

2021 Grant Guidelines

Overview of Each Fund:

Caregivers Fund:

The current goal of this Fund is to improve support for caregivers – whether paid or voluntary – through efforts that provide needed skills, resources, education and respite. Caregivers are those who look after dependent individuals who require caregiving. Projects supported through this fund should have a direct impact on caregivers. In addition, the Fund will consider grants to programs that provide emotional care and supportive services to cancer patients as well as their caregivers. Preference will be given to requests that provide support to caregivers of older adults.

Design & Access Fund:

Support from this Fund will be considered for pre-planning, development and /or construction costs of projects related to increasing the walkability and bikeability of local communities and/or increasing outdoor recreational activities within the region. This purpose aims to increase the health and quality of life of local residents of all ages. Waterways and greenways as well as recreation corridors are of interest. Neighborhood-specific projects will also be considered if they include significant community engagement and impact at the neighborhood level. It is a preference, but not requirement that the projects:

- Incorporate green design, to be environmentally sustainable, and
- Incorporate universal access design, to best serve people of all abilities

Large sports facilities are not of interest to this fund.

Youth Sports Fund:

Support from this Fund will provide opportunities for all children to be active through sport. Requests must address one of the following objectives:

1. Ask kids what they want
2. Reintroduce free play
3. Encourage sports sampling
4. Revitalize in-town leagues
5. Think small
6. Design for development
7. Train all coaches
8. Emphasize prevention

These objectives all link to the goals identified in the “State of Play Southeast Michigan” report, which can be found at this [link](#).

Please note: This year we are partnering with Good Sports (a national non-profit dedicated to providing brand-new sports equipment to kids in need). If you are seeking sports equipment for your organization, please see this [link](#) for information on how to apply directly to Good Sports.

Grosse Pointe Community Assets Fund:

This remains a broad yet competitive fund which supports projects of anchor nonprofit organizations that provide services and experiences to residents of the 5 Grosse Pointe communities, home to Mr. Wilson during his lifetime.

Key Facts

- Individual grants from each of the funds will typically range between \$10,000 – \$25,000. Grants from the Access and Design Fund may be up to \$50,000.
- Most grants will be for a 12-month period. However, applicants may identify other time frames that would be more beneficial to spend the grant over. For example, if it is more beneficial to the proposed project to spread the grant over an 18- or 24-month period, please simply state that in the application.
- Projects that are innovative and fill critical community needs will be given the highest priority. In reviewing applications, we will consider the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on organizations and programming. Priority will be given to those organizations finding innovative ways to continue operations during this challenging time.
- Low priority is given to requests for ongoing operational costs, capital campaigns, annual fund drives, conferences or other one-time events.
- Requests may be for programming and/or capital costs. For Youth Sports, this may also include equipment requests. For Caregivers, this may also include medical equipment as a piece of a larger project scope.

Who May Apply

Any 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, school or government in southeast Michigan may apply for a grant from the Caregiving Fund, the Design & Access Fund, or the Youth Sports Fund. Southeast Michigan is defined as the 7 counties of Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Monroe, Washtenaw, St. Clair and Livingston.

Any 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, school or government located in the 5 Grosse Pointe communities of Michigan, defined as the City of Grosse Pointe, Grosse Pointe Farms, Grosse Pointe Park, Grosse Pointe Shores and Grosse Pointe Woods, may apply for a grant from the Grosse Pointe Community Assets Fund. In rare circumstances, organizations not located within the Grosse Pointes but serving their residents may also be considered.

No grants will be made to individuals.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What size grant can I request?

Grant requests should range from \$10,000 – \$25,000 for Caregivers, Youth Sports and Grosse Pointe Community Assets. Grant requests should range from \$10,000 – \$50,000 for Design and Access.

2. How do I apply?

We will begin accepting applications on November 11, 2020 Applications are due by **5:00 p.m. on January 8, 2021**. Applications are only accepted online, following steps at <https://cfsem.org/fund/ralph-c-wilson-jr-funds/>

3. When are funds available?

Grant award letters from the 2021 cycle will be distributed April 23, 2021, with grant payments made in May. Grants will be awarded for the time period of May 1, 2020 – April 30, 2021. Note, however, that while grants are typically for 12 months, we can be flexible and allow for a slightly longer time period when it makes sense.

4. Will the Fund consider a multi-year request?

No, multi-year grant requests will not be considered.

5. Are municipalities eligible to apply for funding?

Yes, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations, schools and any government entities are eligible to apply.

6. Will requests outside of the Foundation's areas of interest be considered?

No.

7. May I submit more than one application to the Community Foundation for the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Legacy Funds?

Organizations are limited to one application per funding category, but can apply to multiple funding categories

8. If I received a grant previously from this fund, can I apply again in a successive year?

Organizations can absolutely apply again to the same fund in successive years. However, please note that there is no guarantee of funding from year to year. Each year, each new group of applications will be considered on their own merits and the most competitive applications will be funded.

9. Can my organization apply for a grant from this fund at the Community Foundation and for funding from the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation?

Yes. The purposes of the two funding pools are slightly different. The Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Legacy Funds at the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan were established as an endowment to honor Ralph C. Wilson, Jr.'s legacy in perpetuity. The grants made from these funds are distinct from the grants made by the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation directly.

In most cases, the Legacy Funds support localized projects for which a small grant can make all the difference.

The Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation aims to support larger initiatives with broad impact and reach with its grantmaking. More information about their grantmaking can be found at: <http://www.ralphwilsonjrfoundation.org/>.

GRANT APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Once inside the online grant portal, you will be asked to submit the following items:

1) ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION:

- Legal name, Tax ID, address, telephone number, and website of the applicant organization
- Mission, brief background and current programming of the applicant
- Total number of people served each year by the applicant
- Primary contacts for the specific application and the organization, including the applicant contact, signatory, CEO/President/Executive Director, and key organization contact

2) COVER LETTER NOTING:

- Legal name of the organization
- Dollar amount requested
- Purpose of the grant
- Length of time for which support is requested
- Must be signed by the CEO or Executive Director.

3) PROJECT INFORMATION:

- Project Title
- Dollar amount of grant support requested
- Proposed start and end date of grant
- Short, one-sentence project summary
- Answers to the following questions:
 - What is the problem or opportunity you are trying to address?
 - What is your target population?
 - Explanation of whether this is a new, expanded or ongoing project of the organization.
 - What are your specific goals, and what are your strategies to reach those goals?
 - What is your timeframe?
 - How will you evaluate your grant?
 - Identify the geographies (i.e. neighborhoods, cities or counties) that will be served by the proposed project.
 - What partnerships are central to the implementation of this grant?

4) REQUIRED FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

- Total Project Revenue/Expenses – You will be invited to upload, in your own format, an outline of all anticipated funding for your entire project, as well as all costs of your project inclusive of items outside of this specific request.
- Expenses for Requested Funds – You will be asked to complete an online form which outlines how funding from the proposed grant will be utilized, if a grant is awarded. If a grant is approved, we will use this budget when it comes time to report on the project to ensure funds were used as intended.

5) REQUIRED ORGANIZATIONAL ATTACHMENTS INCLUDE:

- Most recent audit, financial review or 990
- Current list of Board of Trustees

6) OPTIONAL APPLICATION ATTACHMENTS INCLUDE:

- Letters of Support
- Job Descriptions or Resumes of Key Staff
- Signed Memorandum of Understanding with Key Partners

To begin the submission of an application, login to the online portal at the link provided at cfsem.org.

To discuss your proposal or if you have any questions, please contact us at 313.961.6675.