

# Community Foundation

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FOR SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

## Opioid Settlement Funds & Establishing Endowment

**A strategy for local communities to magnify the impact of opioid settlement funds.**

The Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan has a longstanding history of supporting efforts to address opioid use disorder. We are home to the [Michigan Opioid Partnership](#), a public-private collaborative of government and philanthropic organizations who share the goal of decreasing Michigan opioid overdoses and deaths. Your community can consider partnering with the Community Foundation to create an endowment to support needs in your community in perpetuity.

### Our Impact in Addressing the Opioid Epidemic

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- **Over \$7 million granted** to communities to address urgent and emerging needs
- Supported half of all emergency departments in Michigan to **increase access to evidence-based treatment** for opioid use disorder
- Worked with counties across Michigan to **implement jail-based treatment efforts**
- **Inform policy and system changes** by sharing information and best practices with local, state and national leaders and decision-makers
- **Represent Michigan in a national network of leaders** such as Vital Strategies, Bloomberg Philanthropies, and Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

# Endowment at the Community Foundation

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**The Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan exists to create a permanent source of community capital benefiting the residents and communities in our seven-county region in perpetuity.**

Since 1984, we have managed and invested endowments established by nonprofit agencies, governmental units, businesses and individuals. As of December 31, 2021, we have \$1.3B in assets and 230 agency endowment funds.

Investment in the Community Foundation's endowment can provide a better return with lower administrative costs through economies of scale. The settlement funds are invested in a pool of assets to provide for growth over time. A portion of the endowment is made available for charitable purposes annually, which allows for impact in communities in perpetuity.

As municipalities consider local spending of the Opioid Settlement Funds, an endowment fund at the Community Foundation would complement an immediate allocation of the funds to ensure a long-term investment in evidence-based programs and strategies to address this public health epidemic over time.

## Example of How Endowment Works

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### Community Health Endowment Fund

Between 2000–2002, the Michigan State Legislature, via the Council of Michigan Foundations, contributed over \$2.9 million in tobacco settlement dollars to create an endowment fund at the Community Foundation to support programs that improve the health of youth and seniors. The Community Foundation raised another \$50,000 in gifts from individuals to add to the balance of the Fund. Our board, comprised of community leaders from the public, private, and nonprofit sectors serves as the advisors to the Fund.

This is a good example of the power of endowment –the total grant amount has nearly surpassed the original gift size, and the corpus of the Fund has now grown considerably beyond its original size (current balance of \$3.99 million) so grants can continue to be awarded in perpetuity. Since its creation, 74 grants to support behavioral and physical health totaling nearly \$2.7 million have been awarded from the Community Health Endowment Fund. The Fund is designed to be flexible over time while ensuring that it is meeting the current health needs of youth and seniors.

## Future of Opioid Epidemic

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If the opioid epidemic is eradicated, your endowment fund can be used to address other emerging and unforeseen behavioral health crises in your communities. The Community Foundation's variance power, as defined under federal law and in our bylaws, allows our Board of Trustees the invoke the power to modify your fund's purpose to ensure that the settlement funds can meet other health needs in your community in perpetuity.

To contact the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan,  
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