



Grant Review Guidelines

The Community Foundation's mission is to improve and enrich life for all people in Emmet County. The grantmaking of the Community Foundation covers a wide variety of needs throughout Emmet County. These include, but are not limited to: arts and culture, community and economic development, education, the environment, health and wellness, historic preservation, human services, recreation and youth. Specifically, the YAC has the responsibility to identify community needs of children and teens and then try to tie grant dollars to where they can be most effective.

We encourage proposals for projects which:

- Enhance cooperation and collaboration among organizations, thereby eliminating duplication of services;
- Address emerging needs in an innovative way or try new approaches to address existing needs;
- Receive additional funding from a broad base of supporters;
- Yield substantial community benefits and serve a broad segment of the community;
- Focus on the prevention of problems rather than the cure.

When reviewing proposals, look for these standards:

- **Credibility:** The proposal will indicate whether the organization appears credible. *Does the organization know what it wants to accomplish? What evidence is there that it currently achieves its goals? What kind of reputation does it have within the community and beyond?*
- **Capability:** The YAC and the Community Foundation aren't in the business of supporting good ideas, but rather investing in groups who can turn those ideas into reality and in organizations that have the structure and systems to do so. *What skills do the organization's staff and board bring? Has the organization succeeded in similar endeavors of equal size and scale? Has the group gone as far as possible with their own resources before seeking grants?*
- **Feasibility:** Consider the project on its own terms, apart from the sponsoring organization. *Can the project be done? Has the organization allotted sufficient funds and time? Is the budget clear and justifiable?*
- **Leverage:** *How can this grant leverage dollars or impact? If the applicant is only requesting partial support, what is the likelihood of raising the balance from other donors/funders?*
- **Importance:** *Should this project be done? Is it significant? Is there evidence that the proposal will trigger action or work the community wants? How many Emmet County youth will this proposal affect?*

By these standards, the strongest proposals include those with the most compelling goals, with a clear ability to achieve those goals, and with eventual results that will be the most tangible and lasting. Keep in mind how each proposal fits with the Community Foundation's mission and priorities as well as the goals of the YAC.