

Michigan Justice Fund 2021 Grantmaking Guidelines

What is the Michigan Justice Fund?

The Michigan Justice Fund is a collaborative fund committed to promoting and advancing the prosperity and dignity of Michigan residents by stemming the flow of individuals into the criminal justice system, supporting the investment of public dollars to community-driven alternatives to incarceration, and by ensuring those who are returning home after incarceration receive the support they need to flourish.

This Fund is designed to achieve the following:

- To strengthen the ecosystem supporting justice policy reform
- To enhance the capacity of practitioners seeking to advance effective justice policy and practice in Michigan, and intentionally support the leadership of people of color/POC-led organizations on the frontlines of justice reform
- To advance racial equity in Michigan by addressing racial disparities in the juvenile and adult justice systems, and support communities of color that have been historically under-resourced and impacted by the justice system
- To shift the dominant narrative that associates community safety with incarceration to one that lifts economic security & mobility and access to health care and education as foundational to safe and just communities; and
- To build a sustainable network of funders and donors who are informed and engaged to support safety and justice within Michigan communities.

The specific goals and objectives of the Fund are as follows:

Goal 1: Strengthen Michigan's funding, policies, and practices to support the economic mobility and overall success of people with criminal records.

- Objective 1.1: Ensure a racial equity framework is used to guide public policy, funding, and system change decisions.
- Objective 1.2: Decrease spending on justice system agencies and increase funding for community-led priorities.
- Objective 1.3: Increase innovation in policy and practice to decrease recidivism and improve economic mobility for system-impacted people.

Goal 2: Reduce the reliance on confinement and adjudication.

- Objective 2.1: Advance policy changes and system practices to reduce length of stay and administrative use of confinement.

- Objective 2:2: Increase the use of alternatives to incarceration and arrest, and the public funding necessary for success.
- Objective 2.3: Increase the visibility of the presence of racial disparities across the justice system continuum to motivate change.

Goal 3: Build a movement for communities to shape justice policies and funding.

- Objective 3.1: Support narrative change and communication strategies that shift public opinion about the need for justice system reform in Michigan.
- Objective 3.2: Build the political power of communities impacted by the justice system through cross-sector collaboration, training, and organizing.
- Objective 3.3: Increase the use of compelling data and research to inform advocacy efforts.
- Objective 3.4: Support ripe and emerging opportunities that contribute to a strong enabling environment for reform.

Who are we?

The Michigan Justice Fund is comprised of Michigan-based and national funders dedicated to advancing justice reform and the economic mobility of individuals with criminal convictions in Michigan. For more information about the Michigan Justice Fund and a current list of funders, please visit our website.

The Fund is housed at the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan, a multifaceted, full-service philanthropic organization leading the way to positive change in southeast Michigan. The Community Foundation promotes and facilitates community philanthropy in seven counties in southeast Michigan: Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Monroe, Washtenaw, Livingston, and St. Clair. We help donors invest in organizations they care about — locally and nationwide. (This grant opportunity is open to Michigan-based organizations.)

What will this grantmaking cycle fund?

For this open request for proposals, the Michigan Justice Fund will support innovations in direct service delivery to individuals and communities impacted by the juvenile and criminal justice systems.

Background

Direct service delivery plays a necessary and important role in improving the conditions of individuals and communities impacted by the justice system. The Fund will support innovation in this sector through the testing of new ideas, the replication of proven strategies, and the scaling of promising practices in direct service delivery to communities impacted by Michigan's justice system.

Goals

This grantmaking cycle will:

- Invest in projects that advance innovation in direct service delivery in three categories:
 - **Propose new or emerging strategies** (e.g., pilot or demonstration projects) that may lack evidence but have the promise for scalable impact in Michigan (e.g., neighborhoods, cities, region, or statewide).
 - **Support the scaling or deployment of existing strategies** that have proven to be successful through evidence, data, or research. The existing strategies may be Michigan-based or national, as long as they would be scaled or deployed in Michigan (e.g., neighborhoods, cities, region, or statewide).
 - **Support the replication of promising practices** that may currently lack evidence but have strong potential to be scaled or deployed in Michigan (e.g., neighborhoods, cities, region, or statewide). In this category, the promising practice exists already, and grant awards would support building an evidence base or the sharing of information to advance the replication strategy. Examples of grant awards would include research, evaluation, report-writing and dissemination, or similar strategies that advance the replication of the promising practice.
- Target Michigan's direct service providers ("practitioners") as grant recipients.
- Support projects advancing at least one of the Fund's three goals and one or more of the Fund's 10 objectives.
- Invest in one-year projects up to \$100,000 and two-year projects up to \$200,000, depending on the total project budget, timeline, and goals.

Examples of project categories include the following:

- Direct service delivery
- Pilot or demonstration projects
- Replication and scaling projects
- Research and analysis (e.g., building an evidence base), and
- Collaborative and cross-sector work (e.g., connecting direct service delivery to policy advocacy or organizing).

Who is eligible to apply?

- Applicant organizations must be a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit organization in good standing with the IRS and have a certified financial audit, financial review, or a filed Form 990.
- Applicant organizations must be Michigan-based.
- Applicant organizations may have a city-wide, county-wide, regional-wide, or statewide footprint.
- While grants to religious organizations are considered, sectarian religious programs are not eligible. By this we mean that if we are to consider funding a program offered by a religious organization, we would only consider a program that is open to the wider community.

Q1 grantmaking timetable

Feb. 22: Application opens

Feb. 25: Informational webinar for potential applicants

March 8: Deadline to register in CFSEM's online grantmaking system, Fluxx

March 19: Applications due

May 14: Applicants receive funding decisions

May 28: Grant payments are disbursed

June: Public announcement of grants

How to apply

The application, [found here](#), includes space to answer the questions listed below. Interested organizations may only submit one application for this round of grantmaking.

Important Note: The Community Foundations uses the Fluxx online grants management system. If you think you will apply to the Michigan Justice Fund, and you have not done so already, you should [register for a login](#). Each individual who accesses our Fluxx portal (including contracted grant writers) should be doing so under their own name and email address. If you have already received login credentials, then no action is needed.

If you do need to register, the deadline to submit a registration request is March 8, 2021, at 5 p.m. Registration review and approval may take up to 5 business days and must be approved before you can submit an application. [Contact our grants management team](#) for any questions.

Application questions — advancing practice innovation

1. What is the challenge or opportunity you are addressing in the delivery of services to communities directly impacted by Michigan's justice system? In your response, please describe the following:
 - a. The specific **service delivery innovation** the project advances, and
 - b. How the project advances one or more of the Fund's goals and objectives.
2. What are the specific project goals and the strategies that advance these goals? In your response, please explain if the project is: a) proposing a new or emerging strategy, b) supporting the scaling or deployment of an existing strategy, or c) supporting the replication or deployment of a promising practice. In doing so, please describe:
 - a. **The new or emerging strategy** that has the promise for scalable impact in Michigan (e.g., neighborhoods, cities, region, statewide) but may currently lack evidence.
 - b. **The existing strategy**, which may lack evidence but has promise for scaling or deployment in Michigan (e.g., neighborhoods, cities, region or statewide). Please be sure to describe why the existing strategy has promise for impact in Michigan and how the strategy would be scaled or deployed.
 - c. **The replication strategy for a promising practice** which may currently lack evidence but has strong potential to be scaled or deployed in Michigan (e.g., neighborhoods,

cities, region, statewide). Please be sure to explain the existing promising practice, the strategy you are proposing to support replication or deployment, and why your project would be impactful.

3. What is the project's target population or community? (If applicable to your project, please explain how many people will be served through the intervention.)
4. What is your project timeline? If the project requires a planning period, please describe the planning phase including key activities and partners.
5. How will you evaluate your grant?
6. Identify the geographies (i.e., neighborhoods, cities, counties, statewide) that will be served by the proposed project.
7. What partnerships and types of collaboration are central to the implementation of your proposed project? If you know at this time, please name the organizations you will collaborate with to achieve your project goals. If possible, describe the roles these organizations will play in the collaboration. *Note: If your project requires the partnership of a local or state governmental stakeholder/agency, please include a letter of support from the agency or a Memorandum of Understanding with the agency for this project.*
8. How will your project proactively address the diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) challenges that face our region? Please also state whether your organization has a DEI plan and how you are addressing any internal DEI challenges or opportunities.
9. What challenges do you anticipate in the implementation of your proposed project and how do you plan to address them?
10. What is the plan for the project's long-term sustainability? In your response, please describe any plans to secure public funding for the proposed project.

Required attachments include the following:

- Certified financial audit, financial review, or Form 990
- Board list with affiliations
- Organizational operating budget for current fiscal year
- Optional:
 - Organizational Diversity Policy
 - Annual Report

Reporting guidelines will be distributed with grant awards.

Selection process

Final grant recommendations will be made by a committee of the Michigan Justice Fund, with approval by the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan.

Questions?

Contact Bernadette Brown, Director, Michigan Justice Fund, CFSEM, bbrown@cfsem.org.