

The purpose of the Michigan Central/Church Street Fund is to support neighborhood improvement activities in three distinct Detroit communities: Corktown, North Corktown, and Hubbard Richard. This is a broad yet competitive fund which supports projects of organizations that provide services and experiences to residents of those three communities. We anticipate proposals reflecting the broad range of grantmaking that the Community Foundation is involved in: community and economic development, arts and culture, environmental and public space, social and human services, public health, and much more.

Key Facts:

Grants will vary in amount, but will range from \$2,500 to \$10,000.

Most grants will be for a 12-month period. However, applicants may identify other time frames that would be more beneficial for the grant's purpose, up to 24 months.

Projects that are innovative and address critical community needs, leverage existing opportunities, or advance past neighborhood planning recommendations will be given high priority. Requests may be for programming and/or capital costs.

Low priority is given to ongoing operational costs, capital campaigns, annual fund drives, conferences or other one-time events.

Who May Apply:

Awards will be made to 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations located in the above-mentioned communities or an organization that has a fiscal sponsorship agreement with a 501(c)(3). Schools and government entities are also eligible to apply. In rare circumstances, organizations not located within the three communities but serving their residents may also be considered. No grants will be made to individuals.

Application Information:

Included in the list of documents that CFSEM will be asking for is a current board list, audited financial statements or a financial review for the last fiscal year, and an operating budget for the current year.

Advisors to the Fund will include a representative from the City of Detroit, Michigan Central, and the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan. Review criteria will include the quality and relevance of the proposal as well as the potential for impact on the residents and quality of life in the Corktown, North Corktown, and/or Hubbard Richard communities. These grant guidelines will adapt over time as CFSEM receives feedback from the community members.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What size grant can I request?

Grant requests should range from \$2,500 – \$10,000.

2. How do I apply?

We will begin accepting applications on April 10, 2023. Applications are due by **5:00 p.m. on May 15, 2023**. Applications are only accepted online, following steps at CFSEM.org/Special-Opportunities/Michigan-Central-Church-Street-Fund.

3. When are funds available?

Grant award letters from the 2023 cycle will be distributed in July with grant payments anticipated later that month.

4. Are schools eligible to apply for funding?

Yes, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations, schools and any government entities are eligible to apply, as long as they are serving the geographic target of this fund with the proposed project.

5. Will requests outside of the Fund's geographic area be considered?

No. As mentioned above, in rare circumstances, an organization might be headquartered outside of the area but the project must take place entirely within one or more of the three communities.

6. May I submit more than one application?

Organizations are limited to one application per round for the Michigan Central/Church Street Fund.

7. If I receive a grant 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.

8. Can my organization apply for a grant from this fund at the Community Foundation and for funding through the general grant opportunities at the Community Foundation?

Yes. The purposes of the two funding pools are slightly different. The Michigan Central/Church Street Fund supports localized projects for which a small grant can make all the difference. The Community Foundation's general grantmaking aims to support larger initiatives with broad impact and reach.

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

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

Cover Letter Noting:

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

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 project?
 - 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 project?

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.

Required Organizational Attachments Include:

- Most recent audit or financial review
- Most recent operating budget
- Current list of Board of Trustees

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, log into 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 or applications@cfsem.org.