

PRESS RELEASE

**For more information please call:**

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**COMMUNITY FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES GRANT OPPORTUNITIES AND APPLICATION DEADLINE**

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: Friday, August 22, 2008**

The Community Foundation for Muskegon County announces that applications will be accepted for limited program funds available for the fall grant cycle. Grant applications for the August 22 application deadline must be submitted electronically using the Community Foundation's website – [www.cffmc.org](http://www.cffmc.org). Potential applicants are asked to call the Foundation office for a pre-proposal consultation prior to receiving log-in information for the electronic application process. Grant proposals should address one of the following interest areas:

- Environment
- Adolescent Health
- Women and Children's needs
- Health / Science Education and Services

Please see detail below for specific fund criteria related to noted interest areas.

Available grant funds are limited within certain categories and grant applications will be accepted and evaluated on a competitive basis by grant committees. Grants are awarded to 501(c)3 or other eligible non-profit charitable organizations serving the Muskegon region.

The *Greater Muskegon Women and Children's Fund* will consider applications that focus on meeting the needs of Women and Children in Muskegon County.

The **Youth Advisory Council** (YAC) of the Foundation will consider applications that address projects and programs that focus on Adolescent Health with specific focus on teenage pregnancy (prevention, education and consequences), youth obesity, substance abuse and safety. The Council also has an interest in reviewing grant proposals that seek to provide more after school or weekend activities for youth. All proposals should be serving youth of Muskegon County and organizations should involve youth in the planning or implementation of the proposed project.

The **Environmental Fund** will consider applications that build community capacity, educate, provide environmentally oriented technical assistance, protect and preserve natural resources and clearly relate to the environmental interests and needs of the Muskegon region.

The **Muskegon County Medical Society Fund** will accept applications that focus on programs and projects relating to health and science education and related activities.

The **White Lake Community Fund** will accept applications for projects in the White Lake area that address the following community needs: social services, recreation, arts and culture, environment, civic affairs, education and youth.

The **Thomas and Geraldine Seyferth Fund** will accept applications for programs and projects that support community betterment with emphasis on the areas of health, human services, youth and education.

All grant applications will be evaluated in part on the following organizational characteristics:

- Staff capacity / organizational capacity to complete the proposed project
- Evidence of collaboration and cooperation with other organizations where appropriate
- Board of Directors and staff composition that reflects the organization's constituencies and ability to complete the proposed project
- Capacity to measure results, conduct project/program evaluation and establish outcomes
- An understanding of and ability to integrate the relationship between the proposed project, other services, service providers and community need.
- Evidence of sound fiscal policy and responsible financial management
- A base of community and organizational financial and program support

Those interested in seeking a grant are asked to call the Foundation office to discuss their interest and receive log-in information for the internet-based *Community Investment* application.

*The Community Foundation for Muskegon County was created in 1961 to improve the quality of life for Muskegon County residents. A publicly supported community endowment, the Foundation receives and manages contributions from community citizens and organizations that are committed to the future of Muskegon County. Supporting community projects in the areas of Arts, Education, Community Development, Environment, Health and Human Services and Youth issues, the Foundation reflects the collective vision of Muskegon County residents and provides a cost effective method for contributing to the community through gifts of any size and of many types.*