Review & Applicant Interviews

Requests of \$10,000+ will be asked to participate in an interview with our committee members

QUESTIONS?

To learn more about our grantmaking process and priorities, contact our office at **(269) 659-8508** or email us at **sacf@sturgisfoundation.org**.

Stay up to date on our grant opportunities, deadlines, and grant timelines by visiting **sturgisfoundation.org/grants**