

KENT COUNTY AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA)

Funding Proposal Catalog

DISCLAIMER:

The information in this document is an initial assessment of the proposal submission. The assessment for each project is based only on the information that was provided in the proposal submission.





Notes:

The contents of this catalog are organized alphabetically by project theme.

Within each theme, projects are organized by "lowest risk" to "highest risk" according to U.S. Treasury Guidelines.

Projects were given a randomized number ID and will not be listed in numerical order.

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ABOUT THIS CATALOG

The following pages include 319 community project proposals and 13 internal County projects submitted for the Kent County American Rescue Plan Act funds. Each project has the same outlined information that was provided by proposal submitters via the online proposal submission. Proposals were collected between May 20, 2022, and July 15, 2022.

The only information included that the submitter did not provide are the project theme and the rankings/notes for Eligibility, Sustainability, Feasibility, and Impact. The added elements will look like this in the project proposal:

Project Theme: Mental Health

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Impact is based upon how many people will benefit from the project

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

Clearly aligned with U.S. Treasury Guidelines (related to COVID, project is in a QCT, etc.)

Has a clear strategy to support itself after ARPA funding

Project can be completed by 2026

Alignment with U.S. Treasury Guidelines is not clear but may be possible

Project may be able to support itself after ARPA funding

Project may be completed by 2026

Clearly not eligible under U.S. Treasury Guidelines

Project cannot support itself after ARPA funding

Project cannot be completed by 2026

These scores and comments were provided by Kent County's ARPA consultant, Guidehouse. Guidehouse's ranking is based on the funding requirements outlined in the Coronavirus State & Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Final Rule published by the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

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01

AFFORDABLE HOUSING





PROJECT #168

Kent County Equitable Housing Initiative

Identify the need for the proposed project

Everywhere you look in Kent County you see housing shortages and an imbalanced housing market. The Covid-19 pandemic has exacerbated our market imbalance and today we have sky high housing value appreciation, low housing inventory, limited rental vacancies, and a slowing new construction market. Kent County needs more housing that is affordable to low- and moderate-income workers. The Kent County Permanent Housing Coordinating Council (KCPHCC) is a 32-year-old association of trusted nonprofit affordable housing developers. KCPHCC members have conducted extensive community engagement efforts, reflected together on decades of programmatic experience, and completed a thorough review of available data regarding the housing market in Kent County. ARPA provides Kent County a once-in-a-generation opportunity to significantly alleviate the need for affordable housing in our community. Affordable homeownership in Kent County matters. A 2022 study completed by the National Association of Realtors indicated that nearly all home buyers across races/ethnicities surveyed agree homeownership is still the "American Dream." Homeownership is the most utilized path to create generational wealth. It's good for the economy and for employers and it contributes positively to the physical and social health of households and neighborhoods. According to a study funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, housing stability is one of the best-researched social determinants of health. The study pointed to housing interventions for low-income people as a strong means to improve health outcomes and decrease health care costs. The ongoing housing crisis is negatively impacting the health of our county residents and adding stress to our health systems, which are still dealing with the fallout from the pandemic. Current sources and programs that fund the production of affordable homeownership are inadequate to meet the need. According to the Kent County Housing Needs Assessment, our county needs 5,301 homeownership units that are affordable to low-moderate income households. Using limited current public funding programs and philanthropic sources, KCPHCC members have built a combined 70 new homes for sale to low-income working families in the last 3 years. Funding this request would empower KCPHCC to provide the community with at least 211 homeownership units by the end of 2026. In recent years, homeownership has become even more unattainable for working households. GRAR reports that May 2022 home prices in Kent County were up 66% when compared with the data from 5 years ago, with an average sale price of \$344,718 while wages have increased only 35% over the same period of time according to HUD. According to the National Low Income Housing Coalition's 'Out of Reach 2021 Report', it would take someone working full-time at a rate of twice Michigan's minimum wage of \$9.65/hour to afford a fair market rent two-bedroom apartment in Kent County. A strong economy requires a healthy, available and local workforce. Funding this initiative will preserve or create 386 affordable rental housing units for Kent County's workforce.

Brief Description

KCPHCC proposes the following: NEW AFFORDABLE HOMEOWNERSHIP (\$31.65 M): build 211 units of affordable housing for purchase by low/moderate income households throughout Kent County. With plans to leverage additional potential funding from MSHDA and other financing strategies like a potential county brownfield authority, this total would likely end up over 600. Utilizing shared equity models and deed restrictions, homes sold will be preserved as affordable homeownership for future income-constrained county residents, which expands and ensures the impact of this investment for future generations. PRESERVATION OF EXISTING AFFORDABLE RENTAL HOUSING (\$5.85 M): renovate and preserve 322 affordable rental units currently at risk or in need of renovation at 6 locations throughout the county. CREATION OF NEW AFFORDABLE ASSISTED LIVING (\$3.5 M): provide gap funding in support of 64 affordable assisted living rental units at 2 locations. SUPPORT FOR KENT COUNTY HOMEOWNERS/HOMEBUYERS (\$1 M): provide home repairs to 1,000 existing homeowners and assist 100 new low/moderate income home buyers with matched savings accounts.

Long-Term Benefit

The long-term benefit is physical HEALTH and economic stability for both families and neighborhoods, as our neighbors of low or moderate income obtain stable homes and a path to homeownership. The regional WORKFORCE is strengthened as more households have home bases from which to build long-term income and careers in Kent County. Additional benefits include increased supply in the housing market countywide, which will help to move rental and purchase prices toward a more affordable level.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$140,600,000

Maximum Cost: \$140,600,000

ARPA Request: \$42,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Ryan VerWys

Organization: Kent County
Permanent Housing Coordinating
Council

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Affordable Housing

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 76% or greater

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$140,600,000

Maximum Cost: \$140,600,000

ARPA Request: \$42,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Ryan VerWys

Organization: Kent County
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Project Overview

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Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Intended Beneficiary

The primary beneficiaries are 2,100–3,500 working households of low income, defined by the KCPHCC as those with incomes below 80% of the Kent County 'Area Median Income'. Other beneficiaries are households who live in neighborhoods that are stabilized or made more affordable through the introduction or reintroduction of safe, affordable homes to the market. This ARPA investment will strengthen the local economy, benefit Kent County residents, employ Kent County tradespeople, and bolster the tax base. All housing units made possible through ARPA will benefit subsequent generations of households, whether renters or homeowners. This investment in housing will have long lasting impacts throughout our community.

*Partnership

ICCF Community Homes is submitting this proposal on behalf of the KCPHCC members. The members (plus agency-specific project deliverables) are: Dwelling Place (60 homeownership units, 105 preserved rental units), Genesis Nonprofit Housing Corporation (15 new rental units, 100 preserved rental units), Habitat for Humanity of Kent County (53 Homeownership units), Home Repair Services (2,000 low income homeowners supported), Hope Network (62 new rental units), ICCF Community Homes (50 new homeownership units, 10 preserved rental units, 100 individual development accounts), LINC UP (30 homeownership units, 54 new rental units, 21 preserved rental units), New Development Corporation (12 homeownership units), Samaritas (24 preserved rental units) and Westtown Jubilee Housing (4 homeownership units). Other programming partners, who will assist in delivering the homes, will include, but are not limited to: Motown Square Development, Flat River Outreach Ministries, North Kent Connect, Heart of West Michigan United Way, MSHDA, City of Grand Rapids, Kent County Community Action, HUD, Federal Home Loan Bank and other philanthropic partners. Housing Kent and Housing Next are key partners in this work and have provided letters of support for this project which can be made available upon request. The Greater Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce has also provided a letter of support.

Estimated Cost

\$42,000,000 in ARPA funds as part of a \$140,600,000 overall investment

*Source of Funding

KCPHCC collectively requests \$42,000,000 in ARPA funds to be leveraged with existing and future funding sources that will create at least a \$140,600,000 investment in housing for the Kent County workforce. Every ARPA dollar invested is leveraged with other funding sources, public and private, described below. - \$31,650,000 of ARPA funds, dedicated to build 211 units of affordable homeownership, will be leveraged with private mortgage financing from homebuyers. The estimated minimum leveraged cost for these homes is \$63,300,000. - \$5,850,000 of ARPA funds for preservation of 322 existing affordable rentals at 6 locations throughout the county will be leveraged with LIHTC, HOME funds, private capital, philanthropy, and Federal Home Loan Bank investments. The estimated minimum leveraged cost is \$56,350,000. - \$3,500,000 of ARPA funds to create 64 affordable assisted living units at 2 locations will be leveraged with LIHTC, HOME, and philanthropic support. The estimated leveraged cost is \$18,200,000. - \$1,000,000 of ARPA funds dedicated to support 1,000 Kent County homeowners with house repairs and 100 homebuyers will be leveraged with \$1,750,000 of homeowner/homebuyer investment. The estimated leveraged cost is \$2,750,000. The estimated overall cost of the Kent County Equitable Housing Initiative is \$140,600,000. A \$42,000,000 ARPA investment will be leveraged with \$98,600,000 of available capital, at minimum. Future funding opportunities described below would compound the programmatic outcomes: - MSHDA's Missing Middle Housing Program – KCPHCC partners will leverage funding from this emerging program to far exceed our projected 211 unit minimum for homeownership. - Kent County Brownfield Authority Tax Increment Financing (TIF) - Michigan has long had a brownfield TIF program designed to advance the economic interests of the state and address environmental concerns that inhibit development. The state is exploring the expanded use of this funding mechanism to support housing developments. The KCPHCC strongly encourages Kent County to pursue a Brownfield Authority that would result in a further leveraging of ARPA funds and create even more affordable home ownership opportunities. Leveraging up to \$15M of TIF with ARPA funds for homeownership would expand the programmatic impact dramatically.



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Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$140,600,000

Maximum Cost: \$140,600,000

ARPA Request: \$42,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Ryan VerWys

Organization: Kent County
Permanent Housing Coordinating
Council

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Affordable Housing

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 76% or greater

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Project Management Experience

The members of the KCPHCC have significant experience managing and leading countywide housing projects. KCPHCC has been in existence for 32 years, and the experience of individual member organizations ranges from 20 to 50 years. Over this time, many of the member organizations have taken on scattered site construction or renovation housing projects that involved properties throughout the county.

Federal Funds Experience

KCPHCC members are some of the most experienced organizations in the county when it comes to federal funding management. Many of the partner organizations work with federal funds regularly through the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) program that is administered by MSHDA, when developing affordable housing. Federal funds are also solicited, received, managed, and reported on via Kent County Community Action, HUD, MSHDA, the Emergency Food and Shelter Program, the Emergency Solutions Grant, and other programs. Partner organizations have also successfully applied for and managed federal funds through the recent COVID relief programs: the Paycheck Protection Program and the CARES Act. Some partners also have experience with single audits. All organizations have the capacity to adhere to reporting and compliance requirements.

Studies on Impact

A 2021 HUD housing market analysis for GR/Wyoming forecasts 2021-2024 demand for 9,975 new for-sale homes and 4,525 new rental units (includes 850 of each under construction). Our project directly addresses this housing shortfall. <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/publications/pdf/GrandRapidsWyomingMI-CHMA-21.pdf> The 2020 GR/Kent County Housing Needs Assessment estimates 2020-2025 countywide demand at 13,308 new for-sale units and 8,921 new rental units. Strategies recommended include obtainable short-term housing goals, new/preserved affordable housing, and renovating existing housing. Our project addresses these strategies by design. https://www.housingnext.org/_files/ugd/8dbec7_7be00b6e203b4ea2a5a89b13f5fe396b.pdf A 2019 study in Social Science & Medicine, "Housing as a determinant of health equity: A conceptual model," recommends a housing model that incorporates 4 elements: cost, conditions, consistency (residential stability), and context (neighborhood opportunity). Our project follows a similar philosophy to promote health equity. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0277953619305659>

Guidehouse Ranking Notes

 **Eligibility**

Affordable housing is eligible

 **Sustainability**

Project has numerous partners

 **Feasibility**

Risk to 2026 completion

PROJECT #10

UMCH 900 Community Center Project



Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$27,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$29,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Eric Williams & Carla Moore

Organization:

United Methodist Community House

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Affordable Housing

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 76% or greater

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

\$15 million (\$10M LIHTC; \$3M property equity; \$1M State of Michigan (2020); and \$1M W.K. Kellogg Foundation). \$13 million pending (\$5M State of Michigan 2023 allocation; \$2.5M federal 2023 allocation; \$1.5M from City of GR ARPA funds; \$750,000 from City of GR Brownfield funds; \$500,000 Affordable Housing Program and \$3M from New Market Tax Credits).

Partnership

Grand Valley State University; Area Agency of Western Michigan; City of Grand Rapids; City of Wyoming; AARP; Family Promise; Calvin College; Meals on Wheels; Grand Rapids Community College; Access of West Michigan; Senior Neighbors; and many others.

Identify the Need for the Proposed Project

UMCH researched dozens of local, state and national related studies. The GVSU Business College conducted an Economic Impact Assessment; Plante-Moran conducted a Housing Market Study; IFF/Kellogg Foundation conducted a Child Care Availability Study; City of GR conducted a Housing Strategies and an Age-Friendly Study; and AARP National Research Center in Washington DC conducted a zip code study of residents 55+ who would be interested in a major senior center (Over 90% are interested in having one). Also, our organization met with over 300 people in 2018 and hosted a town hall meeting with over 100 people in attendance. We also met with many neighbors for their input.

Brief Description

United Methodist Community House will break ground this year on a project with a new major senior activity center, 46 affordable senior housing units, a fresh market in a documented food desert area, an inter-generational center and a new child care center for infants and toddlers. Public financing for this \$28 million project is estimated at 85% with 15% coming from local donors. UMCH will serve as a catalyst for the transformation of the south Division Street corridor while transforming the local neighborhood at the same time. In the process, we will establish a senior activity haven for older adults throughout Kent County. Wyoming and Grand Rapids have awarded housing vouchers for the project and \$10 million in tax credits have been awarded to the housing as well. Kent County's support of this project will go along ways to ensuring its success by providing much needed parking for the project. We believe that this facility will become a gem for the County that other municipalities will want to replicate across the nation.

Long-Term Benefit

This project will address documented needs. The Kellogg study indicated that there is a need for over 2,400 infant child care spaces but less than 200 licensed slots exist. We need more child care! Over 90% of respondents to the AARP study indicated they would regularly visit a senior center. Affordable senior housing is at a critical stage in our area. Finally, this site of the fresh market is in a documented "food desert". We offer healthy options on a sliding cost scale so all can benefit.

Intended Beneficiary

The beneficiaries of this project will be the entire County of Kent and City of Grand Rapids. Our housing is so important to the region because of its affordability. Those who use the senior services will benefit immensely. During the pandemic, the impact on loneliness caused by isolation, food insecurity, and inaccessibility to needed resources such as medical appointments and basic shopping became vividly apparent. We know that is not just lower income seniors who are in need but many who have adequate financial means still lack these services. We need to better understand and more effectively respond to the needs of our older adults without taking them for granted. This project does just that. We also need to be sure that our parents of small children have quality child care that they can afford. Without this, families cannot go to work or school because they cannot pay the high rates for childcare. This perpetuates a cycle of poverty and inadequacy. We have to do better now.

Estimated Cost

\$27-29 million for the entire project



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$27,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$29,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Eric Williams & Carla Moore

Organization:

United Methodist Community House

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Affordable Housing

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 76% or greater

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

\$15 million (\$10M LIHTC; \$3M property equity; \$1M State of Michigan (2020); and \$1M W.K. Kellogg Foundation). \$13 million pending (\$5M State of Michigan 2023 allocation; \$2.5M federal 2023 allocation; \$1.5M from City of GR ARPA funds; \$750,000 from City of GR Brownfield funds; \$500,000 Affordable Housing Program and \$3M from New Market Tax Credits).

Partnership

Grand Valley State University; Area Agency of Western Michigan; City of Grand Rapids; City of Wyoming; AARP; Family Promise; Calvin College; Meals on Wheels; Grand Rapids Community College; Access of West Michigan; Senior Neighbors; and many others.

Project Management Experience

Leadership of United Methodist Community House has over 50+ years in working with major projects at local nonprofits and major universities across the state. We both have master degrees and excellent expertise in leadership of multi-million dollar institutions. Our Board of Directors also have incredible experience including a former city manager, real estate law, nonprofit management, social services, business sector and other experiences.

Federal Funds Experience

Our leadership has written and been funded with millions of dollars in federal grants at the college & university level. We are well equipped to handle budget requirements, strategic frameworks, accountability issues, impact and outcome measurements; evaluation models and report generation. This is an area we are very competent in.

Studies on Impact

As mentioned, there are dozens of studies United Methodist Community House considered before creating a programmatic approach to this project. We have provided links to a few of the studies we reviewed below.

[file:///umchfs01/userdata\\$/ewilliams/UMCH%20Organization/Vision/Research/models_of_senior_centers.pdf](file:///umchfs01/userdata$/ewilliams/UMCH%20Organization/Vision/Research/models_of_senior_centers.pdf)

[file:///umchfs01/userdata\\$/ewilliams/UMCH%20Organization/Vision/Research/ScalingUp_3rdEdition.pdf](file:///umchfs01/userdata$/ewilliams/UMCH%20Organization/Vision/Research/ScalingUp_3rdEdition.pdf)

[file:///umchfs01/userdata\\$/ewilliams/UMCH%20Organization/Vision/Research/Community%20Themes%20and%20Strengths%202049507_August%202018%20\(1\).pdf](file:///umchfs01/userdata$/ewilliams/UMCH%20Organization/Vision/Research/Community%20Themes%20and%20Strengths%202049507_August%202018%20(1).pdf)

[file:///umchfs01/userdata\\$/ewilliams/UMCH%20Organization/Vision/Research/Economic-Inclusion-inGR-Data-Update.pdf](file:///umchfs01/userdata$/ewilliams/UMCH%20Organization/Vision/Research/Economic-Inclusion-inGR-Data-Update.pdf)

[file:///umchfs01/userdata\\$/ewilliams/UMCH%20Organization/Vision/Research/DRAFT-HOME-ARPAAllocation-Plan-12-21-2021.pdf](file:///umchfs01/userdata$/ewilliams/UMCH%20Organization/Vision/Research/DRAFT-HOME-ARPAAllocation-Plan-12-21-2021.pdf)

[file:///umchfs01/userdata\\$/ewilliams/UMCH%20Organization/Vision/Research/Kent%20County%20ECE%20study_Update%20to%20UMCH_Aug2021%20\(002\).pdf](file:///umchfs01/userdata$/ewilliams/UMCH%20Organization/Vision/Research/Kent%20County%20ECE%20study_Update%20to%20UMCH_Aug2021%20(002).pdf)

[file:///umchfs01/userdata\\$/ewilliams/UMCH%20Organization/Vision/Housing%20Project/Elder%20Friendly%20Community%20in%20Kent%20County.pdf](file:///umchfs01/userdata$/ewilliams/UMCH%20Organization/Vision/Housing%20Project/Elder%20Friendly%20Community%20in%20Kent%20County.pdf)

[file:///umchfs01/userdata\\$/ewilliams/UMCH%20Organization/Vision/Housing%20Project/Great-HousingStrategies-Addressing-Current-and-Future-Housing-Needs.pdf](file:///umchfs01/userdata$/ewilliams/UMCH%20Organization/Vision/Housing%20Project/Great-HousingStrategies-Addressing-Current-and-Future-Housing-Needs.pdf)

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Senior citizen affordable housing is eligible



Sustainability

This project is run by an organization and just needs funding to build



Feasibility

Risk to 2026 completion

PROJECT #21

The 415 Franklin Project



Identify the need for the proposed project

The Southeast Side of Grand Rapids (49507 ZIP code) is a resilient and growing area. However, on comparison to city and state averages in the areas of education, income, and housing, it is apparent that the MLK Jr/Madison corridor of Grand Rapids needs greater opportunities to grow and develop. 415 Franklin is located in an area that has historically lacked businesses with sustainable employment opportunities for low-income individuals. In 2019, unemployment rates were at 17% with poverty rates at 33%, according to the Bureau of Labor and Statistics. In the same year, Grand Rapids overall had an unemployment rate of 4% and a poverty rate of 20%. The building at 415 MLK Jr St. (formerly Franklin St) sits at an important crossroads for southeast Grand Rapids. To the north, affluence and investment are clearly evident. The Heritage Hill/South Hill Districts showcase impressive historic homes that are largely well cared for. To the south, the Madison Area community has faced disinvestment for decades, but now feels the pressure of new speculative investment and potential displacement. MLK/Franklin Street is an important corridor for Grand Rapids because it functions as a major transit thoroughfare, a mixture of commercial and residential uses, and serves as the boundary line for several Grand Rapids neighborhoods. It is informally considered a community dividing line, both demographically and financially. The 415 Franklin project is a transformative project addressing the needs of both housing and childcare in southeast Grand Rapids and gives unemployed or underemployed residents the support needed to join the workforce and experience being a part of the economy in a new and life-changing way. To fulfill this, three areas of need were our focus as the three-story building on the corner of MLK Jr St. and Madison Ave was redesigned and refurbished. Affordable, quality early-childhood education: Parents need quality childhood services in order to become employed and maintain employment. According to iff.org, Grand Rapids needs an additional 4,049 childcare slots in licensed or registered centers and homes. Over two-thirds of this need (2,899 slots) is concentrated in just one-third of the city neighborhoods, including the Southeast side. Governor Whitmer recently addressed this need to boost Michigan employment opportunities through her Caring for Michigan Future plan, a plan to create 1,000 new, affordable childcare facilities. Equitable Opportunity- Nearly 27% of Kent County's population are people of color. Grand Rapids has a population of in which 41% are people of color. The 49507 ZIP code has a population of 39,000 residents of which 57% are people of color. Decades of disinvestment have impacted the economic and educational health of the community. The gains made through the strong growth of the Grand Rapids economy in recent years has not equitably benefitted the residents of the Southeast neighborhood. By offering low-income housing and childcare in one location, stability and opportunity give rise to job creation and the recruitment/training of individuals living in the building. 415 Franklin is an important resource as this community transforms and builds up towards greater success. Community Space-Interviews with neighborhood businesses and nonprofits indicated a need for additional community space. This space fosters collaborative opportunities for resource connection, business networking, play, shared meals, and the arts.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$23,600,000

Maximum Cost: \$23,600,000

Submitter Info

Name: Joanna DeMoor-Tannor

Organization: Madison Church

Project Overview

Funding Group:

Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Affordable Housing

Project Status: Existing Project

Matching Funds: 76% or greater

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

ICCF Community Homes, The YMCA of Greater Grand Rapids, The Early Learning Neighborhood Collaborative (ELNC), Boys and Girls Club of West Michigan

Brief Description

Madison Church, ICCF Community Homes, YMCA, and Early Learning Neighborhood Collaborative designed a building with 41 units of affordable housing for income qualifying families and individuals, office space for ICCF Community Homes, Madison Church, and the YMCA, an early childhood center licensed for 63 infant to pre-kindergarten children, and community spaces for networking, business, neighborhood events, and worship. Through this effort, the former Kent County Department of Social Services building was transformed into a cornerstone of hope for the community. The great resignation is creating pathways for livable wages and employment opportunities for a people group who are often overlooked or forgotten. All the organizational partners located at 415 Franklin are walking alongside those who need extra supports in employment by connecting them to resources and mentors. Residents of the building have also found employment within the building itself, as the early childhood center trained and hired neighbors living on the 2nd and 3rd floors. The impact of affordable housing, early childhood education, social support services, and an invested church is transformative to the 415 Franklin building and the surrounding community.



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$23,600,000

Maximum Cost: \$23,600,000

Submitter Info

Name: Joanna DeMoor-Tannor

Organization: Madison Church

Project Overview

Funding Group:

Economic Innovation and
Workforce Development

Project Theme: Affordable Housing

Project Status: Existing Project

Matching Funds: 76% or greater

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

ICCF Community Homes, The
YMCA of Greater Grand Rapids,
The Early Learning
Neighborhood Collaborative
(ELNC), Boys and Girls Club of
West Michigan

Long-Term Benefit

The organizations at 415 Franklin provide affordable housing, early childhood education, health and wellness, after school programming, spiritual care, and youth development. The collaboration allows us to avoid duplication of services while best meeting the needs of the neighborhood. The stability and support provided at 415 Franklin reduces barriers to employment for many families, and provides aesthetic and functional places to work, network, and gather.

Intended Beneficiary

63 early childhood slots, infants through young 5's 41 individuals or families served with low-income housing 1100 children and youth and their families in the Boys and Girls Club will be served through the collaboration between Madison Church, ICCF Community Homes, and the YMCA Multiple organizations, businesses, and individuals on the southeast side of Grand Rapids who will annually make use of the community spaces.

Estimated Cost

\$23.6 million

*Source of Funding

The Setting the Table Campaign was launched in October 2018 by Madison Church to raise \$5.1 million for the \$23.6 million dollar project. This campaign is dedicated to the renovation costs of the early childhood center, a playground, parking lot, entrances, kitchen, community spaces, and office space for Madison and the YMCA. ICCF Community Homes raised the \$18.5 million needed to refurbish the second and third floors into 41 low-income apartments, build an ICCF office suite on a portion of the first floor, and partner with Madison Church in renovating the community spaces. Top donors and gift amounts: Anonymous members of Madison Church \$925,000 CDV5 foundation \$350,000 Ada Bible Church \$275,000 Doug and Maria DeVos foundation \$200,000 Steelcase Foundation \$200,000 Frey Foundation \$150,000 415 Franklin is open with just a few spaces waiting to be refurbished and outfitted. Residents have moved in to the 41 apartments. Three of the five early childhood classrooms are full—two are waiting for personnel to be hired. Church services and community events are taking place. \$742, 000 is all that is needed to complete the campaign for this vital community project.

Project Management Experience

415 Franklin is a large project that has received county-wide support. Madison Church took the lead in seeking out organizations to collaborate with in the design and function of 415 Franklin. Madison Church staff are experienced in and committed to excellence in project management and have successfully overseen the management of this \$23 million project from the beginning.

Federal Funds Experience

None. However, this is a large development project that has required complex multi organizational fiscal partnerships and we have the infrastructure, expertise, and experience in making sure funds are carefully tracked and spent according to their intended purpose.



(Page 3)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$23,600,000

Maximum Cost: \$23,600,000

Submitter Info

Name: Joanna DeMoor-Tannor

Organization: Madison Church

Project Overview

Funding Group:

Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Affordable Housing

Project Status: Existing Project

Matching Funds: 76% or greater

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Studies on Impact

A study done in 2020 by the National Research Center for Hispanic Children and Families

(www.hispanicresearchcenter.org/research-resources/Disruptions

to Child Care Arrangements and Work Schedules for Low-Income Hispanic Families are Common and Costly)

observed that “across all racial/ethnic groups examined, we find that care-work disruptions are common across low-income households with children. More than one quarter of households report experiencing a disruption in the coordination of work and care in the last three months. To deal with such disruptions—for example, a child getting sick or a provider being unavailable—households report having to adjust their employment, either by missing work or working reduced hours, or to adjust their care arrangements.” An article by Sacramento State University stated, “The COVID-19 pandemic has made the juggling act for working parents even more pronounced. Families with low incomes are more likely to have jobs like housekeeping and restaurant service, that do not allow them to work from home and typically do not offer benefits such as sick leave or health insurance.”

www.csus.edu/news/newsroom/stories/2021/1/study-highlights-child-care-struggles-of-low-income-families.html

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

This area just falls outside of a Qualified Census Tract, but is surrounded by them. That being said, along with the statistics from this proposal, this location is likely to be considered disproportionately impacted



Sustainability

Has multiple organizations working with this project



Feasibility

May take a long time to complete. Need more information about what this money is actually for.

Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

ICCF Community Homes, The YMCA of Greater Grand Rapids, The Early Learning Neighborhood Collaborative (ELNC), Boys and Girls Club of West Michigan

PROJECT #165

UMCH 900



Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$32,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$32,000,000

ARPA Request: \$2,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Eric Williams

Organization: United Methodist Community House

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Affordable Housing

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

Grand Valley State University; Grand Rapids Community College; Family Promise, Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan; Grand Rapids Housing Commission; City of Wyoming Housing Commission; Access of West Michigan and others.

Identify the need for the proposed project

United Methodist Community House (UMCH) studied the need for increased services for older adults for 3 years. We looked at numerous local, county, state and national studies. The National Research Center of AARP conducted a study of Kent County zip codes to help assess the needs also. We also met with Area Aging of WM, Meals on Wheels, GVSU and many other experts on senior services. Finally, UMCH hosted a taskforce to develop a needs assessment of county resources. All sources indicated that the need proposed in our project is on point. Finally, our proposal was vetted by IFF, a nationally based Community Development Financial Investor, who agreed to provide a \$1.7 million loan to help jump start this project.

Brief Description

UMCH is developing a \$32 million project on South Division aimed at improving services targeted for older adults and very young children. This project will include 46 affordable senior housing units, a new 30,000sf senior activity center, 6 infant/toddler affordable childcare classrooms, an inter-generational center in collaboration with a local university, and an affordable fresh market. ARPA County funds will be used to purchase and pave property for up to 300 necessary parking space for the anticipated 400+ daily visitors to our facility plus residents. The project has been awarded Low Income Housing Tax Credits and 28 housing vouchers already. The W.K. Kellogg Foundation was so impressed with this plan that they invested \$1 million to serve as a catalyst for additional donors. This project will help lead to the economic and community transformation of the south Division corridor and beyond.

Long-Term Benefit

This project will offer opportunities for senior activities, two hot meals daily, an outdoor adult playground, aqua therapy, and other amenities. It have 46 low income senior housing units and child care for infants and toddlers. It will provide up to 50 living-wage jobs and an economic impact of over \$30 million during construction and up to \$7 million annually to the county according to GVSU's Seidman College of Business. Those are some benefits this project will bring to Kent County.

Intended Beneficiary

UMCH serves two of our county's most vulnerable populations; our older adults and very young children. This center will benefit both populations. We provide care and provisions for children as young as 6-weeks of age and to adults over 90 years of age. It is not uncommon to have 3 generations of clients from the same family in our center. But we realized through this current pandemic that so much more needs to be done to help those who deal with food insecurity, housing insecurity, and isolation. We want to do our part to help address these needs in a quality and caring manner.

Estimated Cost

Phase 2 of the project is estimated to be about \$9.4M. The City of Grand Rapids is requesting \$2.2 million in ARPA funding.



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$32,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$32,000,000

ARPA Request: \$2,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Eric Williams

Organization: United Methodist Community House

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Affordable Housing

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

Grand Valley State University;
Grand Rapids Community College; Family Promise, Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan; Grand Rapids Housing Commission; City of Wyoming Housing Commission; Access of West Michigan and others.

*Source of Funding

COMMITTED: LIHTC = \$10,000,000; 2023 Federal Earmark = \$2.3 million; 2023 State Allocation = \$3.4 million; W.K. Kellogg Foundation Grand = \$1 million; 2020 State Allocation (Pre-development) = \$1 million; Thome Foundation Grant = \$100,000. PENDING: City of GR RAP = \$1.5 million; City of GR Housing Strategies = \$500,000; MSDHA Taxable Bond Loan = \$2,497,097; City of GR Brownfield = \$750,000; City of GR ARPA Funds = \$1,000,000; Michigan Economic Development Corporation CRP & Brownfield Grants = \$1,500,000. UMCH is also pursuing New Market Tax Credits and Historic Preservation Tax Credits for a total of \$6 million.

Project Management Experience

The staff leadership at United Methodist Community House have significant experience designing, implementing, managing and evaluating major projects that have had county and statewide implications well in excess of multiple millions of dollars. We are very capable in creating systems that enable the work to get done well and seek to build impact assessments with our projects.

Federal Funds Experience

UMCH leadership has significant experience working with federal funds in higher education and in nonprofit settings. We also utilize the services of a private financial management firm, Fusion Financials, who specialize in working with complex reporting requirements for federal funding sources.

Studies on Impact

- Grand Rapids (and Kent County) Early Childhood Education Study; August 2021
- The Age Well Study: Investigating Factors Associated with Happiness & Life Satisfaction in Residents of Life Plan Communities; 2020
- National Institute Of Senior Centers (Nisc); New Models Of Senior Centers Taskforce; Final Report; March 2009
- Home Investment Partnerships - American Rescue Plan (HomeArp) Home-Arp Allocation Plan, City of Grand Rapids; 2022
- Mastering System Change, By Christian Seelos & Johanna Mair; Stanford Social Innovation Review; Fall 2018
- Healthy Kent; Kent County Community Health Needs Assessment; 2017
- Community Needs Assessment; Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan; 2019
- The Case for Age-Friendly Communities; Grantmakers in Aging; 2016
- Michigan Community for a Lifetime Assessment, MDHHS Aging & Adult Services, 2017
- 2020 Kent County Senior Services Directory
- Aging, Agency, and Attribution of Responsibility: Shifting Public Discourse about Older Adults; Frame Works Institute; 2015
- Dozens of other reports, focus groups and interviews were reviewed by UMCH.

Supporting Documentation

1. [Letter of Support #1](#)
2. [Letter of Support #2](#)
3. [Letter of Support #3](#)
4. [Letter of Support #4](#)
5. [Letter of Support #5](#)
6. [Letter of Support #6](#)
7. [Floor Plan](#)
8. [Case Support](#)
9. [Picture of 900 Division](#)
10. [Division Properties Map](#)



(Page 3)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$32,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$32,000,000

ARPA Request: \$2,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Eric Williams

Organization: United Methodist
Community House

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Affordable Housing

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

Grand Valley State University;
Grand Rapids Community
College; Family Promise, Area
Agency on Aging of Western
Michigan; Grand Rapids
Housing Commission; City of
Wyoming Housing Commission;
Access of West Michigan and
others.

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Affordable housing for
impacted communities
and specialized service
for seniors to
access/maintain housing
is an eligible use of
funds.



Sustainability

Numerous partners



Feasibility

Risk to 2026 completion



PROJECT #5

Community Land Trust

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$300,000

Maximum Cost: \$300,000

Submitter Info

Name: Jessica McCormick

Organization: Dwelling Place

Project Overview

Funding Group:

Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Affordable Housing

Project Status: Existing Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

CLT is continuously refunding itself with the sale of homes and with businesses and community members who reap the benefits of homeownership in their neighborhood

Partnership

Dwelling Place Community Land Trust (501c3)

Identify the need for the proposed project

Homeownership is a largely out of reach goal for many families of Kent County, a disproportionate amount of which are led by women and/or minority Heads of Household. The Community Land Trust makes homeownership an affordable option to build and pass on equity and generational wealth for those who it may be otherwise unlikely. Research in the Kent County area (and across the country) demonstrate the need of affordable housing options, the interest of families in homeownership, and the disproportionate ability to realize this goal by minority families

Brief Description

Funding would support the Dwelling Place Community Land Trust, who sells a house + 99 year lease on the property it is on at an affordable price to lower income, financially ready households. After households take a CLT Course on the program, eligibility requirements, and next steps, they work with a CLT lender to decide what they're eligible to borrow. CLT homes have a significantly decreased foreclosure rate, and in the rare case the house did foreclose, the CLT would repurchase and resell to another eligible family. Funds would specifically benefit the CLT Homeownership Fund to help with gap financially, closing costs, and other "extras" homebuyers come across when first purchasing a home.

Long-Term Benefit

An increase in homeownership, which is demonstrated to positively impact local economy, community safety, generational wealth, education, and more.

Intended Beneficiary

Open to all lower-income families, but the project would disproportionately aim to serve minority families (who were also disproportionately affected by COVID-19 and just about every other crisis in US History)

Estimated Cost

\$300,000.00

Project Management Experience

Dwelling Place has developed affordable housing projects across Kent County and West Michigan using a combination of local, State, and Federal funds as well as contributions from private donors

Federal Funds Experience

Works alongside the Department of Housing and Urban Development to provide affordable housing for more than 1,500 households across West Michigan

Studies on Impact

<https://community-wealth.org/strategies/panel/clts/index.html>

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

Affordable housing is eligible

Should not require funding after 2026

PROJECT #92

Bridge To Home



Identify the need for the proposed project

Since 1967, Degage Ministries has served those in the region who have the greatest need. Over that time, we have found there is a significant difference in a person's likelihood of success if they have someone to walk alongside them during a crisis or through a transition. At Degage Ministries, we fill that role for people who encounter significant hardships. People who enter our doors are seeking a meal, shelter, personal hygiene products, a place to shower, substance abuse treatment, or job training, among other needs. We meet each person where they are to serve in partnership with other organizations in Grand Rapids. One of the most pressing issues in Grand Rapids and Kent County overall is homelessness. According to the Grand Rapids Area Coalition to End Homelessness, in 2020 (the last year for which data is available) a total of "8,026 people in Kent County experienced at least one episode of homelessness, a 33% increase since 2016." Of those who experienced homelessness in 2020, 2,192 were children. The trauma of homelessness has long-term physical and mental health impacts on adults and children, leading the American Psychological Association to deem homelessness a "matter of public health concern." Extensive research has been conducted regarding the impact Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) have on children, such as homelessness, and the factors leading up to a family losing their home. In the short-term, ACEs impact children developmentally, leading to poor health, behavior issues, and lower academic achievement. Long-term, ACEs lead to poor physical and mental health, substance use, lower earnings, and risky behaviors (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2016). Within Kent County, Black residents are disproportionately impacted by homelessness. In 2020, 60 percent of those who experienced homelessness were Black, despite comprising only 10 percent of the overall population. Of the children who experienced homelessness, 75 percent of those with families and 73 percent of unaccompanied minors were Black (Grand Rapids Area Coalition to End Homelessness, 2020). Degage Ministries has witnessed these disproportionate impacts first-hand as 65 percent of those served are people of color and 50 percent are Black.

Providing access to housing generally results in cost savings for communities because housed people are less likely to use hospitals, jails, emergency shelters, and other services. According to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), it costs U.S. taxpayers between \$30,000 to \$50,000 per year for one person to remain chronically homeless (U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, 2017). Within Kent County, there are 132 transitional housing beds. The 2021 Point in Time count found 129 individuals who were part of a family with children in transitional housing. This means that on any given night, transitional housing is either at or over capacity (City of Grand Rapids Community Development Department, 2022). Transitional housing, also called Rapid Rehousing or Temporary Housing, is an important aspect of addressing homelessness. There is a 20-percentage point difference in recidivism between those who receive transitional housing and services (20 percent recidivism) and those who do not (40 percent recidivism) (Cohen, 2020). Seeking to impact the aforementioned metrics and make a difference in the lives of those we serve, Degage Ministries piloted a transitional housing support program pre-pandemic. One hundred percent of those who completed the program remain housed three years after receiving this support from Degage. Sadly, COVID-19 forced the organization to pause the program. As the pandemic tapered, Degage began to seek options to address the growing need in Grand Rapids and Kent County for temporary housing specifically for families transitioning out of homelessness. Degage Ministries identified an opportunity to expand the number of transitional housing beds available in the County in partnership with Family Promise of Grand Rapids (letter of support available upon request) who has a long track record of impact. In fact, 90 percent of those who receive housing services through Family Promise remain housed one year later. The proposed project is a direct result of Degage Ministry's intentional process to identify how best its organizational resources could be directed to collaboratively reduce the number of chronically homeless individuals and families in Kent County.

WORKS CITED Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2016). "About the CDC-Kaiser ACE study: Major findings." U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. Grand Rapids Area Coalition to End Homelessness (2020). "2020 Annual Count and Comparisons." Heart of West Michigan United Way. U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (2017). "Fiscal Year 2017 Performance and Accountability Report." U.S. United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. City of Grand Rapids Community Development Department (2022). "HOME-ARP Allocation Plan." City of Grand Rapids. Cohen, E. (October 19, 2020). "Housing the Homeless: The Effect of Housing Assistance on Recidivism to Homelessness, Economic, and Social Outcomes." Department of Economics, UCLA.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$2,702,946

Maximum Cost: \$2,702,946

Submitter Info

Name: Bridge To Home

Organization: Degage Ministries

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Affordable Housing

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

Degage Ministries is requesting \$1.5 million through this program to complete the project. An additional \$962,330 will be donated in-kind through a purchase price reduction from the current property owner, Michigan Business Connection, LLC. The remaining funds will be raised through philanthropic sources, using the Kent County ARPA funds as leverage.

Partnership

Family Promise of Grand Rapids



Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$2,702,946

Maximum Cost: \$2,702,946

Submitter Info

Name: Bridge To Home

Organization: Degage Ministries

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Affordable Housing

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

Degage Ministries is requesting \$1.5 million through this program to complete the project. An additional \$962,330 will be donated in-kind through a purchase price reduction from the current property owner, Michigan Business Connection, LLC. The remaining funds will be raised through philanthropic sources, using the Kent County ARPA funds as leverage.

Partnership

Family Promise of Grand Rapids

Brief Description

Degage Ministries is planning to purchase 7 housing units in the Belknap Lookout neighborhood that will allow the organization to serve a minimum of 4 families and 7 individual tenants at one time, each waiting to secure housing. These dilapidated units will be renovated to provide families with quality housing, near Grand Rapids Public Schools' Coit Elementary and within a welcoming neighborhood that has embraced this project (neighborhood association letter of support available by request). The average stay for families and individuals served will be three months, at which point they will move into permanent housing. A minimum of 82 adults and numerous children will be served annually. Families will be enrolled in Family Promise's Family and Children Support Services during which time they will receive assistance to access services related to housing stability and/or health disparities. The Family Promise team will walk alongside families for up to two years to help them create and accomplish goals pertaining to employment, education, transportation, health, and community engagement. These services help families overcome the root causes of poverty, allow a family to become self-sufficient, and create generational change.

Long-Term Benefit

Long-term, Kent County will experience a reduction in family, child, and individual homelessness leading to a reduction in health, educational, and economic disparities, particularly along racial lines. Further, the community will experience a reduction in visits to hospitals, jails, emergency shelters, and other emergency services. Using HUD data previously discussed, the project will allow Kent County taxpayers to realize a savings of \$2.46 to \$4.1 million annually.

Intended Beneficiary

The intended beneficiaries are families with children and individuals who are experiencing homelessness. It is estimated that 75 percent of those who will be served are Black.

Estimated Cost

\$2,702,946.00

Project Management Experience

Throughout its 50+ year history, Degage has adapted to the changing needs of the community. Last year, Degage provided almost 42,000 meals and more than 19,000 overnight stays to people experiencing homelessness and extreme poverty. At the midpoint of 2022, they already provided 5,881 more overnight stays than this time in 2021. They also provide showers, laundry, clothing, haircuts, bus passes, and assistance with housing applications, job searches, obtaining IDs, referrals for physical and mental health care, and more. In 2021, Degage Ministries successfully completed an \$8 million capital campaign to renovate the organization's facility in Downtown Grand Rapids. This project, currently in progress, will double the overnight shelter capacity for single women and increase the amount of meals served by 50%. Additionally, Degage's new Day Wellness Center will provide a place for individuals to rest when they are sick, released from the hospital, or recovering from a procedure. Finally, the new space will include a dedicated area for job training programs and a dedicated social enterprise kitchen for Degage's expanding cookie business called Open Door Bakery, formerly Pauls' Moms' Cookies.



Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$2,702,946

Maximum Cost: \$2,702,946

Submitter Info

Name: Bridge To Home

Organization: Degage Ministries

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Affordable Housing

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

Degage Ministries is requesting \$1.5 million through this program to complete the project. An additional \$962,330 will be donated in-kind through a purchase price reduction from the current property owner, Michigan Business Connection, LLC. The remaining funds will be raised through philanthropic sources, using the Kent County ARPA funds as leverage.

Partnership

Family Promise of Grand Rapids

Federal Funds Experience

Degage Ministries has extensive experience working with federal funds. A listing of government funds received, including the program, date of award, amount, and use, is included below. New Market Tax Credits (Awarded through Michigan Community Capital as the Community Development Entity) Date of Award: 12/11/21 Amount Received: \$2,296,125 Funding Designation: Capital expansion Federal Home Loan Bank Funding Date of Award: 11/20/19 Amount Received: \$500,000 Funding Designation: Affordable Housing Grant for expansion ESP Funding Date of Award: 9/15/21 Amount Received: \$271,159 (increased to \$300,161 as of 1/1/22 per amendment) Funding Designation: Emergency shelter EFSP 39/ARPA Funding Date of Award: 3/9/22 Amount Pledged: \$90,000 Funding Designation: Emergency shelter CARES Grants Date of Award: 6/8/20 (final award date) Amount Received: \$73,500 Funding Designation: Impacts of COVID-19 ESG Funding (COVID) Date of Award: 7/7/20 Amount Received: \$65,000 Funding Designation: Emergency shelter CARES Grant Date of Award: 11/13/20 (final payment) Amount Received: \$21,312 Funding Designation: COVID-19 temp screeners Michigan Public Health Institute Date of Award: 12/28/20 (final payment) Amount Received: \$20,520 Funding Designation: PPE EFSP 38 Funding Date of Award: 1/15/21 Amount Received: \$16,856 Funding Designation: Emergency shelter Census Grant Date of Award: 8/2/19 Amount Received: \$15,000 Funding Designation: Census coordinator EFSP 37 Funding Date of Award: 5/21/20 Amount Received: \$8,000 Funding Designation: Emergency shelter

Studies on Impact

First, transitional housing is a key piece of Kent County's strategy for reducing homelessness as outlined in the "Redefining the Path Home: System Building for Housing Stability in Kent County" plan facilitated by KCONNECT. Developed by the housing service providers in Kent County, there is broad recognition that a system without adequate access to transitional housing will not be successful. This conclusion is supported by numerous studies, including the Cohen report cited previously. Transitional housing was also the focus of a 2015 study issued by the Urban Institute (using the term "Rapid Rehousing") which concluded that the model proposed by Degage has led to reduced homeless recidivism and long-term housing stability for families.

KCONNECT Report: <https://k-connect.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/KCON-BOOK-0920-Common-Agenda-and-Roadmap-FINAL-01-12-21.pdf>.

Urban Institute Report: <https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/publication/54201/2000265-Rapid-Rehousing-What-the-Research-Says.pdf>.

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Affordable housing is eligible



Sustainability

This is sustainable if funds are only needed to acquire the property



Feasibility

PROJECT #180

Heartside Health District Revitalization



Identify the need for the proposed project

Inspired by Peter Wege's vision of sustainability and environmental stewardship, in 2006 Trinity Health Saint Mary's developed a facilities plan featuring additional green space, mixed-use retail, expanded residential options, and fewer surface parking lots. Due to corporate health system changes, administrative turnover, the Covid19 pandemic, and lack of resources, this plan was never fully implemented. Guided by principles of landscape architecture and urban planning, Progressive A&E Facilities Design updated the 2006 plan that now focuses on a four-block revitalization of hospital-owned property bounded by Wealthy, LaGrave, State and Lafayette Streets. This plan takes into account the need for enhanced safety, access to fresh food, and improved quality of life noted in the City of Grand Rapids Heartside Quality of Life Report, the critical need for both market rate and affordable housing in Ward 1 as identified in the Grand Rapids/Kent County Housing Needs Assessment, recognition of the role hospitals play in improving community population health, and the impact of green space on human health. As the largest employer in our district, we believe Trinity Health Saint Mary's can play a key role in addressing these multiple needs by replacing its 10 parking lots on the West side of Jefferson Street with construction of the proposed "Apex Building" as the first step in this transformative, community-focused renewal project.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$151,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$197,000,000

ARPA Request: \$19,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Kurt MacDonald

Organization: Trinity Health Saint Mary's Grand Rapids

Project Overview

Funding Group: Infrastructure

Project Theme: Affordable Housing

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 76% or greater

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

We will be looking at creative financing options including private/public partnerships which will rely on a mix of capital/property contributions from Trinity Health along with Tax Incremental Financing, Community Revitalization Programs, philanthropy, and other funding sources.

Brief Description

The Heartside Health District Revitalization begins with construction of the Apex Building offering retail, housing, and community services. In addition, this building will include 1,000 parking spaces giving parking density that enables us to vacate surface parking lots and create other phases of development. In total, this structure will replace 10 currently owned parking lots in our district. While the Apex Building is being constructed, we will proceed with community input for development of other initiatives and features. This 9-story building will include:

- 39,000 SF street-level mixed-use retail to accommodate such amenities as cafés, childcare, massage therapy, gift shop, bakery, fitness center, bookstore, restaurant, and an anchor tenant featuring a grocery store to erase the food desert problem.
- Four residential floors atop retail space (200 housing units) to address the significant housing deficit identified in the Kent County Housing Report. A portion of the residential units will be for affordable housing.
- Four floors of space for community services (33,750 SF) including office space, meeting rooms, and services aimed at improving access to education, jobs placement, and so on. These spaces can include community services recommended by key community leaders and current residents.
- A bridge over Jefferson connecting the Apex Building with Saint Mary's main campus.
- Roof top solar panels will be installed on new buildings to expand renewable energy.

Long-Term Benefit

This critical first step has numerous benefits:

- A vibrant residential community with access to grocery/food and community services for residents
- Sustainable job creation
- Enhanced ecosystem due to better air quality and increased use of solar power
- Improved quality of life resulting from neighborhood renewal
- Better health due to more green space, employees walking to work, stronger community engagement
- City income from property taxes
- Increased property values and new investments

Partnership

(Listed in main description)



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$151,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$197,000,000

ARPA Request: \$19,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Kurt MacDonald

Organization: Trinity Health Saint Mary's Grand Rapids

Project Overview

Funding Group: Infrastructure

Project Theme: Affordable Housing

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 76% or greater

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

We will be looking at creative financing options including private/public partnerships which will rely on a mix of capital/property contributions from Trinity Health along with Tax Incremental Financing, Community Revitalization Programs, philanthropy, and other funding sources.

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Intended Beneficiary

The community at large benefits most by the addition of housing, job creation, vital community services, retail shops, and a grocery store. Further, this first property development initiative will pave the path towards development of several other properties. Also, the city will get increased tax revenue; the county will have additional housing; local residents will benefit from more local employment opportunities, easy access to a grocery store, and improved quality of life; homeowners benefit by increased property values; and entrepreneurs will be able to invest in new initiatives.

*Partnership

The Heartside Health District Revitalization begins with construction of the Apex Building offering retail, housing, and community services. In addition, this building will include 1,000 parking spaces giving parking density that enables us to vacate surface parking lots and create other phases of development. In total, this structure will replace 10 currently owned parking lots in our district. While the Apex Building is being constructed, we will proceed with community input for development of other initiatives and features. This 9-story building will include:

- 39,000 SF street-level mixed-use retail to accommodate such amenities as cafés, childcare, massage therapy, gift shop, bakery, fitness center, bookstore, restaurant, and an anchor tenant featuring a grocery store to erase the food desert problem.
- Four residential floors atop retail space (200 housing units) to address the significant housing deficit identified in the Kent County Housing Report. A portion of the residential units will be for affordable housing.
- Four floors of space for community services (33,750 SF) including office space, meeting rooms, and services aimed at improving access to education, jobs placement, and so on. These spaces can include community services recommended by key community leaders and current residents.
- A bridge over Jefferson connecting the Apex Building with Saint Mary's main campus.
- Roof top solar panels will be installed on new buildings to expand renewable energy.

Estimated Cost

\$151,000,000 to \$197,000,000. We are requesting 10% or \$19,000,000

Project Management Experience

We are currently working with Kent County to stand up a Behavioral Health Crisis Center.

Federal Funds Experience

Trinity Health Saint Mary's has received federal funding since 1990. From 1990 to 2003, we received increasing amounts in the range of \$500,000/year as a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) to provide Healthcare for the Homeless. We relinquished this funding in 2020 because new federal legislation required an independent Board of Directors – a requirement prohibited within Trinity Health ministry organizations. Also from 1990 to the present, we currently receive about \$500,000/year in Ryan White federal funding to provide Early Intervention Services for persons with HIV/AIDS. Federal funds are regularly audited to ensure appropriate budgeting, accounting, and reporting.



Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$151,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$197,000,000

ARPA Request: \$19,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Kurt MacDonald

Organization: Trinity Health Saint Mary's Grand Rapids

Project Overview

Funding Group: Infrastructure

Project Theme: Affordable Housing

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 76% or greater

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

We will be looking at creative financing options including private/public partnerships which will rely on a mix of capital/property contributions from Trinity Health along with Tax Incremental Financing, Community Revitalization Programs, philanthropy, and other funding sources.

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Studies on Impact

A 2019 research report developed by the Urban Institute provides a comprehensive overview of principles underlying successful community revitalization and evidence of outcomes from various urban renewal projects. This paper illustrates that projects such as ours can reap these positive benefits:

- Economic: increased property values, brownfield remediation, sale prices of surrounding properties.
- Social: social cohesion, formation of neighborhood social ties, civic engagement
- Physical and mental health: lower stress levels, lower rate of depression, increased engagement in physical activity such as walking,
- Public safety: fewer assaults, reduction in crime, in Baltimore a 10% increase in tree canopy was associated with a 12% decrease in crime.
- Environmental: improved air and water quality, reduced heat island effect which reduces energy consumption from air conditioning. A 2018 review, "Urban Green Space and Its Impact on Human Health," reported numerous positive health outcomes related to behavior, cancer, hypertension, heart conditions, mental health, and overall improved health resulting from physical activity.

Guidehouse Ranking Notes

Eligibility

Affordable housing is eligible

Sustainability

Lacking guaranteed funding after 2026 though partners were identified

Feasibility

Risk to 2026 completion



PROJECT #281

Housing Stability Investment through Geographic Congregation Networks

Identify the need for the proposed project

The Access Congregation Connections caseworkers support congregations in utilizing resources and funds in their benevolence programs. We do this by providing casework services and trainings at no cost with the goal of the congregation providing support and building relationships with neighbors. Due to this work we are keenly aware of the resources that are available in the community for our neighbors to access. In the past month CERA (COVID Emergency Rental Assistance) funds and other avenues of support for families have dried up to support their housing needs in a housing market that only continues to grow more inequitable as the days go on. KConnect's Housing Data Report, "Redefining The Path Home" (<https://k-connect.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/KCON-BOOK-0920-Common-Agenda-and-Roadmap-FINAL-01-12-21.pdf#page=12>), shows that there has been an increase in families accessing homelessness services by 37% between 2017 and 2019. They also show that 27% of Kent County residents are overburdened by housing costs, paying more than 30% of their income for housing. As prices continue to increase, these inequities continue to be exacerbated. One of the solutions KConnect calls for in this report is: "In the near-term, direct Kent County CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) Act funding to on-the-ground organizations working with residents on housing issues. In the long-term, concentrate efforts on policy advocacy to secure greater funding for community-based organizations that can empower resident voice." This is exactly what our project is doing- we are working with congregations that are on the ground providing needed assistance to families in their direct communities while also providing training and support to those same congregations on how to direct their energy to long term advocacy work through an antiracist, community based, and justice-oriented lens. In 2021 Congregation Connections staff members worked alongside 176 local churches to distribute \$243,458 to neighbors to support their needs. Of these funds, 60% were used to keep families in their homes through rent and mortgage payment assistance, and 23% were used to assist with utility bills. Our work has diverted evictions and provided stability. In 2021 we also worked alongside churches to provide support for medical bills, transportation, and other household needs. In 2020, after COVID began, Access of West Michigan's Gap Fund was created to assist families with supplemental funds directly from Access to fill in a gap when a church could not meet a full need for assistance. Access could supplement with \$150 to \$500 to help a congregation meet a family's need. Since this fund was developed Access has distributed directly to families \$36,880. With current inflation rates, gas prices, housing costs, and other costs we anticipate a continued and increased need for support for families in our community. We cannot ignore this ongoing concern and issue, and we cannot put families on waiting lists for years. We need to provide support now. That is exactly what our proposed project will provide, support now and support for the long term. The work we do alongside congregations allows us to support families not only financially but also with a support network and relationships that will walk with them long term in their own geographic neighborhood.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$75,000

Maximum Cost: \$75,000

Submitter Info

Name: Alaina Dobkowski

Organization:

Access of West Michigan

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Affordable Housing

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

Congregations provide additional support through regular giving and support.

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Brief Description

Access coordinates a network of eight churches in the Southeast area of Grand rapids called the Southeast Pod. The Pod comes together to meet large need requests in their area for families, distributing \$46,830 in 2021 to families in their direct community. Access supports this Pod with training on the root causes of poverty, asset based community development, and practical strategies for embedding justice and antiracism. Their neighborhood benefits as collaboration and ecumenical relationships grow around targeted neighborhood issues. Our expanded project will identify and create additional pods that will work together to meet needs of families, with a focus on housing stability. We have identified partners in the Grand Rapids Baxter neighborhood for a new Pod. We plan to continue expansion through our network of 176 congregations in Kent County. This project funds training and support for the new Pods, as well as Gap fund support. By utilizing funds from local congregations coupled with funds from Access' gap fund we will be able to extend our reach to meet stabilization needs for families while also providing long-term support and advocacy for long-term system wide change.



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$75,000

Maximum Cost: \$75,000

Submitter Info

Name: Alaina Dobkowski

Organization:

Access of West Michigan

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Affordable Housing

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

Congregations provide additional support through regular giving and support.

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Long-Term Benefit

Access has a forty year history of providing casework support to congregations and overseeing County-Wide projects. We are a trusted partner and are poised to distribute funds in partnership with congregations on the ground in a very unique way that greatly benefits residents. This project will provide funding to support the a new network of Pods throughout who will work together to divert eviction and provide housing stabilization for families, as well as advocacy for system wide change.

Intended Beneficiary

Households in Kent County who are in need of mortgage and rental assistance.

*Partnership

Yes, this project will fund training and staff support for the new Pod networks, as well as Gap fund support to directly assist families with supplemental funds for housing stability needs. By utilizing funds from local congregations coupled with funds from Access' Gap fund we will be able to extend our reach to meet stabilization needs for families while also providing them the long term support they will need through relationships. We will be partnering with multiple congregations and community partners across the county. Currently are involved with 176 congregations. Access also is involved in the Kent County Essential Needs Task Force in 3 of its main program areas: Food and Nutrition Program, Energy Efficiency, and Coalition to End Homelessness. The funding Access is seeking is particular to the Coalition to End Homelessness. Our program works to divert eviction through our partnership with churches across Kent County. Each year, we provide an average of \$250,000-\$300,000 toward eviction prevention. As an organization, we are dedicated to systems level work and collaboration to build equitable and thriving communities.

Estimated Cost

75000

Project Management Experience

Access has led several county-wide projects over its 40 year history, including a County Wide food drive, overseeing the Countywide Pantry Network, working with a network of 176 congregations across Kent County, overseeing the Access Walk for Good Food, and running the Health, Equity and Access in the Local Foods Systems Collaborative with Kent County Pantry Resource Centers.

Federal Funds Experience

We have received federal COVID assistance monies previously.

Studies on Impact

We have already referenced KConnect's report: "Redefining the Path Home" <https://kconnect.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/KCON-BOOK-0920-Common-Agenda-and-Roadmap-FINAL-01-12-21.pdf#page=12> 2020 Community Health Needs Assessment: <https://accesskent.com/Health/CHNA/pdf/FINAL-2020-CHNA-REPORT.pdf>



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Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Emergency housing assistance is eligible and Baxter is in a QCT



Sustainability

Does not include a funding plan or fund availability after expending all the ARPA dollars.



Feasibility

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$75,000

Maximum Cost: \$75,000

Submitter Info

Name: Alaina Dobkowski

Organization:

Access of West Michigan

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Affordable Housing

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

Congregations provide additional support through regular giving and support.

Partnership

(Listed in main description)



PROJECT #206

Manufactured Home Community Ownership

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$6,500,000

Maximum Cost: \$7,500,000

Submitter Info

Name: Caity Young

Organization:

Family Promise of Grand Rapids

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Affordable Housing

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

We will be using both private and philanthropic dollars to help sustain and maintain the case management and programing costs on an annual basis.

Partnership

n/a

Identify the need for the proposed project

Family Promise of Grand Rapids is steeped in affordable housing conversations with vulnerable families. We have witnessed significant cost increases throughout the pandemic and continue to see out-of-town ownership groups take over communities that were once affordable for Grand Rapids residents. These economic disparities that existed prior to COVID-19, have amplified the impact of this problem, especially among low-income and minority groups. Family Promise has partnered with manufactured home communities over the past 13 years, which has created affordable housing opportunities for families with children. In working with these local ownership groups, we have identified manufactured home park availability that could reduce current costs for Kent County residents while creating new housing stock. Housing Next has identified a shortage of over 40,000 housing units in Kent County. Manufactured Housing is considered the most affordable source of housing and created 4X the capacity of HUD subsidized housing programs while creating a pathway out of poverty through homeownership.

Brief Description

Family Promise of Grand Rapids would either purchase one to two already existing manufactured parks (based on number of parcels available in each park) or find a parcel of land to build our own manufactured home community. If we were to purchase already existing parks, we would renovate existing homes to meet our standards of cleanliness and safety. Along with renovation of homes, we would consider amenities based on resident desires and needs. For example, those could include accessible walking trails, playground equipment and laundry services. In owning a manufactured park, Family Promise can take delapidated housing and through staff and volunteer efforts, we would rehabilitate units into safe and dignified affordable housing. We will lower lot rents where appropriate and ensure cost of living do not rise inappropriately for all Kent County residents who live in our community.

Long-Term Benefit

Family Promise plans to permanently own 100+ manufactured home parcels/properties to ensure affordable lot rents, amenities for all ages, and protect safe and dignified housing for all Kent County residents. We will take unhealthy housing and turn it into safe and affordable option. Ownership will allow for Family Promise to create and maintain community guidelines that will create equity and raise the standard of living for children and adults at or below 30% AMI.

Intended Beneficiary

Families with children who are identified as "impacted" or "disproportionately impacted" in Kent County, specifically at or under 30% AMI.

Estimated Cost

6.5-7.5 million



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$6,500,000

Maximum Cost: \$7,500,000

Submitter Info

Name: Caity Young

Organization:

Family Promise of Grand Rapids

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Affordable Housing

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

We will be using both private and philanthropic dollars to help sustain and maintain the case management and programing costs on an annual basis.

Partnership

n/a

Project Management Experience

Family promise is well versed in managing large projects in the county. That would include Fulton Manor in Grand Rapids in 2019 creating nearly 100 shelter units, while working with 6 partnering organizations and the CoC. Family Promise has also worked with Bethany Christian Services and Samaritas to house over 200 refugee households in 2021. We coordinated non-congregant shelter in partnership with Kent County throughout the pandemic. We also have an annual program of Partners in Housing that provides 35 manufactured homes to families in need. This program exists throughout all of Kent County and partners with local ownership groups also with mobile home manufacturers. PIH has put online more than 200 housing units.

Federal Funds Experience

Family Promise has been utilizing federal funds for over 15 years with HUD, City of Wyoming, and City of Grand Rapids, ESG, CDBG and Kent County funds. We also run a single federal audit every year, that has not had any findings to report. Through the pandemic, we were awarded over 4.5 million of federal funds. With that we have upheld the monitoring and extensive regulations standards.

Studies on Impact

Multiple local and state studies have identified manufactured housing as the most effective means to addressing affordable housing. The program of Partners in Housing, that Family Promise of Grand Rapids has implemented, has brought more affordable housing options online than any new development projects. We have also seen more than 90% of our participants become homeowners in that program. Prosperity Now has cited that mobile homes as the largest source of affordable housing across the country and says "homeownership is the largest maker of equity and leads to generational wealth- building".

Guidehouse Ranking Notes

 **Eligibility**

Affordable housing is eligible

 **Sustainability**

Does not include a funding plan or fund availability after expending all the ARPA dollars. More information needed.

 **Feasibility**

Lacking information about a variety of issues-- For example, what would happen to residents during rehabilitation of units? Are the locations currently vacant?



PROJECT #158

Kent County Equitable Housing Initiative

Identify the need for the proposed project

Housing Next has been working to support communities across West Michigan since 2018. While we began as an initiative of the Greater Ottawa County United Way, the recent partnership with the Greater Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce Foundation has allowed Housing Next to work much more closely with communities throughout Kent County. The 2020 County-wide Housing Needs Assessment conducted by Bowen National Research identified a need for more than 22,000 additional housing units in Kent County by the year 2025. The housing that is needed spans a broad range of product types and price points – from single family homes on larger lots to smaller cottages, townhomes, condominiums, apartments, and various other types of housing serve every family and individual in the community. However, a cursory review of the zoning ordinances which govern how housing gets built in each municipality demonstrates that the vast majority of land area zoned for residential use is limited to single family only structures on larger lots. By its very nature, this is one of the most expensive types of housing that can be built, and it only serves a very limited segment of the marketplace. In Kent County, just over 2/3 of all households are made up of single adults or two adults without children at home. This means 67% of all households likely need only one- or two-bedroom homes, and many of these households may prefer smaller yards or to eliminate the responsibility for a yard. Many of these households may like the pattern of single-family homes on larger lots very much, but the problem we face is that most households don't have much of a choice. They may either choose a large home on a large lot or an apartment in a large complex of other apartments. While awareness of this gap is increasing and community-specific, incremental changes can be made to enhance opportunities in every neighborhood, there is still a tremendous amount of work to be done. Most communities have zoning obstacles to housing growth that would support identified needs such as empty nesters downsizing and remaining in the neighborhood where they raised their children or allowing young adults to move back to the neighborhoods where they grew up after they have completed college or gotten their first salaried position. Communities all across Kent County have zoning regulations which limit housing choices and limit housing availability. Housing Next has just completed writing the Michigan Association of Planning Zoning Reform Toolkit for Housing Choice and Affordability in partnership with Progressive AE. This document provides 15 best practices to support local communities in their effort to design locally specific and context sensitive zoning solutions to provide for more housing choices while continuing to maintain the identity and local community attributes that make each neighborhood unique.

Brief Description

This project will both: 1) Work with statewide partners on a data driven approach to mapping current zoning to identify barriers to development and reforms at the local, regional, and state levels to address housing challenges 2) Establish a grant fund to support local municipalities which are prepared to undertake amendments to their zoning ordinance, and which will allow for a greater variety of housing types, sizes, and price points in multiple neighborhoods. The mapping pilot would cover 3 counties with an overall cost of 99,000. To ensure that Kent County is included in the pilot program, 33,000 would allow us to partner on the effort. The University of Michigan alongside other stakeholder groups will be responsible for fundraising the rest of the funds with support of Housing Next. The County grant can cover up to 75% of the total consulting costs and legal fees for the work to prepare a zoning amendment, conduct community visioning and input sessions, and/or undertake local growth scenario planning. The County will grant up to \$50,000 per municipality provided that the local community can pay for 25% of the total project cost. Housing Next will market both the mapping tool and the program as part of its ongoing mission to increase housing supply at all price points. Housing Next will be available as a community partner and supportive resource to assist with local market demographics, construction costs, financing mechanisms, and similar best practice resources.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$558,000

Maximum Cost: \$558,000

Submitter Info

Name: Brooke Oosterman & Ryan Kilpatrick

Organization: Housing Next

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Affordable Housing

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

We suggest that local communities should be responsible for at least 25% of the cost of the zoning rewrite, community engagement, and/or growth scenario planning.

Partnership

n/a



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$558,000

Maximum Cost: \$558,000

Submitter Info

Name: Brooke Oosterman & Ryan Kilpatrick

Organization: Housing Next

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Affordable Housing

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

We suggest that local communities should be responsible for at least 25% of the cost of the zoning rewrite, community engagement, and/or growth scenario planning.

Partnership

n/a

Long-Term Benefit

An investment in local zoning reform will have generational impacts on the availability and accessibility of housing throughout the county. Our communities are currently reaping the benefits and consequences of decisions that were made by previous leaders and the policies they enacted. Our local officials now have an opportunity to leave a positive legacy of housing choice for households, workers, students, and families for generations to come.

Intended Beneficiary

Every household in Kent County is currently impacted by their local zoning ordinance and the continued underproduction of housing supply. Most specifically, younger households seeking to buy their first homes, empty nesters looking to downsize to something that is still within their budget, singles and couples without children, and families who are striving to become homeowners but are in need of options that are priced below the current median cost of new construction at \$382,000 in West Michigan.

Estimated Cost

558,000-This includes \$500,000 in grant awards and \$25,000 to support Housing Next staff time as a best practice partner and 33,000 for the zoning atlas partnership to cover Kent County

Project Management Experience

The Chamber Foundation has previously administered both private and publicly funded grants to businesses throughout the County. This includes partnering with the County on almost \$35M in grants to business impacted by COVID.

Federal Funds Experience

Similar to the County grant program, we would recommend the County retain the funds and final approval for grants to support the identified work if criteria are met. Housing Next can be the partner to support the municipality and recommend grant funding under the aforementioned criteria.

Studies on Impact

Scheutz, Jenny. Brookings Institution. 2020. To Improve Housing Affordability We Need Better Alignment of Zoning, Taxes, and Subsidies. Furman Center, NYU. 2018. Housing Supply and Affordability. HUD – Under the Administration of President Trump. Eliminating Regulatory Barriers to Affordable Housing. HUD – Under the Administration of President Biden. New Housing in High Productivity Metropolitan Areas: Encouraging Production. Urban Institute. 2019. How Communities are Rethinking Zoning to Improve Housing Affordability and Access to Opportunity. American Enterprise Institute. 2022. Light Touch Density. A Series of Policy Briefs on Zoning, Land Use, and a Solution to Help Alleviate the Nation's Housing Shortage. National Low Income Housing Coalition. 2020. Land Use Restrictions and Affordable Housing. Manhattan Institute. 2022. Changing Minds On Restrictive Zoning. How to Unclog America's Home Supply. Harvard Law. 2022. Addressing Challenges to Affordable Housing in Land Use Law. PBS Newshour. 2021. How Zoning Can Restrict, or Even Prevent, Affordable Housing.



(Page 3)

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$558,000

Maximum Cost: \$558,000

Submitter Info

Name: Brooke Oosterman & Ryan Kilpatrick

Organization: Housing Next

Individuals or communities served is not clear or does not align with Treasury guidelines' definition of "impacted" or "disproportionately impacted".

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Affordable Housing

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

We suggest that local communities should be responsible for at least 25% of the cost of the zoning rewrite, community engagement, and/or growth scenario planning.

Partnership

n/a

PROJECT #79

UMCH 900



Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$750,000

Maximum Cost: \$750,000

Submitter Info

Name: Eric Williams

Organization:

United Methodist Community House

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Affordable Housing

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

The total project is \$32 million. 80% of funds are public dollars including state appropriations; federal earmarks; City of GR ARPA and RAP; LIHTC from MSDHA; New Market Tax Credits; and private philanthropy.

Partnership

Area Agency on Aging, Kent County, City of Grand Rapids, City of Wyoming, GVSU, Calvin University, Family Promise, Meals on Wheels, Senior Neighbors, Access of West Michigan, and many other organizations.

Identify the Need for the Proposed Project

United Methodist Community House (UMCH) studied the need for increased services for older adults for 3 years. We looked at numerous local, county, state and national studies. The National Research Center of AARP conducted a study of Kent County zip codes to help assess the needs also. We also met with Area Aging of WM, Meals on Wheels, GVSU and many other experts on senior services. Finally, UMCH hosted a taskforce to develop a needs assessment of county resources.

Brief Description

UMCH is developing a project on South Division aimed at improving the services targeted for older adults in our county. This project will include 46 affordable housing units, over 50,000sf activity center, 6 childcare classrooms, an inter-generational center in collaboration with a local university, and an affordable fresh market. ARPA County funds will be used to purchase necessary parking space for up to 200 cars to accommodate the anticipated 400+ senior daily visitors to our facility. The project has been awarded Low Income Housing Tax Credits and 28 housing vouchers already.

Long-Term Benefit

This project will provide a space and place for older adults to age healthily. It will include opportunities for physical activities, two hot meals daily, game room, outdoor adult playground, aqua therapy pools, and other amenities. It will also have a dedicated intergenerational center. This center will benefit Kent County seniors for decades to come.

Intended Beneficiary

UMCH serves two of our county's most vulnerable populations; our older adults and very young children. This center will benefit both populations. We provide care and provisions for children as young as 6-weeks of age and to those well over 90 years of age. It is not uncommon to have 3 generations of clients from the same family in our center. But we realized through this current pandemic that so much more needs to be done to help those who deal with food insecurity, housing insecurity, and isolation. We want to do our part to address these needs in a quality and caring manner.

Estimated Cost

\$750,000.00

Project Management Experience

The staff leadership at United Methodist Community House have significant experience designing, implementing, managing and evaluating major projects that have had county and statewide implications well in excess of multiple millions of dollars. We are very capable in creating systems that enable the work to get done well and seek to build impact assessments with our projects.



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$750,000

Maximum Cost: \$750,000

Submitter Info

Name: Eric Williams

Organization:

United Methodist Community House

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Affordable Housing

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

The total project is \$32 million. 80% of funds are public dollars including state appropriations; federal earmarks; City of GR ARPA and RAP; LIHTC from MSDHA; New Market Tax Credits; and private philanthropy.

Partnership

Area Agency on Aging, Kent County, City of Grand Rapids, City of Wyoming, GVSU, Calvin University, Family Promise, Meals on Wheels, Senior Neighbors, Access of West Michigan, and many other organizations.

Federal Funds Experience

UMCH leadership has significant experience working with federal funds in higher education and in nonprofit settings. We also utilize the services of a private financial management firm, Fusion Financials, who specialize in working with complex reporting requirements for federal funding sources.

Studies on Impact

- Grand Rapids (and Kent County) Early Childhood Education Study; August 2021
- The Age Well Study: Investigating Factors Associated with Happiness & Life Satisfaction in Residents of Life Plan Communities; 2020
- National Institute Of Senior Centers (Nisc); New Models Of Senior Centers Taskforce; Final Report; March 2009
- Home Investment Partnerships - American Rescue Plan (HomeArp) Home-Arp Allocation Plan, City of Grand Rapids; 2022
- Mastering System Change, By Christian Seelos & Johanna Mair; Stanford Social Innovation Review; Fall 2018
- Healthy Kent; Kent County Community Health Needs Assessment; 2017
- Community Needs Assessment; Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan; 2019
- The Case for Age-Friendly Communities; Grantmakers in Aging; 2016
- Michigan Community for a Lifetime Assessment, MDHHS Aging & Adult Services, 2017
- 2020 Kent County Senior Services Directory
- Aging, Agency, and Attribution of Responsibility: Shifting Public Discourse about Older Adults; Frame Works Institute; 2015
- Dozens of other reports, focus groups and interviews were reviewed by UMCH in preparation for this project.

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Senior citizen affordable housing is eligible. However, these funds appear to be specifically for the parking lot which may be harder to justify.



Sustainability

This project will need future funding but has several partners



Feasibility

Risk to 2026 completion

PROJECT #205

Housing Kent: A Shared Vision for Housing Stability Through Shared Measurement, Coordinated Entry, and Public Will Building

Housing Kent 

Identify the need for the proposed project

Housing Kent is the result of a thoughtful, years-long, community-driven design process to build an intentional infrastructure in Kent County to meaningfully address the alarming growth in housing instability – particularly on behalf of families with young children and people of color. Nearly 130 entities participated in this process, with one of the major outcomes being a recommendation to develop a “backbone organization” to accelerate the transformation of the housing system in Kent County. Housing Kent’s work became more crucial than ever with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, which further exacerbated housing instability in Kent County and across the country. The project outlined in this proposal is in response to and recognizes the role of pre-existing social vulnerabilities and housing disparities in driving the disparate health and economic outcomes of the pandemic. Through additional cross-sector planning and design, Housing Kent became the backbone organization for the Housing Stability Alliance (HSA), the network of community stakeholders in Kent County working together to advance trust, transparency, and accountability to improve housing stability. The objective is to align strategies across the housing continuum, which describes housing situations experienced by all residents in Kent County, from “no housing” to “housed by choice.” The continuum anchors organizations and entities across each component, illustrating the system’s inherent interdependence.

A backbone organization is an essential element of Collective Impact, which is a model for structured collaboration that can help drive change for complex social issues – like housing. Collective Impact brings together a network of multisector stakeholders who are committed to the common goal of equitable systems change. This approach is needed for the housing system in Kent County, which currently works counter to interdependence and alignment and promotes silos, fragmented decision making, lack of transparency, and overall inequitable access for the children and families most harmed by housing instability. A backbone organization working within a Collective Impact model can, however, effectively facilitate shared vision, strategy, and measurement. Backbone organizations have a set of core responsibilities, two of which include establishing shared measurement practices and building public will. These are essential to the success of Housing Kent. A shared measurement system is defined by a community’s ability to collect data and measure results using a common set of community and program-level indicators. Shared measurement systems encourage organizations to align their efforts on shared outcomes, enable them to collectively track and evaluate their collective progress, and offer them opportunities to benchmark their results. Shared measurement systems have specific benefits, such as cost savings, improved data quality, reduced need for grantee evaluation expertise, greater credibility, more knowledgeable funding decisions, ability to benchmark against peers, improved funder coordination, improved coordination and strategic alignment, and shared learning/continuous improvement (1.)

The only way meaningful, transformational system change can occur is if there are shared metrics to which the entire community is committed and held accountable. Currently, the housing system in Kent County is designed and resourced to support silos that have limited capacity for developing a shared vision and outcomes. We have organizations focused on homelessness. We have organizations focused on affordable housing. We have organizations focused on increasing housing supply. And they each have their own set of internal metrics. Creating a shared measurement system, where all these organizations agree to work toward the same goals and objectives, would be truly groundbreaking. Further, Community Rebuilders, a nationally recognized nonprofit organization focused on rebuilding hope through housing opportunities, is seeking to enhance the county’s Coordinated Entry system. This enhancement is necessary to improve access to stable, affordable housing for the most vulnerable in our community who have experienced disproportional negative health and economic impacts because of the pandemic.

(continued on next page)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$2,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$2,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Eureka People

Organization: Housing Kent

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Affordable Housing

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$2,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$2,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Eureka People

Organization: Housing Kent

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Affordable Housing

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Identify the need for the proposed project (continued, part 2)

Coordinated Entry is an important strategy that is part of shared measurement and an overall system redesign that facilitates more effective alignment among organizations. "Coordinated Entry" is an intake process developed to ensure that all people experiencing a housing crisis have fair and equitable access to services and are quickly identified, assessed, referred, and connected to housing and assistance based on their strengths and needs. This is not currently happening in Kent County, and the result is a market that does not adequately meet the housing and service needs for the population. The system as it exists today utilizes a manual intake and matching process frequently occurring in silos with individual service providers. Supply and demand for housing services are matched in a reactive and passive manner with minimal forecasting, planning, and resource deployment, resulting in long wait lists and poor system wide outcomes. This promotes inconsistent and unequal prioritization across individuals experiencing a housing crisis, while also making it difficult to understand the "big picture" through aggregate reporting and metrics. An automatic and integrated data system for Coordinated Entry, however, has the potential to eliminate these issues and transform the system through real-time information gathering from people experiencing a housing crisis. Coordinated Entry Systems also have a strong evidence base. A 10-year study from the Center for Evidence-Based Solutions to Homelessness of the Family Homelessness System Initiative found that key system changes including coordinated entry resulted in greater and quicker access to permanent housing and more nights in that housing and a decreased likelihood of experiencing sheltered homelessness in the 18 months after intervention (2).

Additionally, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) identify it as a national best practice and require all housing providers that receive funding from HUD through the Continuum of Care (CoC) or Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) to participate in its Coordinated Entry System. Expected outcomes include: 1. Reduce new entries into homelessness through a coordinated system of diversion and prevention efforts 2. Prevent people experiencing homelessness from entering into multiple programs before having their needs met 3. Reduce or erase the need for individual provider wait lists 4. Foster increased collaboration between homelessness assistance providers 5. Ensure that agencies are providing housing to the most vulnerable populations (3).

The data system will be available to all providers across the housing continuum, so that there is a holistic, uniform approach to helping people get the right care at the right time. This will help our community achieve its goal of ensuring homelessness is rare, brief, and a one-time occurrence. The data visibility offered by a coordinated entry system allows for the problems in the homeless response system to be seen and understood, leading to effective solutions. It is time for Kent County to become more sophisticated about managing the housing crisis in our community. We must move from a convoluted system that burdens the unhoused to a streamlined system that utilizes shared measurement and coordinated entry to prevent crisis and advance housing stability. Additionally, public will building is critical to advancing a shared vision for housing stability in Kent County. In order to drive the momentum, capacity, and resources for long-lasting change, there must be community consensus and determination. Public will building is connected to shared measurement, as data is key to describing the issues at hand and creating a sense of urgency to build community motivation. But it also involves storytelling and real-life testimonials from individuals in our community, who all have unique and important experiences related to housing stability. It entails branding, marketing, and visuals to capture and hold the community's attention. It is about speaking to the entire community because housing stability and affordable housing impacts each and every one of us in a distinct way. Indeed, research has shown that compelling storytelling actually impacts the brain by releasing the neurochemical oxytocin, increasing feelings of empathy and trust, and in turn affecting one's attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors (4).

(continued on next page)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$2,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$2,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Eureka People

Organization: Housing Kent

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Affordable Housing

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Identify the need for the proposed project (continued, part 3)

In effect, successful public will building will reduce opposition to change, generate compassion, and spur action. This is a multipronged, strategic approach to mobilizing stakeholders, and ultimately, these actions will lead to the development of a strong network of organizations and supporters that demand and support social change" (5).

Together, shared measurement, coordinated entry, and public will building are necessary near-term steps for Housing Kent and Community Rebuilders to operationalize the community's vision for transformational, long-lasting change in Kent County.

(1) Kramer, M., Parkhurst, M., & Vaidyanathan, L. (2009). Breakthroughs in Shared Measurement and Social Impact. FSG Social Impact Advisors. (2) http://www.evidenceonhomelessness.com/recent_highlights/evaluation-by-cesh-expert-strengthens-evidence-that-coordinated-systems-and-housing-first-approaches-reduce-family-homelessness-but-challenges-remain/. (3) Human Services Coalition. Coordinated Entry System. <https://hsctc.org/coordinated-assessment-system> (4). Zak PJ. Why inspiring stories make us react: the neuroscience of narrative. Cerebrum. 2015 Feb 2;2015:2. PMID: 26034526; PMCID: PMC4445577. (5) Downes, S., Lynn, J., & Chung, P. (2015). From Paper to Practice: Key Lessons for Foundations Deploying Complex Strategies. The Colorado Trust. (1). <https://www.redfin.com/county/1388/MI/Kent-County/housing-market> (2). <https://grbj.com/news/economic-development/home-prices-outpace-income/> (3). <https://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/2020/07/grand-rapids-needs-a-lot-of-new-housing-to-meet-demand-avoid-displacing-residents.html> (4). <https://data.johnsoncenter.org/kconnect/> (5). <https://grbj.com/news/grand-rapids-ranks-among-worst-economically-for-african-americans/> (6). <https://www.npr.org/2020/06/25/882462044/how-racial-unrest-is-motivating-white-voters-in-one-key-michigan-county> (7). <https://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/2021/04/kent-county-groups-discuss-racism-as-a-public-health-crisis.html> (8) Bone, J., et al. (2019). The Impact of Business Accelerators and Incubators in the UK. BEIS Research Paper Number 2019/009. (9) Laboissiere, M & Mourshed, M. (2017). McKinsey & Company. Closing the skills gap: Creating workforce-development programs that work for everyone.

Brief Description

Housing Kent will develop a shared measurement system and public will building campaign to align community efforts on shared outcomes and enable benchmarking and evaluation of our collective progress. Community Rebuilders will design, build, and deploy Community Housing Connect 2.0, a web-based software solution for enhanced Coordinated Entry. The design of a shared measurement system and Community Housing Connect 2.0 build from the framework supporting the housing stability continuum, from "no housing" to "housed by choice." The ultimate product of a shared measurement system will be a public-facing dashboard with interactive features that showcases community success measures and indicators. Additionally, Community Housing Connect 2.0 will give our community real-time information about those in need and the resources available to support those needs, transforming the way we look at gaps within the system and supporting the ability to track the impact of services provided. The other complementary component of this project is the public will building campaign that will utilize a variety of communication, data, outreach, and marketing tools to reframe the issue of housing stability in Kent County, so that all residents see the value in Housing Kent's approach and vision. Public will building touches the heart, changes minds, and inspires action. Events, billboards, social media, yard signs, flyers, and earned media are all examples of how this will come to life.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$2,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$2,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Eureka People

Organization: Housing Kent

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Affordable Housing

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Long-Term Benefit

Housing Kent is the only organization in Kent County designed to focus on housing stability across the entire continuum from “no housing” to “housed by choice.” There is no single entity facilitating the connection between ALL of these organizations, so their strategies align with and enhance one another, with the goal of increasing affordable housing, decreasing homelessness, eliminating racial disparities, and supporting economic recovery for families impacted by the pandemic.

Intended Beneficiary

With the goal of transforming the entire housing continuum, this project ultimately benefits all residents of Kent County. Every resident exists somewhere on this continuum, and the overarching goal of Housing Kent and the Housing Stability Alliance is to help people move themselves along the continuum until they are “housed by choice” and no longer experiencing various types of housing instability. This will be especially significant for populations who have been historically under-resourced, underserved, disproportionately impacted by the pandemic, or otherwise marginalized. Further, stable housing is foundational to so many other aspects of an individual’s wellbeing; it is a major social determinant of health, educational attainment, and career success. The ecological impact of improved housing stability is significant and will improve outcomes across all community domains. Housing Kent does have an unequivocal focus on eliminating racial disparities in the housing system, which have been perpetuated for decades, creating staggeringly negative outcomes. This initiative will intentionally support people of color by ensuring a systematic concentration on racial equity throughout the housing continuum, so that the current overrepresentation of people of color (especially African American and Latinx residents) experiencing homelessness and other types of housing instability no longer exists. Additionally, the cross-sector stakeholders, organizations, and entities all involved in the Housing Stability Alliance will benefit as well. Community Housing Connect 2.0 will be of particular value to all the individuals working hard every day to address homelessness, who for so long have been doing their best in a disjointed system without the alignment, collaboration, and data needed to best support one of the most vulnerable populations in our community. People working in the housing system care about their work and know change is needed. With a shared measurement system, coordinated entry data system, and public will building campaign, the network will feel united toward their shared vision and goals, inspired to engage the community, and motivated to build consensus, together.

*Partnership

Housing Kent is the backbone entity for a network of nearly 130 organizations, who are essential to the success of a shared measurement system and public will building campaign. Community Rebuilders, as a member of the Grand Rapids Area Coalition to End Homelessness/Continuum of Care developed the Community Housing Connect 1.0 platform, currently administers it, and has led efforts to secure funding to develop Community Housing Connect 2.0, and will design, develop and launch Community Housing Connect 2.0 for use in Kent County. Community Rebuilders will be a recipient of this proposal in the amount of \$750,000.00. The Johnson Center for Philanthropy at Grand Valley State University and DataWise will support the technological and data components of the shared measurement system. Housing Next and its fiduciary, the Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce, will support public will building efforts. Housing Kent will also secure a communications partner/consultant for this component.

Estimated Cost

\$2,000,000.00

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$2,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$2,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Eureka People

Organization: Housing Kent

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Affordable Housing

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

*Source of Funding

Housing Kent has received generous support for the public will building campaign and shared measurement system from several funders, including Bank of America, CDV5 Foundation, Frey Foundation, Fifth Third Bank, Grand Rapids Community Foundation, Heart of West Michigan United Way, Jandernoa Foundation, and the Wege Foundation. The funding from these entities comprises Housing Kent's operational budget and will support a portion of the staff time associated with coordinating and facilitating the shared measurement and public will building projects. However, in order to actively design, implement, and scale this work so that it is truly transformational and long-lasting, significant additional funding is needed. Community Rebuilders has secured funding for the Community Housing Connect 2.0 project from the City of Grand Rapids (\$250,000); Community Rebuilders Day One Families Fund (\$90,000); Frey Foundation (\$100,000); and Jandernoa Foundation (\$25,000) for the coordinated entry system. Funding from the DeVos Family Foundations is pending.

Project Management Experience

Housing Kent is, by design, a county-wide project. Backbone entities require a target geography, and Housing Kent is focused on Kent County. While the organization is still in its startup phase, we are supported by the Collective Impact infrastructure model, including the Common Agenda and Road Map (or the "Community Plan") developed by the Housing Stability Alliance in the years-long planning process described previously. This framework and strategic priorities give Housing Kent organizational stability that other startup organizations might not have. Additionally, Housing Kent has the support and partnership of KConnect, Kent County's Collective Impact initiative that has been aligning systems across the prenatal to career continuum since 2013. They are able to provide best practices and "lessons learned" for managing and leading countywide initiatives, which have, and will continue to, greatly benefit Housing Kent.

Federal Funds Experience

Housing Kent has not worked with federal funds before. However, Housing Kent's executive and governance leadership are practiced stewards of federal funds as part of past and ongoing communitybased organizations and initiatives. For 28 years, Community Rebuilders has been delivering highly successful project results for federal, state, and local, funding sources dedicated to increasing access to affordable housing, providing Housing First Rapid Rehousing Services, Homeless Prevention, and Permanent Supportive Housing. Administering over 10 million dollars of state and federal funds on an annual basis, the organization operates 20- 30 individual federal, state, and locally funded projects on an annual basis. The organization has leadership that is skilled at leveraging state and federal dollars, interpreting and applying federal regulations, and securing matching dollars to enhance the impact of programs and services. The organization's substantial experience as both a direct recipient and manager of sub-recipients of federal funds expands multiple years of financial and single audits with zero findings. Internal controls include accountability over assets; and demonstrated compliance with all federal statutes, state laws, regulations, and terms and conditions of federal awards. A strong organizational infrastructure coupled with accountability, policy, and training ensures all assets are safeguarded against loss, unauthorized use, or disposition. In addition to a demonstrated history of grant and program compliance, Community Rebuilders has earned national recognition and acknowledgements from the United States Department of Health and Human Services NORC, Department of Housing and Urban Development, National Alliance to End Homelessness, Veterans Administration, and United States Interagency Council on Homelessness.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$2,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$2,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Eureka People

Organization: Housing Kent

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Affordable Housing

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Studies on Impact

In addition to the key research presented in the “need identification” section above, as a model, collective impact is well studied and has shown positive outcomes for communities. In terms of research, one rigorous study examined 25 initiatives in the United States and Canada and resulted in the following findings (1):

- Collective impact contributed to changes in target populations or places. In many cases, stakeholders achieved these changes through the development or expansion of programs and services that reached targeted populations.
- Quality of implementation matters. Collective impact is defined by a set of five conditions: backbone support, common agenda, mutually reinforcing activities, shared measurement system, and public will building. Several findings in the study suggest that more complete implementation of these conditions results in greater impact.
- A strong equity focus can lead to more equitable outcomes. Initiatives with stronger capacity to engage in equity were more likely to help narrow gaps in outcomes compared to initiatives with more-limited implementation of these elements.

(1) Stachowiak, S., & Gase, L. (2018). Does Collective Impact Really Make an Impact? Stanford Social Innovation Review.

Guidehouse Ranking Notes

 **Eligibility**

This does not directly improve access to stable, affordable housing, but it would likely lead to that. Would need to clarify the connection further.

 **Sustainability**

Does not include a funding plan or fund availability after expending all the ARPA dollars.

 **Feasibility**

Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

PROJECT #273

Leonard Street Neighborhood Improvement Project



Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$500,000

Maximum Cost: \$600,000

Submitter Info

Name: Regina Lungaro

Organization: Lungaro LLC

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Affordable Housing

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

There could be other funding sources, but I am not aware of it at this time.

Partnership

n/a

Identify the need for the proposed project

I own a corner property in the Belknap neighborhood and it is important to me that this property is developed in a way that benefits the existing community in both the short and long term. I grew up on the SE and NE side of Grand Rapids and have an affinity for both. Living with my grandparents on Union Street SE (between Wealthy/Cherry) I was able to witness first hand the difference one property can make in turning a neighborhood and community around. I remember half the houses being boarded up, two liquor stores located on the corner of Wealthy/Union and frequent shootings occurring. This began to change with the development of ONE property and the establishment of Wealthy Street Bakery. The owner(s) of Wealthy Street Bakery saw what this neighborhood 'could' be and this single investment inspired interest and investment from many others which has transformed this entire community. Not only do the local residents benefit from the added jobs, decrease in crime but they also gained a place for community and fellowship. I believe my property has the potential to impact this community similarly if developed correctly. This neighborhood is close to downtown, a stone throw away from Medical mile and home to a neighborhood of families from diverse populations in terms of race, age and socioeconomic backgrounds. This neighborhood is currently surrounded by liquor stores/drug trafficking, homelessness and my building has been impacted. My property at 500 Leonard NE has been hit multiple times by drunk drivers and was constantly a target for the indigent population who suffered from substance abuse. I found myself constantly picking up empty liquor bottles and other paraphernalia. I've been approached by several interested parties to use this space for a dispensary or other similar operations but in my opinion, this will not elevate the area and instead only contribute to the substance abuse that is so prevalent in this area.

Brief Description

I would to build affordable housing in the upper level. The lower level as a 'rent' to work space. Since COVID, many workers have not returned to the workplace but instead are working from home which isn't always ideal. I'd like to offer my space as rent to work space. In the evenings, this space could be used by the community for various programs. i.e. A friend of mine started a Safeserve training program for the homeless population to help prepare them for work in food service and she would like to do the same in my building.

Long-Term Benefit

This project can point this neighborhood in a new direction by offering something more than drugs or alcohol. It will provide affordable housing, rent to work space and a second retail space that can be developed in a variety of ways.

Intended Beneficiary

Local residents in Track 12 and area residents in Track 10 and 13, along w/the greater Grand Rapids community.

Estimated Cost

500,000-600,000



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$500,000

Maximum Cost: \$600,000

Submitter Info

Name: Regina Lungaro

Organization: Lungaro LLC

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Affordable Housing

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

There could be other funding sources, but I am not aware of it at this time.

Partnership

n/a

Project Management Experience

I have not managed large county wide projects but I do own several rental properties in Grand Rapids - two of which are currently being rented. Both properties were in disrepair when purchased and I've built a network of contractors to rehab these properties. I would enlist a local developer who has experience managing development projects to oversee this work.

Federal Funds Experience

I have not managed federal funds in this capacity before but my business was impacted by COVID and we did qualify for PPP resources and were able to give all of our employees the option to return to work as a result of these funds and all but one came back.

Studies on Impact

I am born and raised in Grand Rapids and I've been interested in development for nearly two decades. I've watched multiple, solitary developments spur the transformation of several areas in our city from the Wealthy Street Bakery role in turning the West side of Wealthy Street around or The Wealthy Street theater's impact on the East side of Wealthy Street. I saw how Jay Van Andel's vision for downtown Grand Rapids and his initial investment in the Van Andel Arena was the start to the revitalization of downtown Grand Rapids. So many neighborhood and area transformations all started with one person, one property and one vision. I want to be the ambassador of transformation in my neighborhood.

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

It appears that this location is probably located in a QCT if it is close to the Medical Mile so affordable housing would be eligible in that case. The office space is not eligible for funding



Sustainability

Does not include a funding plan or fund availability after expending all the ARPA dollars.



Feasibility

02

ARTS AND CULTURE





PROJECT #39

The Emory Arts and Culture Hub

Identify the need for the proposed project

The Emory Arts and Culture Hub is a redevelopment project located in the Burton Heights Business District in the City of Grand Rapids, within the South Division-Grandville Corridor Improvement Authority catchment area. The total population for this Business District is 12,959. The population in this area is diverse: 64% Hispanic, 18% Black or African American 14% White, 4% Two or More Races, and <1% American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, or Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander. The target geography is well positioned to benefit from increased investment and community/economic development: 36% of the population is below poverty, 12% are unemployed, and 43% do not have a high school diploma

(1). The business district and corridor The Diatribe is targeting for this development is one of the most underinvested areas in Kent County, which has negatively impacted the surrounding population for generations, the majority of which being people of color. The segmentation of neighborhoods and business districts throughout this community has created pockets like this one, where Black and Brown folks and businesses led by people of color are systematically disenfranchised. The redevelopment of this property is an opportunity to address these historical inequities and invest in a project that is poised for significant community buy in and wide-scale impact. This location was selected because there is significant potential for revitalization. The South Division-Grandville Corridor Improvement Authority was established because the results of a community-driven feasibility study showed that “that safe and thriving neighborhood centers could be made reality in part through the creation of a tax increment financing district which would be structured to provide economic resources to improve and maintain public infrastructure, correct and prevent deterioration, and promote neighborhood aligned economic growth.”

(2) The Corridor Improvement Authority has a 30-year plan in place to implement community and economic development projects. The plan begun in 2019; thus, the target geography is on the cusp of major infrastructure improvements. This project will serve as a catalyzing force to advance the improvement plan, as well as attract other investments. Additionally, the Burton Heights Business District is an important component of the City of Grand Rapids’ historical business growth. In 1891, the City of Grand Rapids extended its boundaries to include the Burton Heights neighborhood. In 1893, street cars began to run down Division to Burton Heights, where small businesses began to emerge and thrive. Through the mid-1900s, the corridor enjoyed a thriving business and entertainment scene. After decades of disinvestment though the area now has several vacant properties. However, Division Street does contain some small, Black- and Latinx-owned businesses, and several authentic Latinx restaurants

(3). The economic development roots of this area, combined with its distinct culture, make this business district primed for successful revitalization.

(1) U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2017 5-year estimates. Obtained from Grand Valley State University’s Johnson Center for Philanthropy’s Community Profiles.

<https://data.johnsoncenter.org/community-profiles> (2) South Division – Grandville Development Plan & Tax Increment Financing Plan. Obtained from the City of Grand Rapids.

<https://growgr.grandrapidsmi.gov/Boards-and-Authorities/South-Division-Grandville-Corridor-> (3) Garfield Park/Burton Heights Walking Tour. Calvin University. <https://calvin.edu/dotAsset/d51189a0-d9cd-41de-bbda-065c40f5c3ad>

Brief Description

The Diatribe is a nonprofit organization that uses art as a catalyst to redefine, re-evaluate, and reach the world around us. The organization’s core programming has focused on school programs, assemblies, and creative writing workshops rooted in poetry. While this work continues to flourish, The Diatribe has grown with new programs and partnerships and seeks to expand its impact in the community. To that end, The Diatribe is planning to renovate an 18,342 square foot property located at 2040 Division S in the Burton Heights Business District. This new facility is well positioned to boost community and economic growth in this underinvested neighborhood of southeast Grand Rapids. It will serve as a creative hub for the district, hosting The Diatribe’s permanent home, affordable rental units for local artists, retail space for small business owners, and a performing arts venue that will attract local and national performers.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$5,443,795

Maximum Cost: \$5,443,795

ARPA Request: \$2,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Marcel Price

Organization: The Diatribe

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Arts and Culture

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

The Diatribe has received a commitment of \$1 million from the Wege Foundation toward the project. Furthermore, the organization is planning to request \$250,000 from the City of Grand Rapids Brownfield Redevelopment Authority. The Environmental Site Assessments necessary to finalize that request is being completed at this time.

Partnership

(Listed in main description)



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$5,443,795

Maximum Cost: \$5,443,795

ARPA Request: \$2,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Marcel Price

Organization: The Diatribe

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Arts and Culture

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

The Diatribe has received a commitment of \$1 million from the Wege Foundation toward the project. Furthermore, the organization is planning to request \$250,000 from the City of Grand Rapids Brownfield Redevelopment Authority. The Environmental Site Assessments necessary to finalize that request is being completed at this time.

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Long-Term Benefit

The Diatribe is working at all levels to create a community of belonging and inclusion. Through a capital campaign, The Diatribe will expand upon its important work to provide greater opportunity for youth empowerment, community-driven economic growth, and an inclusive culture that fosters a sense of belonging for those who have been marginalized and underrepresented. This project will help to cultivate a thriving neighborhood where people can work, live, and play.

Intended Beneficiary

The Diatribe is intentionally putting forth a new model for redevelopment with this project that serves as an example for inclusive community and economic growth, potentially influencing this type of work in communities across the country. Offering affordable rental rates while creating culturally relevant spaces shows a meaningful commitment to authentic placemaking that actually benefits the residents living in the neighborhood. The Emory Arts and Culture Hub will benefit the entire community, and each component of the redevelopment project has a unique purpose that serves different target populations: The Diatribe Headquarters: The new facility will feature over 3,000 square feet of space for The Diatribe to establish its homebase, with administrative offices and space for programming. During the day, it will function as a co-working space for creatives and community advocates and as a hub for neighbors to learn about community resources. During afterschool hours, it will double as a space for young people to learn about the performing arts, civic engagement, and neighborhood impact, allowing The Diatribe to expand and enhance our powerful model of youth programming that centers their experiences and elevates their voices. It will also be a space where young people can access tutoring supports or learn about resources for family support, as well as place to "just be" and hang out with their peers in a comfortable and inclusive space. With our own space, any youth in Kent County can now engage with The Diatribe. Artist Live/Work units: Seven apartments on the second floor will be rented below market rate, along with one permanent short-term rental unit for tourists and creative travelers alike. A live/work project is a residential space in which each unit is designed for artists to use as a studio, in addition to a living space. These units will be designed to accommodate and foster a variety of creative processes. Retail Businesses: The Diatribe will create a space for local business owners of color to establish retail enterprises on the first floor of the building. These four commercial retail spaces for creative entrepreneurs will be offered below market rate to create a space for entrepreneurs to test their products and sustainably grow. Performing Arts Venue: As an organization that believes in the power of the performing arts to inspire and mobilize communities, The Diatribe seeks to build a venue in the basement of its building that will provide space for local artists/creatives to perform and can be used as a rentable venue for other organizations. This 100-person venue will be hyper affordable to local performing artists and accessible to organizations and residents looking to rent space for parties or events. By attending performances or events in this venue, residents across Kent County will have the opportunity to immerse themselves in one of the most diverse corridors in the community.

*Partnership

Garfield Park Neighborhood Association, South Division-Grandville Corridor Improvement Authority, and the City of Grand Rapids to ensure alignment with community and economic development priorities. Steelcase Corporation as a partner providing a generous donation of furniture for the new space. The Wege Foundation, providing a significant lead gift to this project. Grand Rapids Community Foundation, Frey Foundation, and Steelcase Foundation as key prospective funders. Grand Rapids Public School district and other local schools, where core programming is delivered. Pure Architects and Kennari Consulting, providing design/development services and capital campaign consulting, respectively.



(Page 3)

Estimated Cost

\$5,443,795.00

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$5,443,795

Maximum Cost: \$5,443,795

ARPA Request: \$2,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Marcel Price

Organization: The Diatribe

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Arts and Culture

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

The Diatribe has received a commitment of \$1 million from the Wege Foundation toward the project. Furthermore, the organization is planning to request \$250,000 from the City of Grand Rapids Brownfield Redevelopment Authority. The Environmental Site Assessments necessary to finalize that request is being completed at this time.

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Project Management Experience

The Diatribe has significant experience planning, designing, and implementing large-scale projects for its neighborhoods of focus, which are largely centered in the 49507 zip code. The 49507 Project is a strong example of this, as a public arts/placemaking project aimed to raise awareness of racial equity and community building. The Diatribe built this project from the ground up by fostering an inclusive design process that included residents, business owners, artists, and youth; commissioning local artists to create murals; planning a series of community unveilings; and implementing a communications/marketing campaign to promote the project. Additionally, The Diatribe has exponentially grown its in-school programming over the past nine years from a handful of one-time events, to structured, regularly scheduled programming occurring in six-to-nine-week sessions in schools throughout Kent Intermediate School District.

Federal Funds Experience

The Diatribe has administered two grants from the National Endowment for the Arts: one \$50,000 grant and one \$75,000 grant. The Diatribe has also received grants from the Michigan Arts and Culture Council (five grants at varying amounts) and Michigan Humanities (two grants at \$10,000 each), which are state administrators of federal funding.

Studies on Impact

Since 2014, The Opportunity Insights Project at Harvard University has been studying the impact of neighborhoods on resident outcomes. Key findings include: • Rates of upward mobility vary substantially based on where children grow up. • Growing up in a higher-mobility area has a causal effect on children's outcomes in adulthood, in proportion to childhood exposure. • Currently, low-income families are segregated into lower-opportunity areas. • A booming economy does not necessarily lead to increased upward mobility for local children. • Within the same neighborhoods, different subgroups have markedly different outcomes. • Neighborhoods affect children's outcomes at a very granular level. Researchers have interpreted these findings to mean that neighborhood-level placemaking can have a significant impact on a variety of outcomes related to overall wellbeing. That is why a project like this is so important – it can play a role in building a neighborhood that provides opportunities for all its residents. The Diatribe is committed to inclusive community and economic development that promotes upward economic mobility for populations who have historically been ignored and marginalized.

Supporting Documentation

[Letters of Support](#)

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Eligible under non-profit support



Sustainability

Numerous partnerships identified along with a capital campaign to sustain the project.



Feasibility

Building renovations are a one time expense



PROJECT #132

Catalyzing Our Community's Future

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$3,250,000

Maximum Cost: \$3,500,000

ARPA Request: \$3,279,261

Submitter Info

Name: Mary Tuuk Kuras

Organization:

Grand Rapids Symphony

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Arts and Culture

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

Our musicians regularly partner with the Grand Rapids Ballet, Opera Grand Rapids, Frederik Meijer Gardens, Ebony Road Players, St. Cecilia Music Center, New City Kids, Festival Grand Rapids, Grand Rapids Public Museum, Grand Rapids Art Museum, and The Diatribe. GRS is also a leading influencer in the local Arts Working Group, a group comprised of over 30 executive directors of local arts organizations.

Identify the need for the proposed project

The Grand Rapids Symphony (GRS) is the largest professional performing arts organization in West Michigan and second largest performing arts organization in the State of Michigan. More than ninety years ago, advocates for the arts determined that an orchestra would enrich the city and region, while contributing to economic growth and quality of place. For over nine decades, GRS has been a critical asset to our community vibrancy with soul-stirring music, diverse programming, collaborative spirit, and a commitment to learning, all adding to the quality of life that residents expect and local employers need to attract and retain talent. Immediate innovation and creative programs kept orchestral music accessible and in the lives of patrons and our community during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. GRS did not furlough any of its employees during the pandemic, despite orchestra industry trends pointing to the contrary. But, the Symphony endured significant financial losses. In April 2020, the GRS artistic and senior leadership teams took a minimum compensation reduction of 25% to ensure that orchestra musicians would still be fully compensated. In August 2020, as a result of an initial annual ticket revenue decline of approximately 46% and a fundraising revenue decline of 16%, GRS recast its FY21 organizational budget to incorporate tightly managed expenses, including the reorganization of our marketing and patron services operations, a 10% compensation reduction for senior leadership, a 5% compensation reduction for all other administrative employees, and a negotiated 5% compensation reduction for orchestra musicians under their Collective Bargaining Agreement. In order to balance lost ticket and fundraising revenue, GRS applied for and received federal pandemic aid, and secured a series of expanded gifts from generous donors, all intended to support general operations.

We are now completing our 2022 fiscal year and continue to experience COVID-19's impact on our organization. GRS remains committed to prudent financial management; the FY23 budget, which takes effect on September 1, was built following an extensive review of national orchestra audience trends and benchmarking conversations with other similar-structured orchestras and leaders with the League of American Orchestras. These trends suggest audiences will not return to pre-pandemic levels for at least two years; we have noted this trend is accurately represented by our current subscription sales for next season. Patrons are still concerned about the health and safety risks of attending live concerts and have also changed their lifestyles during the two-year pandemic. Significant strategies are underway to reimagine the patron experience and rebuild audiences, but consistent audience return will take time. The current board-approved operating budget reflects 83% of pre-pandemic ticket revenue. The budget also assumes 78% of pre-pandemic fundraising revenue levels considering anticipated economic trends. Expenses remain tightly managed to produce a balanced budget. Nevertheless, the budget contains high-risk revenue assumptions. If those revenue assumptions are not met, it will greatly impact our ability to deliver on our mission in the way our community expects.

Brief Description

The Grand Rapids Symphony is requesting \$3,250,000-\$3,500,000 from Kent County's ARPA funding to help sustain the organization's general operations as we work to rebuild our audiences and further connect with our community. Funds will be used to reimburse employees for pandemic compensation reductions and for future general operations to mitigate risk in ticket revenue projections through calendar year 2026. This project will support the continued growth of Grand Rapids' arts and cultural opportunities, helping to further transform the region into a thriving metropolis that attracts residents and tourists alike.



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$3,250,000

Maximum Cost: \$3,500,000

ARPA Request: \$3,279,261

Submitter Info

Name: Mary Tuuk Kuras

Organization:

Grand Rapids Symphony

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Arts and Culture

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

Our musicians regularly partner with the Grand Rapids Ballet, Opera Grand Rapids, Frederik Meijer Gardens, Ebony Road Players, St. Cecilia Music Center, New City Kids, Festival Grand Rapids, Grand Rapids Public Museum, Grand Rapids Art Museum, and The Diatribe. GRS is also a leading influencer in the local Arts Working Group, a group comprised of over 30 executive directors of local arts organizations.

Long-Term Benefit

GRS will continue to be a significant economic driver in Kent County by employing contract musicians, administrative and artistic staff, and supplemental musicians for seasonal concerts. GRS also partners with over 75 local organizations and corporations, providing employee ticket discounts meant to drive Symphony attendance and spending in the downtown area. Having a vibrant arts and culture scene in Grand Rapids will continue to attract more businesses, a talented workforce, and visitors.

Intended Beneficiary

In a typical season, nearly 200,000 attendees from West Michigan experience one of our performances, in the hall or in the community. Approximately one-third of those who benefit are students, senior citizens, those with financial limitations, and people with disabilities, reached through extensive education and access initiatives. Diversity, equity, and inclusion are organic components in GRS operations; we aggressively continue our journey of relevancy to all parts of our community and to reflect our community's demographics both on and off the stage. GRS offers diverse programming in its various series and ensures that at least 20% of our composers, soloists, and guest conductors are Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) artists. Through expanded marketing, we will reach new and non-traditional audiences from our inclusive programs, such as:

- Neighborhood Concert Series, Presented by Meijer – Free concerts in local parks and neighborhoods across the community.
- Access to Music - A free concert that enables everyone with physical, cognitive, or emotional limitations to feel welcome.
- Music For Health - Enables our musicians to partner with music therapists at area hospitals for music therapy sessions.
- Symphony Scorecard - Allows any citizen who is receiving financial assistance from the State of Michigan, and any active military or National Guard members, to receive up to four tickets to most performances for free.
- Mosaic Scholars – With support from Bank of America Charitable Foundation, Steelcase, Inc., Meyer Music, and Pioneer Construction, this program creates opportunities for African American and Latinx students in Kent County who want to further their study of an instrument through private lessons, creative workshops, and unique performances. Students are paired with a GRS musician and take weekly lessons throughout the school year. They have opportunities to play alongside their teacher and peers in select symphony concerts. Schools represented include Grand Rapids Public Schools, Wyoming Public Schools, Godfrey-Lee Public Schools, Grand River Prep, and West Michigan Aviation Academy.

Estimated Cost

\$3,250,000-\$3,500,000

Project Management Experience

GRS has extensive experience leading large-scale, professional orchestra productions, both in the performance hall and in various locations across Kent County. In 2015, GRS presented LiveArts to celebrate its 85th anniversary season. Presented in Van Andel Arena on four stages, with nine performing organizations encompassing more than 1,500 performers, LiveArts also involved the Grand Rapids Symphony Youth Orchestras, the Grand Rapids Ballet Junior Company, and the Opera Grand Rapids Chorus plus the Grand Rapids Symphony Chorus and Youth Choruses. Several hundred school children and marching bands from East Kentwood High School and Grandville High School drew an audience of more than 7,100 people. GRS maintains a close relationship with the Kent County Convention and Arena Authority and with ASM Global. During the 2020-21 season, GRS and ASM Global partnered to present Pathwaves in Van Andel Arena, allowing GRS a space in which to perform livestreamed concerts in order to continue to deliver on its mission while giving ASM a way to maintain employment for its staff and crew. In 2021, GRS recognized both CAA and ASM Global for their partnership with a BRAVO! Award, the Symphony's award for exceptional arts leadership.



(Page 3)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$3,250,000

Maximum Cost: \$3,500,000

ARPA Request: \$3,279,261

Submitter Info

Name: Mary Tuuk Kuras

Organization:

Grand Rapids Symphony

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Arts and Culture

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

Our musicians regularly partner with the Grand Rapids Ballet, Opera Grand Rapids, Frederik Meijer Gardens, Ebony Road Players, St. Cecilia Music Center, New City Kids, Festival Grand Rapids, Grand Rapids Public Museum, Grand Rapids Art Museum, and The Diatribe. GRS is also a leading influencer in the local Arts Working Group, a group comprised of over 30 executive directors of local arts organizations.

Federal Funds Experience

GRS has previously received federal funding from pandemic relief programs, such as the Paycheck Protection Program and Shuttered Venue Operators Grant program, as well as arts-specific federal funding from the National Endowment of the Arts (NEA).

Studies on Impact

1. A comprehensive economic impact study found that the arts are a critical economic driver as the industry supports jobs, generates local revenue, and attracts new residents and tourists. In 2015, arts and culture organizations generated \$166.3 billion in economic activity (Americans for the Arts, 2017). Music performances are particularly valuable as they are the most frequently attended arts/culture events among adults (NEA, 2017).
 2. Music involvement can increase empathy and prosocial behaviors (Psychology of Aesthetics, Creativity, and the Arts, 2019). A series of studies found that youth who have opportunities to engage in the arts tend to have higher grades, test scores, and graduation rates compared to youth with low levels of arts engagement (NEA, 2012). Further, individuals that engage with the arts are more likely to vote, volunteer, and take part in community events (Americans for the Arts, 2009).
 3. Music has been found to improve immune system function, reduce stress and cortisol levels, reduce anxiety (Trends in Cognitive Sciences, 2013).
- Supporting GRS will ensure that residents have opportunities to engage in arts for many years to come, helping to make our community as strong and healthy as possible.

Supporting Documentation

1. [Letter of Support #1](#)
2. [Letter of Support #2](#)
3. [Letter of Support #3](#)
4. [Letter of Support #4](#)
5. [Letter of Support #5](#)
6. [NYT Article](#)

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Small business support is eligible



Sustainability

In theory, this is a one time expense to offset revenue loss.



Feasibility

PROJECT #77

Arts Marketplace at Studio Park



Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$15,000

Maximum Cost: \$30,000

Submitter Info

Name: Mel Trombley

Organization: The Arts Marketplace at Studio Park

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Arts and Culture

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

We have other funding sources for the Arts Marketplace but not from the County

Partnership

We are Lit

Identify the need for the proposed project

The Arts Marketplace at Studio Park (AMP) was created to increase accessibility and presence of local makers, artisans, and small businesses in the downtown Grand Rapids Area. Cost of rent, pricing/management of staffing was a need expressed by many local small businesses. There was a small presence of shopping and local goods in the Downtown Grand Rapids Area. After 1 year, 98% of makers/small businesses recommitted to being a part of AMP. In June/July of 2022 we have expanded our space and are hoping to double the amount of inventory available.

Brief Description

In addition to offsetting rent, infrastructure and staffing to our local minority owned businesses/vendors within AMP, we would love to create a space for community to come together. Our proposed Grant Project: Community and Culture Events to promote local businesses and gather community in downtown spaces. Through this grant we would supplement rent, staffing, seating, event support, wifi for some of our Anchor tenants. An example is our tenant: We are Lit- who promotes literacy, diversifies our reading, and brings community together. We would offset all costs for the above. By doing this it supports an already successful small business, creates community and space to gather, and drives traffic, exposure and revenue to newer/small businesses. We debated the category to apply for funding under. Ultimately, our mission of the AMP is to create revenue, presence, innovation, strong jobs while creating a strong local economy.

Long-Term Benefit

1. Create strong jobs and opportunities in retail 2. Diverse revenue spend with artisans & designers 3. Create revenue and exposure for small businesses 4. High Innovation with low risks 5. Provides for strong local economy 6. Gathers diverse community around a variety of events and opportunities

Intended Beneficiary

The vendors will benefit the most. By creating a sustainable funding model for AMP, we will continue to be able to supplement rent, pay for staffing and infrastructure so they earn the majority of revenue. By creating a space that has multiple gifts and anchor tenants they will gain exposure and be a part of a community.

Estimated Cost

\$15,000-\$30,000

Project Management Experience

We launched in 2020 and have a successful pipeline of funding from multiple sources, proven success with makers, have a strong Board, committed staff.



(Page 2)

Federal Funds Experience

We launched in 2020 and have a successful pipeline of funding from multiple sources, proven success with makers, have a strong Board, committed staff.

Studies on Impact

Arts Market Space Finding, conducted by Artspace consulting, in Asheville, NC A qualitative study of shopper experiences at an urban farmers' market using the Stanford Healthy Neighborhood Discovery Tool, A qualitative study of shopper experiences at an urban farmers' market using the Stanford Healthy Neighborhood Discovery Tool

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$15,000

Maximum Cost: \$30,000

Submitter Info

Name: Mel Trombley

Organization: The Arts Marketplace at Studio Park

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Arts and Culture

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

We have other funding sources for the Arts Marketplace but not from the County

Partnership

We are Lit

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

This is eligible as small business grants, channeled through this organization



Sustainability

One-time grants



Feasibility

PROJECT #108

Grand Rapids Ballet 50th Anniversary Renovation & Expansion



Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$1,500,000

Maximum Cost: \$1,500,000

ARPA Request: \$1,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Glenn Del Vecchio

Organization: Grand Rapids Ballet

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Arts and Culture

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

The GRB is requesting \$1 million to fund a portion of the \$1.5 million project. The remaining \$500,000 will be raised from philanthropic sources using the Kent County ARPA funds as leverage.

Partnership

The GRB partners with Grand Rapids Public Schools, Grand Rapids Symphony, Grandville Avenue Arts & Humanities, Artists Creating Together, Spectrum Health, and Kendall College of Art and Design of Ferris State University.

Identify the need for the proposed project

This year, the Grand Rapids Ballet (GRB), Michigan's only professional Ballet Company, is celebrating its 50th anniversary. As the Board of Directors considered the importance of this milestone, the members realized that in order to ensure a quality arts experience for 50 more years, it was necessary to consider the condition of its facility. The Meijer-Royce Center for Dance was constructed in 2000 and, for 22 years, has hosted Ballet Company rehearsals, community programming, and the Grand Rapids Ballet School. Through the generosity of the philanthropic community, the GRB expanded its facility to include the 300-person capacity Peter Martin Wege Theatre in 2007. The Theatre has facilitated the delivery of quality ballet productions for 15 years. The availability of the Theatre has allowed the GRB to advance emerging forms of dance through experimental programming, such as its Jumpstart Program. The Theatre has also allowed the GRB to partner with other organizations to deliver community programming and expand access to dance. The GRB is unique in that very few professional companies have access to their own Theatre. However, the facility requires investment to address several condition issues, improve accessibility, and to accommodate the growing Ballet School. Improvements to the facility will enhance the experience of dance enthusiasts, the professional Company, and partner organizations.

Through partnerships with organizations and initiatives like Grandville Avenue Arts & Humanities, Artists Creating Together, and Grand Rapids Public Schools, the GRB's facility have been broadly leveraged to bring dance to those traditionally underrepresented within the art (i.e., people of color, boys, and people with a physical or cognitive disability). By making the art of dance more accessible, the GRB is expanding opportunities for diverse participants to express themselves through dance. In a typical year, over 300 students are served through the Ballet School and community programming. These programs include adaptive dance classes for those with Down syndrome and Parkinson's disease.

Over the years, the GRB has identified needed improvements to the facility, including better accommodations to increase handicap accessibility of the theatre and facilities and a more welcoming experience for students learning dance. To determine how best to direct capital investments, a comprehensive facility assessment was completed in consultation with Orion Construction, organization leadership, and community partners. Through these interactions the GRB developed a comprehensive project to address condition issues and enhancements designed to increase accessibility as well as improve services for community partners and students. For instance, in order to attract more school-aged children to the Ballet School, there is a need for a dedicated entry and drop-in space, allowing students to come to the facility right after school to complete schoolwork or socialize with others before their class begins.

The area around the GRB has changed significantly since it was opened in 2000. The facility anchored a growth of development southwest of Downtown Grand Rapids. Since 2000, Founders Brewery opened, the Rapids station was built, and several apartment developments were completed. The area surrounding the GRB is once again experiencing a development boom, including over 1,000 new housing units, a 12,000-seat amphitheater, and a planned upgrade to Wealthy Street to improve the walkability of the US 131 intersection. The GRB will play a critical role in enhancing the lives of the new residents who will call this neighborhood home and who will travel to the area. Investing in the physical spaces where the GRB brings ballet alive with and for the community will ensure the organization can continue to provide safe, inclusive opportunities for all that aspire to express themselves through dance. The performing arts enrich our community and provide an important outlet for students to express themselves, remain active, and socialize with their peers. These impacts have driven the GRB to pursue improvements to the organization's facility.



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$1,500,000

Maximum Cost: \$1,500,000

ARPA Request: \$1,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Glenn Del Vecchio

Organization: Grand Rapids Ballet

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Arts and Culture

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

The GRB is requesting \$1 million to fund a portion of the \$1.5 million project. The remaining \$500,000 will be raised from philanthropic sources using the Kent County ARPA funds as leverage.

Partnership

The GRB partners with Grand Rapids Public Schools, Grand Rapids Symphony, Grandville Avenue Arts & Humanities, Artists Creating Together, Spectrum Health, and Kendall College of Art and Design of Ferris State University.

Brief Description

The GRB is proposing a \$1.5 million renovation and expansion of its facility. The project will include significant exterior improvements including resurfacing of its parking lot, roofing repairs, upgrades to the HVAC system, and upgrades to the facility's solar panels. Interior improvements include new flooring throughout, new ceiling tiles in the school lobby and studios, new paint throughout the facility, renovation of the restrooms and locker rooms, addition of two new restrooms in the Peter Martin Wege Theatre, and new LED lighting throughout the facility. The proposed project also includes an upgrade to the Peter Martin Wege Theatre seating to add wheelchair accessibility for more patrons with physical mobility limitations. Finally, the project includes a 3,200 square foot addition that will serve as the new entrance and lobby for the Grand Rapids Ballet School. This space will provide a landing area for students to relax after school.

Long-Term Benefit

Overall, the project will further enhance Grand Rapids' arts and culture sector, attracting more patrons to the area. Furthermore, the proposed project will increase the number of students in Kent County who have access to high quality ballet instruction and perform in Junior and professional Company productions. It will also assist in diversifying the students who are recruited to the school. As a result, students will improve their mental and physical health.

Intended Beneficiary

The project will benefit residents of the region who enjoy dance, with the GRB drawing over 50,000 audience members annually. It will also benefit students and other participants of ballet programming, particularly those within the City of Grand Rapids who would not otherwise be able to access professional ballet instruction, programming, or performances. Post-secondary institutions in Michigan that have dance programs will benefit from the increased pipeline of students. Institutions with quality programs include Western Michigan University, Hope College, Grand Valley State University, University of Michigan, and Oakland University. Finally, the numerous high school theatre programs in the region will benefit as students have an additional outlet to receive world-class ballet and dance instruction.

Project Management Experience

The GRB's mission is to lift the human spirit through the art of dance. As Michigan's oldest professional ballet company, we represent the past, present, and future of the art. The GRB plays a significant role in Michigan's effort to mobilize arts and culture to improve quality of life and create economic impact. We do this by creating collaborations that bring together individuals, corporations, arts organizations, and schools that create environments that lift everyone. By doing so we serve under-resourced communities and regions around the county and state providing educational opportunities for young people, regardless of economic status, where they can express themselves through dance. Each year, the GRB present a full season of professional ballet productions that draw audiences from all over the county, region, and state. Additionally, the GRB operates the Ballet School which delivers age-appropriate educational programs to children during afterschool programming and through a summer intensive. The curriculum, delivered by professional dancers, incorporates elements from the French, Italian, and Russian ballet techniques. Students between the ages of 10 and 19 who show promise can audition for the Junior Company.



(Page 3)

Estimated Cost

\$1.5 million

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$1,500,000

Maximum Cost: \$1,500,000

ARPA Request: \$1,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Glenn Del Vecchio

Organization: Grand Rapids Ballet

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Arts and Culture

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

The GRB is requesting \$1 million to fund a portion of the \$1.5 million project. The remaining \$500,000 will be raised from philanthropic sources using the Kent County ARPA funds as leverage.

Partnership

The GRB partners with Grand Rapids Public Schools, Grand Rapids Symphony, Grandville Avenue Arts & Humanities, Artists Creating Together, Spectrum Health, and Kendall College of Art and Design of Ferris State University.

Federal Funds Experience

The GRB receives funding from the Michigan Arts and Culture Council, a portion of which comes from the National Endowment for the Arts. The GRB has successfully reported on the expenditure of funds every year and has met all federal requirements. Additionally, the GRB received COVID-19 relief funding to sustain the operation during closures necessary to protect public health. The GRB received \$519,000 through the Payroll Protection Program (in two separate rounds) and \$843,000 through the Shuttered Venue Operators Grant program. The organization met all federal requirements for these programs.

Studies on Impact

The health benefits of dance and ballet have been studied at length. One particular research review conducted in 2012 by the Institute of Health Sciences at the University of Leeds found that ballet and dance can improve cardiovascular fitness and bone health of children and young people as well as prevent or reduce obesity. There is also evidence that suggests dance participation can improve self-concept and body image and reduce anxiety. The study can be accessed here:

<https://bit.ly/3OZ5zfu>.

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

Eligible under non-profit support. Additional information will be needed if the proposal moves forward in the process.



PROJECT #245

Hermitage at Diamond: Where Arts and Community Meet

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$4,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$5,000,000

ARPA Request: \$350,000

Submitter Info

Name: Carol Moore

Organization:

Hermitage at Diamond, Inc

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Arts and Culture

Project Status: Existing Project

Matching Funds: 76% or greater

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

We anticipate the county's investment of ARPA funding would leverage significant private funding. To date, \$700,000 in cash and in-kind donations have been invested in the renovation, all from private sources.

Partnership

GR Symphony, GRPS, GRWC, Art Peers, Dance in the Annex, Actors' Theatre, Grand River Arts Society, Mixed Roots Collective, GR Voice Collective, The Piano Cottage, Mandolin Orchestra, Arts in Motion, Jewish Theatre, Justice Choir GR, Hawks and Owls

Identify the need for the proposed project

2019: Neighborhood-wide open house attracted 300 people 2021: Virtual focus groups were conducted with local artists, arts organizations, neighborhood businesses, area residents Reclaiming building – the city had condemned the structure, but it was on the National Register of Historic Places, so it couldn't be torn down. Someone had to take it on, and Carol Moore, a local preservationist, stepped up to purchase the building and begin renovation.

Brief Description

Hermitage at Diamond, located at 1009 Hermitage SE in Grand Rapids, is the site of the former Third Reformed Church built by Dutch immigrants in 1875. The property has been listed in the National Register of Historic Places since 1982. Despite its historic significance, the property fell into serious disrepair and was condemned by the city. In 2017, the property was acquired by Hermitage Partners LLC, to be restored as a community arts center. In 2020, the nonprofit Hermitage at Diamond Inc was formed to support the restoration and preservation of the property for the creation, performance, display and teaching of the arts. The project will create not only a beautifully restored historic structure, it will also provide a significant resource for the community. Its reuse as an arts hub will strengthen community through diverse arts and cultural offerings. Potential uses include concerts, recitals, rehearsal space, plays, dance, art shows, recording studio, speaker series, hosting artists in residence, community gatherings and receptions, and institutional kitchen rental. The size and configuration of the property make it a versatile space conducive to a wide variety of uses. See our website, at hermitage-at-diamond.org for more details, pictures, and documentation of progress to date.

Long-Term Benefit

Repurposing this historic neighborhood church as a hub for the arts will 1) stimulate the local economy, 2) Increase residential property values, 3) contribute to urban liveability, 4) provide a facility for arts programming that is accessible & affordable, 5) support afterschool exposure to the arts for children attending Congress School, 6) demonstrate an authentic example of environmental sustainability, and 7) provide a community gathering spot for learning, socializing, & cultural exchange.

Intended Beneficiary

1)Local residents in adjacent neighborhoods of East Hills, Eastown, Baxter, Cherry Hill, Heritage Hill, Midtown, East Fulton 2)Local artists and arts organizations who need rehearsal, concert, and display space. As well as other arts organizations that want to expand their audience to neighborhoods 3)Local businesses 4)Children attending Congress School

Estimated Cost

\$4-\$5 million for the entire renovation. We are requesting \$350,000 in ARPA funds to complete the exterior renovation and provide seed funding to stand up our capital campaign to raise the remainder from philanthropists, individual donors, and other public funding sources, including historic tax credits.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$4,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$5,000,000

ARPA Request: \$350,000

Submitter Info

Name: Carol Moore

Organization:

Hermitage at Diamond, Inc

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Arts and Culture

Project Status: Existing Project

Matching Funds: 76% or greater

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

We anticipate the county's investment of ARPA funding would leverage significant private funding. To date, \$700,000 in cash and in-kind donations have been invested in the renovation, all from private sources.

Partnership

GR Symphony, GRPS, GRWC, Art Peers, Dance in the Annex, Actors' Theatre, Grand River Arts Society, Mixed Roots Collective, GR Voice Collective, The Piano Cottage, Mandolin Orchestra, Arts in Motion, Jewish Theatre, Justice Choir GR, Hawks and Owls

Project Management Experience

Managing and leading large county-wide projects: Our board chair, Maureen Kirkwood, has managed a number of large county-wide projects in the health and healthcare arena. If funding is awarded, she will lead the administration and provide oversight.

Federal Funds Experience

Three board members have extensive experience running nonprofit organizations and managing large state and federal grants. Maureen Kirkwood has secured several multi-million dollar state and federal awards, including an Accountable Health Communities grant from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS). Vince Lambert, our board treasurer, is the CFO for the Area Agency on Aging of West Michigan. Marjorie Kuipers, board secretary, was the executive director of UICA for several years and led a major capital campaign as that organization grew.

Studies on Impact

Preservation promotes heritage tourism and neighborhood revitalization. These positive economic impacts create jobs, stimulate the local economy, and source labor and materials locally so the money stays in the community. There is a great deal of research linking involvement in the arts with healthy youth development, building resilience, and growth of empathy and appreciation of diversity. Many studies link youth arts involvement with increased academic and social success. Arts promote community cohesion, unite people of diverse backgrounds, and teach discipline, focus and mastery. For every \$1 invested in nonprofit arts organizations, \$6 is generated in taxes through tourism and investment in the local economy.

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

The blight remediation part of this project would be eligible if it was in QCT. Additional information will be needed if the proposal moves forward in the process.



PROJECT #123

Asian American/Pacific Islander Studies Center

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$5,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$5,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Ace Marasigan

Organization: Grand Rapids Asian-Pacific Foundation

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Arts and Culture

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

n/a

Identify the need for the proposed project

During the pandemic, we became more aware of how language, culture, and identity affected these families attempting to transition. We believe that there is a need for a more specialized level of engagement.

Brief Description

Grand Rapids is home to a significant number of Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) citizens. This group represents a fast-growing and diverse population that can represent over 100 different languages and over 50 distinct ethnicities. These citizens often face barriers that limit their identity development and economic engagement in the community. During the pandemic, we became more aware of how language, culture, and identity affected these families attempting to transition. We believe that there is a need for a more specialized level of engagement. Our commitment to heritage celebrations, cultural education, and local businesses are the pillars of our nonprofit organization, the Grand Rapids Asian Pacific Islander Foundation (GRAPF). Our annual cultural festival drew 25,000 people in 2022, and we are proud to have outstanding community partners. We are a powerful connection within the Grand Rapids area to many groups that are underserved and underrecognized and uniquely positioned to spearhead a community engagement initiative. A learning center focused on Asian American Pacific Islander studies would create a platform to examine the value of diversity, retain potential locally, and establish worth. Additionally, the center will add programs to educate the Asian American-Pacific Islander communities regarding mental health and wellness. We believe this center will attract and develop talent, creating a foundation for longterm economic growth, and engaged communities.

Long-Term Benefit

The project will create a potential employee pool to build a new source of employees and support for the workforce. The Asian American-Pacific Island studies will help the diversity training of Kent county residents to help build relationships and belonging to help attract and retain residents. AAPI Business incubation and Talent pipeline Host networking & local business events (12/year) Develop pop-up events (6/year) Provide job transitioning support Paid Intern Partnerships

Intended Beneficiary

Kent County residents, schools, workforce, government entities, small and large businesses, and organizations.

Estimated Cost

5.5 Million Total Budget - (1.5 Million building purchase, 750K fees and licences, 2.5 Million project ongoing, 500K fundraising budget, 750K administrative budget)

Project Management Experience

We are experienced with event planning and plan execution.



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Federal Funds Experience

The extent of our experience is managing \$10,000 by Kent County to help create a community feeding program to help the residents during the height of the pandemic in 2020.

Studies on Impact

Asian American Studies is an academic discipline that critically examines the history, issues, sociology, religion, experiences, culture, and policies relevant to Asian Americans. It is closely related to other Ethnic Studies disciplines.

https://www.pbs.org/education/blog/why-teach-asian-american-history_

Outcomes:

1. Enhanced Social Awareness and Cultural Understanding
2. Improved Critical Thinking and Intellectual Reasoning Skills
3. Better Communication and Collaboration Skills <https://www.bestcolleges.com/blog/what-is-asian-american-studies/>

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$5,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$5,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Ace Marasigan

Organization: Grand Rapids Asian-Pacific Foundation

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Arts and Culture

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Guidehouse Ranking Notes

 **Eligibility**

 **Sustainability**

 **Feasibility**

Eligible under non-profit support. Additional information will be needed if the proposal moves forward in the process.

Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

n/a



PROJECT #73

Fuse Opera: Hip Hop

Identify the need for the proposed project

A common issue Opera Grand Rapids (OGR) has encountered while trying to diversify audiences is that sometimes young and non-white community members would like to attend an opera but do not feel comfortable in the space. This is partially because opera and other forms of classical music have historically been attended by majority older, white audiences in the United States. It is also because additional efforts need to be made to ensure inclusivity, such as specifically marketing toward people of color and making diverse programming decisions. The Fuse Opera: Hip Hop performance that will take place next summer will address these issues head on by hopefully appealing to a younger, more diverse cross section of community members while standing out programmatically in the opera industry nationwide.

Brief Description

Opera Grand Rapids (OGR) is in the midst of planning an event in summer 2023 that fuses hip hop and opera called Fuse Opera: Hip Hop. One performer OGR is in communication with is hip hop artist and opera singer Babatunde Akinboboye, who refers to himself as a "Hip Hopera Artist." OGR is also planning to hire the "Hiplet Troupe" from America's Got Talent (or a similar dance troupe) to perform alongside break dancers and ballet dancers. By providing a visual fusion between the dance styles of hip hop and ballet OGR hopes to elevate its musical direction. Additionally, OGR is partnering with other hip-hop artists, opera singers, and TV networks to execute this first production of the Fuse Opera Series.

Long-Term Benefit

By producing this concert, Opera Grand Rapids hopes to stand out in the opera industry globally as an innovator of creative programming. Generating connections between diverse pools of community members in West Michigan is an additional benefit. By focusing on how vastly different genres of music can come together (along with their respective patrons), Opera Grand Rapids seeks to stand out programmatically while bringing people together to appreciate the diversity of the performing arts.

Intended Beneficiary

The Grand Rapids community; young audiences; racially diverse audiences

Project Management Experience

Annually, Opera Grand Rapids executes a production schedule that draws patrons from all over the state of Michigan (and beyond). Through a partnership with PBS, OGR has been able to draw national attention to its programming in recent years. The goal with Opera Fusion: Hip Hop is to continue to bring national attention to West Michigan.

Federal Funds Experience

OGR has received a National Endowment for the Arts grant, and the Michigan Arts and Culture Council grants OGR receives every year includes federal funding. Additionally, OGR has been a recipient of PPP Funds and SVOG grants throughout the pandemic and is familiar with reporting/apply for Federal Funds on various levels.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$150,000

Maximum Cost: \$200,000

Submitter Info

Name: Emilee Syrewicze

Organization: Opera Grand Rapids

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Arts and Culture

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

The Wege Foundation has already committed \$25,000 toward this project; we will request at least \$25,000 from the NEA within the next two weeks.

Partnership

No committed partners at this stage, but prospective partners include (but are not limited to): local hip hop/classical artists, dance-related organizations, and artistic partners from outside of West Michigan



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$150,000

Maximum Cost: \$200,000

Submitter Info

Name: Emilee Syrewicze

Organization: Opera Grand Rapids

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Arts and Culture

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Studies on Impact

Here is the featured artist (Babatunda Akinboboye) in his first viral video and a demonstration of the musical style OGR is trying to create: <https://youtu.be/F07VAXKXGWE> Here is a study that shows that diverse arts programming has an impact on creating a more inclusive environment for people of color: https://www.encatc.org/media/5747-issue1_04_m.-crystal-yingling.pdf

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Potentially eligible under support for non-profits. Additional information will be needed if the proposal moves forward in the process.



Sustainability

One series



Feasibility

Source of Funding

The Wege Foundation has already committed \$25,000 toward this project; we will request at least \$25,000 from the NEA within the next two weeks.

Partnership

No committed partners at this stage, but prospective partners include (but are not limited to): local hip hop/classical artists, dance-related organizations, and artistic partners from outside of West Michigan



PROJECT #107

After Dark

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$250,000

Maximum Cost: \$250,000

ARPA Request: \$25,000

Submitter Info

Name: Montana Major

Organization: Lions & Rabbits Center for the Arts

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Arts and Culture

Project Status: Existing Project

Matching Funds: 76% or greater

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

We run two Patronicity campaigns each year that crowdfund (from individual donors & sponsors) \$100,000, this funding then gets matched by the MEDC for a total of \$200,000 in funding

Partnership

n/a

Identify the need for the proposed project

Our organization, Lions & Rabbits Center for the Arts (LRCFA), surveyed hundreds of local artists in the Grand Rapids area and discovered that they largely did not feel supported by the community. We then created After Dark to provide these artists with the support they needed and ensure the arts community would thrive in Grand Rapids.

Brief Description

After Dark partners local artists and businesses on projects to promote creative expression and independence in our community. Through After Dark, an average of ten projects a year are created including exterior murals and installations, and artists are provided with LRCFA's hands-on professional development training. Projects range in difficulty, giving artists at all levels the opportunity to gain experience in public art projects. Examples of skills these artists learn include budgeting, time management, client communication, scissor lift training, and scaling work. Alongside our public art projects, After Dark events are hosted including artist and business vendors, live entertainment, art activities, food, drink, and games to support our cause. By uniting the community at exciting and engaging events, LRCFA is able to advocate for local artists and public art projects. These events allow artists a chance to sell their work, network, and have fun as community members from different neighborhoods join us in celebrating our local creatives.

Long-Term Benefit

One long-term benefit is increased quality of life for our community. After Dark creates impactful public art, making Grand Rapids an art hub for residents and visitors. Individuals visit different areas of the city to explore public art and engage with local businesses. Another long-term benefit is economic innovation and workforce development. Through After Dark, artists receive paid opportunities and professional development skills, creating a sustainable and resilient artist workforce.

Intended Beneficiary

The intended beneficiaries are local artists; our programming is centered on making sure they receive paid opportunities and professional development. Other beneficiaries include local businesses and community members as they are positively impacted by impactful public artworks, events, and increased foot traffic to different areas of Grand Rapids.

Estimated Cost

250000

Project Management Experience

Before LRCFA became a nonprofit, it was operating as an LLC since 2016 completing public art projects in Grand Rapids. In total, our organization and staff have six years of experience with these projects and have fine-tuned processes with the city to ensure the entirety of the program runs smoothly.



(Page 2)

Federal Funds Experience

LRCFA has not received federal funds, but has received funding from local foundations, city government, state government, and local businesses

Studies on Impact

n/a

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$250,000

Maximum Cost: \$250,000

ARPA Request: \$25,000

Submitter Info

Name: Montana Major

Organization: Lions & Rabbits
Center for the Arts

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Arts and Culture

Project Status: Existing Project

Matching Funds: 76% or greater

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

We run two Patronicity campaigns each year that crowdfund (from individual donors & sponsors) \$100,000, this funding then gets matched by the MEDC for a total of \$200,000 in funding

Partnership

n/a

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

Potentially eligible under non-profit support and aid to impacted industries. Additional information will be needed if the proposal moves forward in the process.



PROJECT #296

Celebrating our Mexican heritage

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$80,000

Maximum Cost: \$80,000

ARPA Request: \$50,000

Submitter Info

Name: Gabriella de la Vega

Organization: Mexican Heritage Association Of West Michigan

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Arts and Culture

Project Status: Existing Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact:    

Source of Funding

Sponsorships, We work to bring sponsorship to our event and cover the cost of having different activities.

Partnership

n/a

Identify the need for the proposed project

Covid took away a lot of independence from Mexicans in our community who make up 12% of our community. We are proud hardworking people Who found ourselves in the middle of a pandemic without the help and resources that we need for mental health housing resources job security healthcare and many more issues.

Brief Description

All of these issues we address at our Mexican festival that's held every year this will be the 53rd year and we need to help empower Mexicans living in Kent County by providing resources through our Mexican heritage festival event which is well attended by thousands (more than 35,000) of people each and every year it is the only Mexican heritage festival in Kent county.

Long-Term Benefit

Being able to work together and make them feel part of this community. By actively working and participate in the change that we need to make our county more inclusive.

Intended Beneficiary

We are requesting \$50,000 of ARPA funds to use over the next two years to add more resource components to our event. And the beneficiaries will be our Mexican community the new generations and those who came before us.

Estimated Cost

80,000 per year

Project Management Experience

This is our 53rd anniversary and we do have experience in leading projects and events

Federal Funds Experience

This will be our first time if choose to receive the support

Studies on Impact

No that I am aware, but as a Mexican and know the great need of opportunities.

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

Eligible under non-profit support. Additional information will be needed if the proposal moves forward in the process.

PROJECT #259

Grand Rapids African American Museum & Archives



Identify the need for the proposed project

Established in 2015, the Grand Rapids African American Museum & Archives (GRAAMA) has served its mission, collecting and retelling the rich, colorful stories which composes the historic African American tapestry of Grand Rapids. In African culture, oral history was performed by the griots or storytellers; they kept the history and traditions of the family, tribe, and nation. The GRAAMA is carrying this tradition so that the African American culture and history is not lost to future generations. The work that GRAAMA does in our community is invaluable. Racial equity and social justice have become more a part of the national, state, and local dialogue over the past two years. Starting with the horrible murders of George Floyd and Grand Rapids native Breonna Taylor, and running up to today, these topics are front of mind. In April 2022, Grand Rapids was thrust into the national limelight as an African refugee was killed by a police officer. There is a call across the country to remember their names. Our communities' storytellers will do just that as the GRAAMA is active in community discussions around these difficult topics and helps frame the narrative in a historical context. Grand Rapids was an active part of the national civil rights movement, with residents making a real contribution, such as Emory Douglas, the Minister of Culture and Revolutionary Artist for the Black Panther Party through the 1960s and 1970s; and Helen Claytor, the first African American President of the Board of the YWCA and tireless advocate for equal rights. Highlighting this history and capturing the stories of all the African Americans past and present who contribute to our society is a critical step toward healing and not forgetting the past. Grand Rapids is the only major city that does not have a permanent African American museum. Our community storytellers need a home and the necessary resources to serve out its mission. Since 2015, the GRAAMA has hosted its exhibit in a retail space generously donated by Downtown Grand Rapids Inc. However, this space is small and limits the types of programming that the organization can provide. Due to this lack of space, the organization is planning an expansion that will be a major investment in the future of young people, Black families, and a growing community, all symbols of pride and accomplishment. GRAAMA hired Jones Lang LaSalle IP, Inc. to identify the ideal location for the new museum. After a long search, the organization has entered into a purchase agreement for a building located at 245 State St SE, Grand Rapids. The facility neighbors the City of Grand Rapids archives, the new Grand Rapids Public Museum High School, and the historic Calkins Law Office, the oldest building in the city. After the agreement was reached, GRAAMA contracted with Isaac V. Norris & Associates, P.C. to complete a conceptual design of the facility. The cost estimate was developed in partnership with Rockford Construction.

Brief Description

GRAAMA is planning to develop a new 18,000 square foot facility, located at 245 State Street SE, Grand Rapids, that will provide an opportunity for an expanded permanent exhibit dedicated to telling the regional story of African American residents, provide space for programming, and allow the organization to host pop-up and traveling exhibits. The facility's proximity to the City of Grand Rapids Archives, the Grand Rapids Public Museum's Community Archives & Research Center, and the Grand Rapids Public Museum High School provides an opportunity for expanded community partnerships centered on the region's history and cultures. Additionally, this transformational facility will provide office, programming, and event space for other cultural organizations focused on the heritage of West Michigan's Black and African American residents. As a result, visitors will have an opportunity to celebrate the achievements and contributions of Black and African American residents to Grand Rapids and surrounding areas. This facility will be a beacon to residents and visitors that our community honors the contributions of African Americans.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$7,500,000

Maximum Cost: \$7,500,000

ARPA Request: \$2,500,000

Submitter Info

Name: George Bayard

Organization: Grand Rapids African American Museum & Archives

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Arts and Culture

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

Partnering organizations include the Grand Rapids Art Museum, Grand Rapids Public Museum, Grand Rapids Historical Commission, Festival of the Arts, and ArtPrize.



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$7,500,000

Maximum Cost: \$7,500,000

ARPA Request: \$2,500,000

Submitter Info

Name: George Bayard

Organization: Grand Rapids African American Museum & Archives

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Arts and Culture

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

Partnering organizations include the Grand Rapids Art Museum, Grand Rapids Public Museum, Grand Rapids Historical Commission, Festival of the Arts, and ArtPrize.

Long-Term Benefit

GRAAMA will continue to provide African American residents with a space to share their stories, highlight our community's history, and help shape discussions to bring greater racial justice and equity to West Michigan. Also, Grand Rapids has a strong arts and cultural industry that draws visitors from around the world and the permanent GRAAMA museum will attract more cultural tourists to our city, supporting the economy and ensuring visitors understand the diverse history of our community.

Intended Beneficiary

This proposed project will help make Grand Rapids a more culturally inclusive, compassionate, and equitable community, which benefits us all. Currently, Grand Rapids receives many accolades as being one of the fastest growing cities in the United States and one of the best places to raise a family. However, there is an underlying issue that taints these honors. Yet in 2015, Forbes contributor Joel Kotkin named Grand Rapids as one of the worst communities economically for African Americans, citing factors such as homeownership rates, entrepreneurship or self-employment, and median household income. In 2016, Grand Rapids was ranked as one of the worst five cities in terms of the income gap between Black and White populations (CNN Money, 2016). Compounding these issues are disparities in health coverage and outcomes, educational attainment, employment, and housing. Within Grand Rapids, 22 percent of African American residents live below the poverty line, compared to only 9.5 percent of White residents. As noted, our community's inequities are also present in how our regional history is told. Like many regions, our streets and buildings are named after the White leaders who have contributed to making Grand Rapids what it is today, and their stories are important. However, what has been lost is the contributions of African Americans in the building of this city and region. From civil rights, to sports, to civic leadership, to business, the African American story is an important one to our community. If we lose the stories of these contributors, it would be a disservice to residents and damage our legacy as a diverse community. GRAAMA was founded to bring light to these stories and ensure that residents and visitors have a resource to learn about the role African Americans have played in Grand Rapids and beyond. Doing so provides our African American youth with role models they can aspire to as they seek to make their own contributions. Further, GRAAMA ensures that the entire population does not forget that African Americans had an equal part in building Grand Rapids into one of the most prosperous regions in the country, racial and ethnic disparities notwithstanding. Moving to a new, larger building and creating a permanent home for GRAAMA is an important step in furthering its mission and helping to make Grand Rapids a safer, more just place to live for all.

Estimated Cost

\$7,500,000.00

*Source of Funding

GRAAMA submitted a \$2 million request to Debbie Stabenow through the federal congressionally-directed spending/appropriation process in April 2022. This funding is not yet committed but will be up for review by the Senate committee in July 2022. GRAAMA is requesting \$2.5 million through the Kent County ARPA opportunity to cover the gap between the federal appropriation and the total project cost. The remaining gap will be covered through philanthropic support raised in a capital campaign to launch later this year. Funding is also being sought through the City of Grand Rapids Brownfield Redevelopment Authority.



(Page 3)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$7,500,000

Maximum Cost: \$7,500,000

ARPA Request: \$2,500,000

Submitter Info

Name: George Bayard

Organization: Grand Rapids African American Museum & Archives

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Arts and Culture

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

Partnering organizations include the Grand Rapids Art Museum, Grand Rapids Public Museum, Grand Rapids Historical Commission, Festival of the Arts, and ArtPrize.

Project Management Experience

During over seven years in service to the West Michigan community, GRAAMA has managed many county-wide projects. All projects are designed to reach a county or statewide audience. While still a growing organization, GRAAMA has collaborated with community partners to develop its exhibits and deliver programming. A few of the organizations, exhibits (i.e., "Poor Peoples Campaign," "A Place for All People," and "Active Participation") were co-produced with the Smithsonian Institution. "American Freedom" was also a Smithsonian exhibit we collaborated with the Grand Rapids Public Museum to display. GRAAMA has produced documentary films (i.e., "Rhythm and Race," "Brushback and Riot Race," and "Reconciliation") which all reach a county-wide and world-wide audience online. Additionally, GRAAMA is still the reigning Most Outstanding Venue for their international ArtPrize event, during which the organization drew 4,000 to 5,000 people per day. In total, GRAAMA has created, lead, and managed over 1,000 county-wide arts, history, and culture projects.

Federal Funds Experience

GRAAMA does have experience working on federally funded projects. The organization partnered in the development of the West Michigan Minstrel Show, The Immortal Cells of Henrietta Lacks, The Stinney Art /Opera Project, and "The River of Time" video game project, each of which were funded by federal grants in which GRAAMA guided. GRAAMA has never received federal funds for operations or capital expenditures. However, the organization has partnered with the Grand Rapids Public Museum to advise and implement projects that were federally funded. The organization has built a team of consultants who have extensive experience with federal funding, including Kennari Consulting, Rockford Construction, and Isaac V. Norris & Associates, P.C.

Studies on Impact

In 2018, a study found that for every \$100 of economic activity created by museums, an additional \$220 is generated in economic impact and that museums contribute approximately \$50 billion to the U.S. economy each year. Another study surveyed more than 2,000 people and found that 97% believe that museums provide valuable educational experiences to their communities and 89% recognize the important economic contributions and jobs that museums bring (American Alliance of Museums, 2018 - <https://bit.ly/3o3fTHv>). Building upon this research, the GRAAMA will bring both economic vitality to the community as well as diverse cultural experiences for community members. Further, there is significant research around the power of storytelling to drive social change. Recently, researchers found that stories are processed in a different part of the brain than other types of information and can have a greater impact in shifting people's perspectives. Researchers concluded that providing ways for people to share their perspectives through storytelling initiatives can contribute to changes in society, help reduce prejudice, build empathy, promote cooperation, and motivate change (Coronel et. Al, 2019 - <https://doi.org/10.1177/0093650219876844>).

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

Eligible under non-profit support. Additional information is needed if the proposal moves forward in the process.



PROJECT #149

Creative Learning Center at the Grand Rapids Art Museum

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$4,600,000

Maximum Cost: \$4,600,000

ARPA Request: \$200,000

Submitter Info

Name: Brad Ter Haar

Organization:
Grand Rapids Art Museum

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Arts and Culture

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 76% or greater

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

Through the new Creative Learning Center, the Grand Rapids Art Museum will have the capacity to grow and strengthen our existing partnerships with schools and community groups, such as: Grand Rapids Public Schools, Head Start for Kent County, Comstock Park Public Schools, Wyoming Public Schools, YMCA of Greater Grand Rapids, Spectrum Health, West Michigan Center for Arts + Technology, St. Ann's Home, Clark Retirement Community, and many more

Identify the need for the proposed project

The Grand Rapids Art Museum's Education Center serves tens of thousands of people annually, through exceptional art-based learning programs. Over the past decade, Kent County's need for art education has grown, surpassing the Grand Rapids Art Museum's (GRAM) current capacity. With its current footprint, GRAM can only teach one interactive, art-making session at a time. When a school group visits, GRAM's hands-on programs are closed to the public; when community programs occur, students cannot tour. And, tucked away in the Museum's lower levels, the Education Center is concealed from the main lobby and galleries. Classes and program participants must constantly shuffle between the two spaces, which can be time consuming and confusing. In order for GRAM to meet present-day demand, improvements to the Education Center are necessary. GRAM commissioned respected architect Progressive AE to re-envision the space, uplifting the Education Center to the brightly lit, main lobby level of the Museum. Through capital renovations, a new Creative Learning Center will address the aforementioned needs, thereby benefiting the greater Grand Rapids community.

Brief Description

Following capital renovations, GRAM's restructured Creative Learning Center will enable the Museum to serve more people, allow multiple audiences to participate in hands-on programming simultaneously, and improve the guest experience through easier navigation of the education spaces. Investing in GRAM's new Creative Learning Center will... ..Expand Capacity The Museum will have the capacity to engage approximately 10,000 more students, teachers, and visitors of all ages annually through exceptional art education experiences. The Creative Learning Center will be able to serve multiple groups at once, through reconfigured studios and classrooms (currently, we can only serve 2 groups simultaneously). ...Enrich Group Experiences At present, challenging logistics—the time needed to shuffle groups from lobby to galleries to education spaces—impact precious art and education time, eroding the experience. The Creative Learning Center will have improved access to the lobby, which will increase the time that groups spend actively engaging with art by 33%. A larger-capacity elevator will lead to quicker navigation and greater accessibility for guests with wheelchairs, families with strollers, and large groups. ...Offer Visitors More Hands-on Art Experiences As part of the renovations, a new Discovery Gallery will be established. This interactive space, open during all Museum hours, will enhance GRAM's "choose-your-ownadventure" style of visitation.

Long-Term Benefit

The project will greatly benefit Kent County by: 1) contributing to our community's flourishing arts and cultural sector, 2) expanding GRAM's art education programming for area students, teachers, and individuals, 3) and strengthening our local economy. The new Creative Learning Center at GRAM will help promote community livability and pride, inspire dialogue and connections among residents, draw residents and tourists to downtown Grand Rapids, and attract new families and talent to the region.

Intended Beneficiary

Kent County students, teachers, and people of all ages.

Estimated Cost

\$4,600,000.00



(Page 2)

*Source of Funding

Funding from Kent County would be matched by \$200,000 in received funds from The Meijer Foundation.

Project Management Experience

While we do not have experience leading county-wide projects, we do have substantial experience leading projects and programs with community partners that serve to benefit the region. For example, many of our art education programs are co-created with area early learning centers, K-12 schools, and colleges and universities. We also partner with community and arts organizations on public programming that benefit people of all ages. Examples include major exhibitions, therapeutic art programs, artmaking initiatives, and a summer concert series.

Federal Funds Experience

GRAM is very experienced working with federal funds. We regularly receive federal funding through National Endowment for the Arts grants. During the pandemic, GRAM managed and received federal funds through the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) established by the CARES Act. Each loan we received was forgiven.

Studies on Impact

The new Creative Learning Center will benefit visitors and program participants through art education experiences. Children who participate in the arts demonstrate stronger school readiness skills entering kindergarten, and K-12 students who receive art education record higher test scores in core academic subjects and achieve higher GPAs, as compared to those who do not participate in the arts (Winsler, Gara, Alegrado, Castro, and Tavassolie, 2020). Exposure to art education improves student behavioral skills, enhances their engagement in the classroom, increases the empathy children feel for others, and contributes to higher graduation rates and college aspirations (Bowen and Kisida, 2019). Furthermore, research has found that field trips to art museums are highly beneficial to students, as they improve their critical thinking skills through observation and interpretation, develop more complex and inquisitive questioning skills, demonstrate greater emotive recall of their learning experiences, and are more likely to be accepting of multiple points of view and opinions (Randi Korn & Associates, 2018)

Supporting Documentation

- [1. Project at a glance](#)
- [2. Campaign Brochure](#)
- [3. GRAM Learning Center Renderings](#)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$4,600,000
Maximum Cost: \$4,600,000
ARPA Request: \$200,000

Submitter Info

Name: Brad Ter Haar
Organization:
Grand Rapids Art Museum

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life
Project Theme: Arts and Culture
Project Status: Expanded Project
Matching Funds: 76% or greater

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

Through the new Creative Learning Center, the Grand Rapids Art Museum will have the capacity to grow and strengthen our existing partnerships with schools and community groups, such as: Grand Rapids Public Schools, Head Start for Kent County, Comstock Park Public Schools, Wyoming Public Schools, YMCA of Greater Grand Rapids, Spectrum Health, West Michigan Center for Arts + Technology, St. Ann's Home, Clark Retirement Community, and many more

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Eligible under non-profit support. Additional information will be needed if the proposal moves forward in the process.



Sustainability

Lacking guaranteed funding after 2026 though partners were identified



Feasibility

PROJECT #215

Third Thursdays



Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$12,000

Maximum Cost: \$12,000

Submitter Info

Name: Zachary Trebellas

Organization: Avenue for the Arts

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Arts and Culture

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

We received initial funding from a Creative Industries Rebound Grant through the Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce. We are currently planning to apply for a Downtown Grand Rapids Inc. grant that will become available this autumn.

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Identify the need for the proposed project

While downtown Grand Rapids continues to recover from the economic impact of the pandemic, we still see a high number of downtown business vacancies, and new businesses working to find their footing. The city is seeing a 65% increase in vacancy over a five-year average, according to Downtown Grand Rapids Inc., with current vacancy levels ranging from 13%–37% in the neighborhoods that we are targeting with our event. The average current vacancy period is 2.5 years. In addition, the downtown currently hosts around sixteen art exhibitions annually outside of the two museums, down from a high point of around eighty in 2017. This leaves less-established local artists with few opportunities to show and sell work and the public with a greatly reduced opportunity to connect with the creative talent of our city.

Brief Description

We are seeking funding for a new downtown event called Third Thursdays. Since May of 2022, it has been a monthly multi-site showcase of locally owned art galleries, shops, bars and restaurants within Grand Rapids' downtown and Heartside neighborhoods. On the third Thursday of every month from 5–9PM, downtown Grand Rapids becomes the place to connect with local artists and business owners, as people experience art openings, food and drink specials, musical performances, live art creation, student artwork, and more. Third Thursdays is inspired by the former downtown event, First Fridays, a monthly arts walk along the South Division corridor which ran from 2013–19. This new event takes the successful template of First Fridays and expands its footprint throughout the whole of downtown. We plan to run Third Thursdays monthly for the foreseeable future.

Long-Term Benefit

Third Thursdays reconnects residents with the center of our community. In a city as segregated as Grand Rapids, it is an event which seeks to bring all parts of our city together. With increased foot traffic, we aim to bolster local businesses and reduce storefront vacancy. The event would provide opportunities for emerging and mid-career artists to show their work and connect with the public. This is crucial as Grand Rapids currently has less than ten art spaces accessible to such artists.

Intended Beneficiary

Local entrepreneurs and artists

*Partnership

Grand Rapids Art Museum (GRAM), Urban Institute for Contemporary Arts (UICA), Monroe Community Church, ArtRat Gallery, 106 Gallery, Little Space Studio, The Arts Marketplace at Studio Park, Periwinkle FOG, Old World Olive Co., Aroma Labs, Oh Hello Paper & Gifts, Courage & Soar, SHOW Boutique and Salon, City Flats Hotel, House of Wine, Gazelle Sports, Social House, Grand Vin, 12th House, The Darling Style, Color Forest, Basic Bee, Otono

Estimated Cost

12000



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$12,000

Maximum Cost: \$12,000

Submitter Info

Name: Zachary Trebellas

Organization: Avenue for the Arts

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Arts and Culture

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

We received initial funding from a Creative Industries Rebound Grant through the Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce. We are currently planning to apply for a Downtown Grand Rapids Inc. grant that will become available this autumn.

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Project Management Experience

UICA has worked on large scale art projects which have involved many members of our county. One such project, The Heartside Community Meal, connected county farms to downtown Grand Rapids service and arts organizations to present a community meal as a part of the ArtPrize competition. This project included over 15 county-wide partners.

Federal Funds Experience

In the past eight years, UICA has received four grants from the National Endowment for the Arts ranging from \$10-40,000. As a founding partner for the Avenue for the Arts Third Thursday project, UICA has agreed to provide oversight and guidance for the use of any federal funds received. UICA's Executive Director has also served on the NEA's grant panels in the past, including the distribution of CARES funding.

Studies on Impact

The Americans for the Arts' most recent study on the economic impact of arts events states that on average, local (in-county) attendees spend \$23.44 on expenditures related to an art event (dinner, parking, etc.). Tourists, who make up one-third of average attendees, spend an average of \$47.57 per person. Further info here: <https://www.americansforthearts.org/by-program/reports-and-data/research-studies-publications/arts-economic-prosperity-5/learn/national-findings>

Looking at the Michigan data available, which covered the greater Ann Arbor region (a population 28% the size of Grand Rapids' metro area), the study reports \$50,031,630 in arts attendee spending in 2015. That number and more details can be found at the PDF at the bottom of this page: <https://www.americansforthearts.org/by-program/reports-and-data/research-studies-publications/arts-economic-prosperity-5/learn/local-regional-findings>

Guidehouse Ranking Notes

 **Eligibility**

Eligible under non-profit support. Additional information will be needed if the proposal moves forward in the process.

 **Sustainability**

Lacking guaranteed funding after 2026 though partners were identified

 **Feasibility**

PROJECT #200

BIPOC2 Community Cultural Center



Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$50,000

Maximum Cost: \$150,000

Submitter Info

Name: Regenail Thomas

Organization: Seeds of Promise

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Arts and Culture

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

Local philanthropic efforts.

Partnership

Seeds of Promise

Identify the need for the proposed project

A lack of accurate knowledge regarding BIPOC contributions to world progress creates distrust and promote ignorance. Research shows that the more humans know about real human historical contributions of BIPOC2 humans, we realize we have much more in common than we ever will have that is different. If we know better, we do better. This is research based and best practice economic and cultural development.

Brief Description

Curating a community BIPOC2 laboratory that celebrates that internationally researched and agreed upon history and cultural contributions of original humans is unifying. We want to create and cathedral of BIPOC2 contributions to the local community, created and curated by residents of 49507. In collaboration with the GRPD, GVSU Center for Civil Discourse, Food Co-op and GRCC & Technical Center, we hope to produce a replicable community tourist attraction.

Long-Term Benefit

The long-term benefit is the promotion of robust dialogue based on internationally certified historical facts. Creating a homegrown, regional human engagement strategy that transforms communities public safety profiles.

Intended Beneficiary

All residents.

Estimated Cost

\$50,000-\$150,000

Project Management Experience

Local partners have a long standing history of leading county-wide projects.

Federal Funds Experience

Extensive experience working with federal funds.

Studies on Impact

Please see the attached link:

<https://www.ims.gov/sites/default/files/publications/documents/museumslibrariesandcomprehensiveinitiatives.pdf>



Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$50,000

Maximum Cost: \$150,000

Submitter Info

Name: Regenail Thomas

Organization: Seeds of Promise

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Arts and Culture

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

Local philanthropic efforts.

Partnership

Seeds of Promise

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Eligible under non-profit support. Additional information will be needed if the proposal moves forward in the process.



Sustainability

Lacking guaranteed funding after 2026 though partners were identified



Feasibility



PROJECT #52

Four Star Theatre Renovation

Identify the need for the proposed project

This project has been formally planned since the summer of 2019. The need was identified by two significant master planning initiatives focusing on the communities along South Division Avenue in Grand Rapids--The South Division Corridor Plan and Division United. The developer for this project owned the property and participated in the community engagement efforts that were part of those planning efforts. The renovation of the Four Star Theatre for community use is specifically identified in the South Division Corridor Plan, City of Grand Rapids Master Plan, and meets many objectives of the Community and Identity Theme identified in Division United: Objective C1. Support and development community events celebrating corridor history and culture. Objective C2. Preserved iconic and historic buildings that add character to the corridor for adaptive reuse when possible. Goal GC2: Community amenities and prominent indicator will reflect the history and culture of the corridor. Objective C4. Development of narratives and media that highlight the unique history of the corridor. Objective C5. Invest in public art/placemaking/third place

Brief Description

The project is to renovate the historic Four Star Theatre and convert it to a world class multi-use cultural arts venue--As of May 2022, the 501c3 formed for this development voted to acquire the property and operate the facility after the renovation. Our website is <https://fourstargr.com>. It is defined as an "expanded" project because as of June 2022 we expect to have "Phase I" occupancy, which involves strategic repairs to the nearly 30 year old infrastructure and occupying the first floor only for event hosting up to 250 patrons. The proposed project is an approximate \$4 million capital expense which will include an addition and renovations allowing the building to host events of up to 1,000.

Long-Term Benefit

A venue hosting up to 200 events and 50,000 visitors annually will be a resource that will improve quality of life for residents and be a catalyst for growth in new and existing businesses. The renovation and operations is expected to create 65 jobs, bring in \$190,000 in state and local government revenues & add \$1.4 million in household incomes. It is expected to draw 1/3 of its audience from other counties, and those visitors spend more than double than that of their local counterparts.

Intended Beneficiary

Local businesses and the 15,000 people who live within a walkable distance of the theatre will benefit most. But the overall community benefit is much larger.

Estimated Cost

\$4,000,000-\$5,000,000

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$4,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$5,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Marcus Ringnalda

Organization:
Friends of Four Star Inc

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life
Project Theme: Arts and Culture
Project Status: Expanded Project
Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

Pioneer Construction



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$4,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$5,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Marcus Ringnalda

Organization:
Friends of Four Star Inc

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life
Project Theme: Arts and Culture
Project Status: Expanded Project
Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

Pioneer Construction

*Source of Funding

The organization has an ongoing \$5 million capital campaign which launched in October of 2021. Approximately \$200,000 has been raised from a close network individuals which has gone towards investment in the building to activate the 30 year old infrastructure and secure a temporary occupancy permit for limited capacity events. Grant writing has just begun, and over \$2 million of capital requests will be applied for by the 4th quarter of 2022. A general public campaign will commence after a quiet phase of grant applications. Bank financing is possible. Letters of interest from multiple lenders have been secured.

Project Management Experience

The applicant/project lead has managed large scale construction projects for over 15 years in municipalities all over the state of Michigan and now presently works as a consultant on building expansions and real estate developments in Kent, Grand Traverse, and Leelanau Counties. The applicant has managed municipal projects, and multi-site healthcare projects, but nothing that would be considered a county-wide project. The general contractor partner has built large scale municipal projects.

Federal Funds Experience

The applicant/project lead has managed complex construction projects utilizing Low income housing tax credits, historic tax credits, and HUD funds, which in turn have required Davis-Bacon compliance and reporting, Section 3 compliance, and other federal compliance including National Parks Service standards for Historic Preservation. The general contractor is Pioneer Construction who will be relied upon for reporting and compliance.

Studies on Impact

This project is in a qualified census tract. It has been evaluated by the South Division-Grandville Ave Corridor Improvement Authority as an excellent example of equitable development. It is identified as a catalyst project in the South Division Area Specific plan which has been incorporated into the City of Grand Rapids master plan. Economic Impact studies by the Americans for the Arts and League of Historic American Theaters have been referenced for data that is included in this application. The project addresses priorities identified in the multi-jurisdictional Division United initiative supported by federal funding, Interurban Transit Authority, and the cities of Grand Rapids, Kentwood, and Wyoming. The studies support the economic impact and quality of life improvements for the community that the project will bring.

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Eligible under non-profit support. Could be blight remediation eligible as well. Additional information will be needed if the proposal moves forward in the process.



Sustainability

Post-rehab operations costs are a risk.



Feasibility

Risk for 2026 completion



PROJECT #260

Baxter UNITED

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$50,000

Maximum Cost: \$150,000

Submitter Info

Name: Kenneth Reed

Organization: Baxter UNITED

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Arts and Culture

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

Kenneth Cortez Productions LLC is a Live event company that will be helping fundraise and promote the Baxter UNITED organization. Habitat for Humanity of Kent County is a current funding partner in the Baxter UNITED operations budget. We are currently working on city grants within Grand Rapids budget.

Partnership

Habitat for Humanity, Baxter Community Center

Identify the need for the proposed project

Baxter UNITED identified our needs based on the community we serve. Our mission is to empower the Baxter Neighborhood with educational programming designed to build marketable and equitable skills. There are proportionately less arts and media-related skills programs and businesses in our neighborhood than in any other locations in Grand Rapids. We want to increase the number of people entering the arts and media-related workforce.

Brief Description

We want to build a studio and school dedicated to teaching the elements of media and art production. We will focus specifically on Pre-production, production, and Post-production in Music and Media. We will emphasize impact, while building leaders through a diverse lens of instructors and scenarios.

Long-Term Benefit

This project helps with the disproportionate educational disparities of our city and county because it offers the opportunity for video and artistic media education for those who generally would not have it available. We will build creators who are capable of capitalizing the market in the progressive society we live in and continue expanding in.

Intended Beneficiary

The people of the third ward in Grand Rapids

Estimated Cost

\$50,000 - \$150,000

Project Management Experience

0-1 years. We are a new organization and will have completed our third successful event as of July 16th. We are expanding our projects to affect more people throughout every event, and are looking to begin our studio project asap.

Federal Funds Experience

We have been involved with fundraising for federal level representatives during our events this summer.

Studies on Impact

<http://criminal-justice.iresearchnet.com/crime/school-violence/arts-based-programs-and-school-violence/>

<https://www.ojp.gov/pdffiles1/ojjdp/178927.pdf> <https://fundforthearts.org/art-is-crime-prevention/>
<https://www.publicartarchive.org/2017/07/31/can-public-art-reduce-crime-expert-interview/>



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Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Eligible as evidence-based services to address the academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs of students



Sustainability

Lacking guaranteed funding after 2026 though partners were identified



Feasibility

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$50,000

Maximum Cost: \$150,000

Submitter Info

Name: Kenneth Reed

Organization: Baxter UNITED

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Arts and Culture

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

Kenneth Cortez Productions LLC is a Live event company that will be helping fundraise and promote the Baxter UNITED organization. Habitat for Humanity of Kent County is a current funding partner in the Baxter UNITED operations budget. We are currently working on city grants within Grand Rapids budget.

Partnership

Habitat for Humanity, Baxter Community Center



PROJECT #184

ArtPrize Equity Grants

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$200,000

Maximum Cost: \$250,000

Submitter Info

Name: Craig Searer

Organization: ArtPrize

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Arts and Culture

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

We will identify appropriate community partners to help with awarding the grants and to fund the project (if additional funding is needed). Previous supporters of our DEI initiatives include Steelcase, WOOD TV8, Rockford Construction, LIFEWTR, and DGRI.

Identify the need for the proposed project

After each event, ArtPrize does an internal evaluation. One of the trends we have noticed is the lack of diversity in the demographics of artists applying and connecting with venues. ArtPrize is committed to developing programming and opportunities that better represent the diversity of our community and the world at large. The ArtPrize Equity Grants will be a pillar of our event and give marginalized members of our Kent County community the opportunity to use ArtPrize as a catalyst for expressing their creativity and sharing their voice. We hope that this increase in diversity will echo the demographic diversity within Kent County, generate a sense of belonging, and create a more inclusive spirit within our community.

Brief Description

The ARPA funding will allow ArtPrize to revitalize the "ArtPrize Equity Grants" program that was piloted in 2021 and support more individuals in Kent County from underrepresented backgrounds to participate in our event. Artists interested in participate are asked that their work be intentional and focus on diverse, innovative, challenging, and engaging themes. Through your support, ArtPrize will be able to support more community members than ever before and grant them substantial funds to assist with costs associated with education, fabrication, installation, and other considerations necessary to support their creative practice and enable them to participate in ArtPrize.

Long-Term Benefit

The long term goal of this program is to connect these grant recipients with organizations within Kent County and explore opportunities to install their art artwork into permanent locations whether that is inside a business's lobby, in a community park, or a street corner to name a few examples. This will enable the creative placemaking that ArtPrize facilitates each fall to have a lasting impact on the Kent County community.

Intended Beneficiary

Underrepresented communities in Kent County are the primary beneficiaries of our grant program. However, the impact of uplift voices in our community and create opportunities for permanent creative placemaking will impact the Kent County community at large.

Estimated Cost

\$200,000-\$250,000

Project Management Experience

The ArtPrize team represents a diverse group of professionals who are committed to executing world-class programs. Our dedicated Exhibitions and Development departments are experienced in developing, facilitating, evaluating, and maintaining large scale projects including artists grant programs. Featured Public Projects (FPP) is our longest running grant program. Launched in 2016, FPP funds large, ambitious public art projects for multiple high-visibility public sites. Artists receive grants ranging from \$10,000-\$15,000 per project, along with in-kind donations in construction, shipping, and engineering assistance. Past grant recipients, including Gustavo Prado, Site:Lab, and The Urban Conga, have gone on to produce exceptional work highlighted at the international level in ArtRio, Art Basel, and NYCxDISIGN.



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$200,000

Maximum Cost: \$250,000

Submitter Info

Name: Craig Searer

Organization: ArtPrize

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Arts and Culture

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

We will identify appropriate community partners to help with awarding the grants and to fund the project (if additional funding is needed). Previous supporters of our DEI initiatives include Steelcase, WOOD TV8, Rockford Construction, LIFEWTR, and DGRI.

Federal Funds Experience

ArtPrize has been a recipient of the Michigan Arts and Culture Council's (MACC) Operational Support grant for over 9 years. A portion of this funding has come from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). ArtPrize consistently complies with any and all regulations that the MACC and/or NEA have in terms of funding restrictions, compliance, and final reporting.

Studies on Impact

The research on DEI-A (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility) and Creative Placemaking is immense. ArtPrize strives to educate ourselves on the subject so that we can ensure our programming is intentional and effective. We also actively partner with organizations who have a better understanding of these issues and represent the communities we are looking to better serve. Steelcase, The National Endowment of the Arts, and Culture Advocacy Network of Michigan are just a few organizations who provide research, professional development, and guidance on DEI-A and creative placemaking.

Guidehouse Ranking Notes

Eligibility

Eligible under non-profit support. Additional information will be needed if the proposal moves forward in the process.

Sustainability

Lacking guaranteed funding after 2026 though partners were identified

Feasibility

PROJECT #137

Dynamic Community Engagement for Social Impact



Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$5,665,000

Maximum Cost: \$5,665,000

ARPA Request: \$5,665,000

Submitter Info

Name: Mary Tuuk Kuras

Organization:

Grand Rapids Symphony

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Arts and Culture

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

GRS regularly partners with the Grand Rapids Ballet, Opera Grand Rapids, Frederik Meijer Gardens, Ebony Road Players, St. Cecilia Music Center, New City Kids, Festival Grand Rapids, Grand Rapids Public Museum, Grand Rapids Art Museum, and The Diatribe. GRS is also a leading influencer in the local Arts Working Group, a group comprised of over 30 executive directors of local arts organizations.

Identify the need for the proposed project

The Grand Rapids Symphony (GRS) is the largest professional performing arts organization in West Michigan and second largest performing arts organization in the State of Michigan. More than ninety years ago, advocates for the arts determined that an orchestra would enrich the city and region, while contributing to economic growth and quality of place. For over nine decades, GRS has been a critical asset to our community vibrancy with soul-stirring music, diverse programming, collaborative spirit, and a commitment to learning, all adding to the quality of life that residents expect and local employers need to attract and retain talent. Rapid innovation and creative programs kept orchestral music accessible and in the lives of patrons and our community during the height of the COVID19 pandemic. While digital programming allowed the symphony to deliver on its mission safely and responsibly while increasing accessibility, large-scale community reach was adversely impacted by both economic realities and public health necessities. There has never been a more critical time to reengage with all segments of our community in big and bold ways. GRS remains committed to prudent financial management; the FY23 budget, which takes effect on September 1, was built following an extensive review of national orchestra audience trends and benchmarking conversations with other similar-structured orchestras and leaders with the League of American Orchestras. The current board-approved operating budget reflects 83% of pre-pandemic ticket revenue. The budget also assumes 78% of pre-pandemic fundraising revenue levels considering anticipated economic trends. The need for additional support goes hand in hand with GRS's ability to create dynamic organizational and artistic programs to ensure we are relevant in every part of our community. Expenses remain tightly managed to produce a balanced budget. Nevertheless, the budget contains high-risk revenue assumptions. If those revenue assumptions are not met, it will greatly impact our ability to deliver on our mission in the way our community expects.

Brief Description

The Grand Rapids Symphony requests \$5,665,000 to create and enhance a series of bold initiatives as we work to rebuild our audiences and further connect with our community, leveraging community input first and foremost as a foundation for the initiatives. Funds will be used to support multiple large-scale artistic and organization initiatives including, but not limited to:

- Bold and exciting performances in partnership with county-wide arts organizations such as LiveArts performances, a community-wide arts "Open House," and collaborative student-led events in area high schools.
- Investing in capital infrastructure and technology enhancements (ex. outdoor performance shell investment including full lighting, sound, and staging as well as storage facilities, transportation, and additional staff to manage infrastructure).
- Hiring a Community Engagement Officer responsible for managing our complimentary and discount ticket programs for community residents, enhancing our DEI-centered fellowship program for African American and Latinx students, and expanding our free Neighborhood Concert Series.
- Implementing orchestral musician diversity fellowships to create immediate visible, transformational change in intentional representation of the community onstage.
- Expansive marketing initiatives to expand relevance in all parts of our community, including an extensive brand awareness campaign with institutional marketing to tell the story of our community through the Symphony.

Long-Term Benefit

The projects will celebrate cultural uniqueness on a large scale and have an immediate impact on diversity within the organization and our patrons, allowing Kent County residents to better identify with the Symphony. These enhancements will remove barriers to entry, while the capital investments and technology investments will allow the Symphony to increase its reach in building new audiences and expand its community relevance in all parts of our community.



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$5,665,000

Maximum Cost: \$5,665,000

ARPA Request: \$5,665,000

Submitter Info

Name: Mary Tuuk Kuras

Organization:

Grand Rapids Symphony

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Arts and Culture

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

GRS regularly partners with the Grand Rapids Ballet, Opera Grand Rapids, Frederik Meijer Gardens, Ebony Road Players, St. Cecilia Music Center, New City Kids, Festival Grand Rapids, Grand Rapids Public Museum, Grand Rapids Art Museum, and The Diatribe. GRS is also a leading influencer in the local Arts Working Group, a group comprised of over 30 executive directors of local arts organizations.

Intended Beneficiary

In a typical season, nearly 200,000 attendees from West Michigan experience one of our performances, in the hall or in the community. Approximately one-third of those who benefit are students, senior citizens, those with financial limitations, and people with disabilities, reached through extensive education and access initiatives. Diversity, equity, and inclusion are organic components in GRS operations; we aggressively continue our journey of relevancy to all parts of our community and to reflect our community's demographics both on and off the stage. GRS offers diverse programming in its various series and ensures that at least 20% of our composers, soloists, and guest conductors are Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) artists. Through expanded marketing, we will reach new and non-traditional audiences from our inclusive programs, such as:

- Neighborhood Concert Series, Presented by Meijer – Free concerts in local parks and neighborhoods across the community.
- Access to Music - A free concert that enables everyone with physical, cognitive, or emotional limitations to feel welcome.
- Music For Health - Enables our musicians to partner with music therapists at area hospitals for music therapy sessions.
- Symphony Scorecard - Allows any citizen who is receiving financial assistance from the State of Michigan, and any active military or National Guard members, to receive up to four tickets to most performances for free.
- Mosaic Scholars – With support from Bank of America Charitable Foundation, Steelcase, Inc., Meyer Music, and Pioneer Construction, this program creates opportunities for African American and Latinx students in Kent County who want to further their study of an instrument through private lessons, creative workshops, and unique performances. Students are paired with a GRS musician and take weekly lessons throughout the school year. They have opportunities to play alongside their teacher and peers in select symphony concerts. Schools represented include Grand Rapids Public Schools, Wyoming Public Schools, Godfrey-Lee Public Schools, Grand River Prep, and West Michigan Aviation Academy.

Project Management Experience

GRS has extensive experience leading large-scale, professional orchestra productions, both in the performance hall and in various locations across Kent County. In 2015, GRS presented LiveArts to celebrate its 85th anniversary season. Presented in Van Andel Arena on four stages, with nine performing organizations encompassing more than 1,500 performers, LiveArts also involved the Grand Rapids Symphony Youth Orchestras, the Grand Rapids Ballet Junior Company, and the Opera Grand Rapids Chorus plus the Grand Rapids Symphony Chorus and Youth Choruses. Several hundred school children and marching bands from East Kentwood High School and Grandville High School drew an audience of more than 7,100 people. GRS maintains a close relationship with the Kent County Convention and Arena Authority and with ASM Global. During the 2020-21 season, GRS and ASM Global partnered to present Pathwaves in Van Andel Arena, allowing GRS a space in which to perform live-streamed concerts in order to continue to deliver on its mission while giving ASM a way to maintain employment for its staff and crew. In 2021, GRS recognized both CAA and ASM Global for their partnership with a BRAVO! Award, the Symphony's award for exceptional arts leadership.

Federal Funds Experience

GRS has previously received federal funding from pandemic relief programs, such as the Paycheck Protection Program, as well as arts-specific federal funding from the National Endowment of the Arts (NEA).



(Page 3)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$5,665,000

Maximum Cost: \$5,665,000

ARPA Request: \$5,665,000

Submitter Info

Name: Mary Tuuk Kuras

Organization:

Grand Rapids Symphony

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Arts and Culture

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

GRS regularly partners with the Grand Rapids Ballet, Opera Grand Rapids, Frederik Meijer Gardens, Ebony Road Players, St. Cecilia Music Center, New City Kids, Festival Grand Rapids, Grand Rapids Public Museum, Grand Rapids Art Museum, and The Diatribe. GRS is also a leading influencer in the local Arts Working Group, a group comprised of over 30 executive directors of local arts organizations.

Studies on Impact

The efforts described in this proposal to make GRS more diverse, inclusive, and equitable – both internally and externally – are rooted in existing best practices. According to an article published in the New York Times, symphonies/orchestras remain among the America's least racially diverse institutions, especially in regard to Black and Latino artists. Experts recommend that symphonies act intentionally to diversify, focusing on increasing diverse representation among artists (Tommasini, 2021). Continuing a fellowship program for African American and Latinx students, expanding our Neighborhood Concert Series, and implementing orchestral musician diversity fellowships align with this focus on intentionality. Our programming will bring diverse musical experiences to residents all across Kent County, strengthening our community as a whole. A study sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) found that, among children and teenagers from socially and economically disadvantaged backgrounds, those with higher levels of arts engagement showed more positive outcomes on indicators such as school grades, test scores, and high-school graduation rates, compared with youths with low levels of arts engagement (NEA, 2012).

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Eligible under non-profit support. Additional information will be needed if the proposal moves forward in the process.



Sustainability

Does not include a funding plan or fund availability after expending all the ARPA dollars.



Feasibility

PROJECT #299

National Broadway Theatre

Identify the need for the proposed project

"The National Broadway Theatre is a non-profit positioned to give back to the community by creating sustainable jobs for a diverse and disproportionately impacted population, positively impacting the quality of life for each person who is participating or viewing these productions and give a safe space for people of all ages to learn and grow. Theatre is an industry that has taken one of the worst hits from the COVID-19 pandemic. Having to limit interaction between people meant a lot of theatres were forced to cancel their productions or worse shut their doors completely. That in turn caused local artists to become severely impacted with their careers coming to a screeching halt. What The National Broadway Theatre is going to do is give the theatre industry here the kickstart it needs and elevate the existing talent while simultaneously providing financial and sustainable opportunities for these artists. For that to be possible we will be doing something no other theatre company is currently doing and bring in top tier artists to this area so they can work with and educate these local artists. The growth potential is enormous since The National Broadway Theatre will operate within the economic environment of Grand Rapids. As productions draw large crowds, the overall health of the economic community rises on show nights; because of the increased foot traffic it will no doubt benefit local restaurants, bars, and hotels. We will be helping to retain members of our community, who would normally move away while simultaneously tying in other larger cities' economies with the hired national talent. Our main focus is to give back to the local community and help lift the local economy by creating jobs and opportunities that aren't currently available.

Brief Description

Employ Local Artists and Bring Professionals To Grand Rapids: The National Broadway Theatre will collaborate and employ local and national artists, holding auditions in Grand Rapids, New York City, and Chicago to bring high quality, professional artists to Grand Rapids. NBT is creating a space for local talent to thrive and national talent a destination to work. NBT is slated to produce 4 shows a season, including one completely community based production. **Only Paying Theatre In Grand Rapids:** NBT has a window of opportunity to introduce its services and gain a significant piece of the market share. Currently, all theaters in the area are community and volunteer based. Bringing in a company that gives back to the people in the community through involvement and compensation allows all local businesses to thrive. Requiring the national talent to be housed in Grand Rapids, also guarantees tourism growth and an additional boost to the local economy. **A Higher Caliber Of Arts Education In Grand Rapids:** At NBT education is one of our "three pillars of importance". We go right to the source to transform the community of Grand Rapids by bringing Broadway talent right here to our city. Through our strong networks in New York City, we are slated to run educational workshops where community members can take workshops with current Broadway performers right here in Grand Rapids. We have contracted local Dance Studios to host the events, and local hotels to house our visiting artists.

Long-Term Benefit

Reported in data by the Theatre Communications Group, the nonprofit theater sector added over \$2.8 billion to the U.S. economy through direct payments of goods and services, but the true impact is actually far greater. Nonprofit theaters operate within the economic ecosystem of the given community; as productions draw crowds to the area, it supports jobs and brings business to local restaurants, bars, hotels. Our main focus is to give back to the local community and help lift the local economy.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$200,000

Maximum Cost: \$300,000

Submitter Info

Name: Jacob Dunham

Organization:

National Broadway Theatre

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Arts and Culture

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

As we are a non-profit, our funding would come from grants, and our own fundraising campaigns.

Partnership

Local Grand Rapids
Performance Venues

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$200,000

Maximum Cost: \$300,000

Submitter Info

Name: Jacob Dunham

Organization:

National Broadway Theatre

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Arts and Culture

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

As we are a non-profit, our funding would come from grants, and our own fundraising campaigns.

Partnership

Local Grand Rapids
Performance Venues

Intended Beneficiary

The Kent County Community, the local economy, and professional artists who will come here from around the nation.

Estimated Cost

\$200,000-\$300,000

Project Management Experience

Not only do we have Broadway theatre operations experience in our leadership positions, we also have a variety of grant writers and financial assistants that all work in tandem.

Federal Funds Experience

As a non-profit we have a local professional Grant Writer, who has worked in non-profit theatre grants for over 30 years. We also have an experienced financial board as well. They work in tandem with their federal fund experience.

Studies on Impact

Yes, we are very aware of the factual contexts that back up the success of this company. We have created our business model off of other professional and very successful theatre companies such as: Steppenwolf in Chicago, The Purple Rose in Detroit, Roundabout Theatre in NYC to name a few. Our research also included data, reported by the Theatre Communications Group, that the non-profit theater sector added over \$2.8 billion to the U.S. economy through direct payments of goods and services, but the true impact is actually far greater. Nonprofit theaters operate within the economic ecosystem of the given community; as productions draw crowds to the area, it supports jobs and brings business to local restaurants, bars, hotels. This is a large portion of the local economy that is taken from Grand Rapids, the moment these artists have to relocate to other cities to find work. Creating a business that keeps artists here in Grand Rapids is essential for donors and investors to see long term returns on their gifts and investments.

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Eligible under non-profit support. Additional information will be needed if the proposal moves forward in the process.



Sustainability

Does not include a funding plan or fund availability after expending all the ARPA dollars.



Feasibility



PROJECT #160

Broadway Arts Access

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$100,000

Maximum Cost: \$150,000

Submitter Info

Name: Meghan Distel

Organization:

Broadway Grand Rapids

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Arts and Culture

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

Individual and corporate donations

Partnership

Schools, Disability Advocates of Kent County, and any other organizations we can partner with for outreach on bringing in new and diverse audiences.

Identify the need for the proposed project

The mission of Broadway Grand Rapids is not only to entertain, educate, and engage diverse audiences but also to eliminate barriers – whether they are physical, economic, or cultural to make all feel welcome when they attend a Broadway show at DeVos Performance Hall. Broadway Grand Rapids currently has several programs that help keep the arts within reach for the West Michigan community. Seats4Kids targets economically disadvantaged school children through a scholarship fund that provides free tickets for those at Title 1 schools. A Hearing and Visual Accessibility program provides ASL Interpretation, Open Caption, and Audio Description services. Broadway Grand Rapids is looking to expand their Community Outreach programs with a new program called Broadway Arts Access. This new program would use funds to identify new audience members that have economic, physical, or cultural barriers and give them the experience of a live Broadway show.

Brief Description

Broadway Arts Access would continue to fund Seats4Kids and Hearing/Visual Accessibility programs but would also expand in 2 additional areas: Seats4Families which would allow economically challenged families to attend a show together; Seats4Community would identify new audiences in Kent County that have never had access to Broadway as well as provide tickets to other charitable organizations so they can raise funds for their causes. The goal of Broadway Arts Access is to break down barriers and to make theater welcoming for all regardless of background or circumstances.

Long-Term Benefit

The arts have the power to teach, inspire, unify, and truly transform individuals of all ages and backgrounds. Time and time again, research shows that young people who are engaged in the arts do better in school and are more involved in their communities. Making arts accessible for more people in Kent County will help to inspire many people and improve the quality of life for all in our community.

Intended Beneficiary

Children and families who are economically disadvantaged in Kent County.

Estimated Cost

\$100,000-\$150,000

Project Management Experience

Not much experience in managing county wide projects.

Federal Funds Experience

Payroll Protection Loans

Studies on Impact

No



(Page 2)

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Eligible under non-profit support. Additional information will be needed if the proposal moves forward in the process.



Sustainability

Does not include a funding plan or fund availability after expending all the ARPA dollars.



Feasibility

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$100,000

Maximum Cost: \$150,000

Submitter Info

Name: Meghan Distel

Organization:

Broadway Grand Rapids

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Arts and Culture

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

Individual and corporate donations

Partnership

Schools, Disability Advocates of Kent County, and any other organizations we can partner with for outreach on bringing in new and diverse audiences.



PROJECT #162

Improve government operations through innovative, interactive and immersive cultural competency experiences

Identify the need for the proposed project

1. Through town halls with community leaders and discussions with friends from immigrant communities. 2. The death of Patrick Lyoya was an example of what happens when cultural differences and their ramifications are not at play. 3. All young people should be educated, healthy, and ready to thrive in the workforce however black kids feel the most disconnected.

https://nationalequityatlas.org/indicators/Disconnected_youth#/?geo=04000000000026081 4 Racial and cultural diversity create thriving and prosperous communities and our community is becoming more and more diverse. However, segregation is stopping community members from diverse communities to meet and learn from each other. "Exclusionary immigration policies and racial segregation, forged through practices such as redlining and racially exclusive housing covenants, have historically hindered the economic prosperity of Black people and other people of color in the United States. However, immigrants and people of color are increasingly driving population growth. Population growth rates for Black, Latinx, Asian or Pacific Islander, and multiracial people far outpace growth rates for White Americans. By 2030, multiple states are projected to be majority people of color. Immigrants are also fueling growth, particularly in the Northeast and Midwest—regions with historically low diversity." National Equity Atlas https://nationalequityatlas.org/indicators/Diversity_index#/?geo=04000000000026081 That is why it is so important to create safe and brave spaces for our community to come together using powerful tools like music, food, storytelling and cultural competency. These spaces will allow us to learn about each other, celebrate our differences and foster collaboration and innovation, create jobs and celebrate our commonalities. These will also help government officials who serve the immigrant and black communities to be more culturally competent in their delivery to the communities but also give the community opportunities to meet, commune with and build authentic relationships with public servants without fear.

Brief Description

The program includes: 1. Introducing and reacquainting public servants with their immigrant and refugee communities through food, music, poetry, and cultural knowledge nuggets, cultural norms, etc. The presentations will reflect the ethnicities, cultures represented in Kent County. This will provide the government workers with a better and more nuanced understanding of immigrants, and how to better connect and relate with them. We also strive to show the links and threads across people through our special curated sessions. 2. Providing live (virtual) entertainment, dancing lessons, games, geography, history lessons, and language lessons that are fun, hands-on, and age-appropriate for participants, through our Elimu Experience.

Long-Term Benefit

Increase in cultural intelligence and authentic relationships for our ever increasingly diverse county(multi-generational). This will also help build trust between the government and immigrant communities. Increase in jobs created for immigrants and refugees Increase in participation in growing the economy Mentorship for creatives Increase in income for the households that the creatives, artists, and culinary experts represent. We will live in a community where everyone can thrive.

Intended Beneficiary

Kent County officials, city officials and Kent county communities as a whole will benefit the most. Secondly, Immigrants and refugees will also benefit.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$600,000

Maximum Cost: \$600,000

Submitter Info

Name: Mirabel Fonyuy Umenei

Organization: Motherland Cultural Connections LLC

Project Overview

Funding Group: Improving Government Operations

Project Theme: Arts and Culture

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

We have approached the city of Grand Rapids about funding this project.

Partnership

African Collaborative Network



(Page 2)

Estimated Cost

\$600,000.00

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$600,000

Maximum Cost: \$600,000

Submitter Info

Name: Mirabel Fonyuy Umenei

Organization: Motherland Cultural Connections LLC

Project Overview

Funding Group: Improving Government Operations

Project Theme: Arts and Culture

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

We have approached the city of Grand Rapids about funding this project.

Partnership

African Collaborative Network

Project Management Experience

We have worked with large companies in and out of the US with over 1000 employees to provide cultural competency experiences and this is straight in our competency. We are open to partnering with other organizations to bring this project successfully to fruition.

Federal Funds Experience

This would be the first time we would be working with federal funds. We are open to partnering with other organizations to bring this project successfully to fruition.

Studies on Impact

Cultural competence training helps provide culturally sensitive and unbiased quality service to the community.

<https://case.edu/research/sites/case.edu.research/files/2018-04/handout-by-Cain-and-Lawless.pdf>

<https://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/products/cultural-competence/research-protocol>

<https://skilledwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/CCR-annotated-bibliography-10-12-10ver2-FINAL.pdf>

<https://sites.ed.gov/international/objective-1-increase-global-and-cultural-competencies-of-all-u-s-students/>

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

The project eligibility may align with violence prevention. Additional information is needed if the proposal moves forward in the process.



Sustainability

Does not include a funding plan or fund availability after expending all the ARPA dollars.



Feasibility



PROJECT #78

Urban Heightz

Identify the need for the proposed project

We identify the need to help with the art & cultural opportunities for people from all walks of life to get together and learn more from each other by fashion, food ,music, ect..

Brief Description

With this project people from all walks of life will take part into there cultures to help the community learn better without the heavy expenses of traveling. This project will give people the opportunity to see artwork ,fashion, eat food, listen to music from people around the world. We will also be able to have and space so people can learn about the difference in currency and also understand the value of a dollar from many different country.

Long-Term Benefit

The long-term benefit of this proposed project is that it will help eliminate social injustice and bring the community together.

Intended Beneficiary

The long-term benefit of this proposed project is that it will help eliminate social injustice and bring the community together.

Estimated Cost

20000

Project Management Experience

3 years doing the Burton Heights reunion .

Federal Funds Experience

n/a

Studies on Impact

Being at the festival and understanding how many people come and support each other. Seeing how people love to learn about others backgrounds and get a better understanding on how people live..

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$20,000

Maximum Cost: \$20,000

Submitter Info

Name: Mike Moore

Organization: Urban Heightz

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Arts and Culture

Project Status: Existing Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

The H.A.V.E. group

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

Proposal was generally unclear on how it is serving eligible individuals or communities.



PROJECT #44

Impact the family Life, My story

Identify the need for the proposed project

Tv youth studio , Radio and Circus city classic Chicago trio to see the battle of the bands black colleges .

Brief Description

Everything positive : a program for us young , African Americans that we can tell our story , so others can understand and other than judge us by what we wear and how we look . So we can give back to the community , joy and happiness , youth from 18- 30.

Long-Term Benefit

To shine the light on the truth from this generation themselves. Share the positive , to write a new narrative from the voices and perspectives of the millennials. Partnering with the SOSN save our sons now .

Intended Beneficiary

Everyone especially those that come after the millennials but also those who have come before them so they will know the truth and that the millennials are not all the same some law abiding citizens with a new narrative and a revelation of the future..

Estimated Cost

\$45,000.00

Project Management Experience

Previous experience with Muskegon county , Color me heathy , partnered with Kellogg's and Calvin college Entrada . , after school tutorial , Arms program (accepting responsibility mandatory ,

Federal Funds Experience

Muskegon county , teen zone , Overcomer's project, Drug abuse Recovery program , Joseph's food bank , developing educational and recreational fun programs , color me heathy ,

Studies on Impact

Michigan Fellowship if athletes , SOSN (save our sons now) V&J Evans consultants LLC

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$45,000

Maximum Cost: \$45,000

Submitter Info

Name: John Evans

Organization: Fresh Manna Church

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Arts and Culture

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

Fresh manna church of God.
Kingdom Prayer church SOSN
(save our sons now)

Partnership

n/a

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Unclear on what this project entails - would need more information.



Sustainability

Lacking guaranteed funding after 2026 though partners were identified



Feasibility

03

BROADBAND





PROJECT #210

Alaska Ridge Broadband Expansion

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$300,000

Maximum Cost: \$300,000

ARPA Request: \$200,000

Submitter Info

Name: Benjamin Swayze

Organization:

Cascade Charter Township

Project Overview

Funding Group: Infrastructure

Project Theme: Broadband

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

Comcast, Alaska Ridge
neighborhood resident

Identify the need for the proposed project

Cascade Township was approached by the residents of the Alaska Ridge neighborhood (located in Cascade Township near 60th Street) during the Covid-19 pandemic about the lack of broadband internet access in their neighborhood. The residents of the neighborhood struggled with the ability to work or attend school virtually during the pandemic due to the lack of high-speed internet. While the geographical footprint of their neighborhood is served by Comcast, existing infrastructure and technology limitations means that nearly 4 miles of additional broadband infrastructure is needed to serve the Alaska Ridge neighborhood. Due to the relative size of the neighborhood, funding for this additional needed infrastructure is cost prohibitive for both Comcast and the residents.

Brief Description

The project will expand Comcast broadband internet (currently the only broadband service available in the area to be expanded) to the homes in the Alaska Ridge neighborhood. The project involves the addition of 4 miles of broadband infrastructure to the system, which could be potentially tapped into and provide service to other neighborhoods as well. Comcast is currently working on routing information to determine what other unserved or underserved neighborhoods could benefit from the proposed broadband expansion as well.

Long-Term Benefit

The pandemic proved that access to high-speed broadband internet is essential for quality of life issues in any community. The long-term benefit will be that the residents of Alaska Ridge, and possibly other unserved and underserved neighborhoods as well, will have access to high-speed broadband to ensure an excellent quality of life for the neighborhood and the community, including the ability to effectively work from home or attend school virtually if needed.

Intended Beneficiary

The Alaska Ridge neighborhood, whom currently do not have access to high speed broadband, will be the primary beneficiary of the project. However, the entire Cascade community will benefit as well as being a community that is able to provide basic infrastructure needs to all of its residents.

Estimated Cost

Estimated cost for the broadband expansion is \$300,000

*Source of Funding

Comcast is willing to contribute an amount based on the number of customers that will be connected to the system. This is estimated at \$25,000 right now based on the Alaska Ridge neighborhood connections, but could increase if more unserved or underserved neighborhoods are able to utilize the expanded broadband infrastructure. In addition, Cascade Township will contribute \$75,000 to the project.



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$300,000

Maximum Cost: \$300,000

ARPA Request: \$200,000

Submitter Info

Name: Benjamin Swayze

Organization:

Cascade Charter Township

Project Overview

Funding Group: Infrastructure

Project Theme: Broadband

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact:    

Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

Comcast, Alaska Ridge
neighborhood resident

Project Management Experience

While Cascade Township primarily focuses on Cascade community based projects and programs, it does participate in and lead several broader based programs and projects as well. The Township participates in several Grand Rapids metro based organizations including the Grand Valley Metro Council, The Right Place and partnerships with the Kent County Sheriff's Department, Kent District Library and Kent County Road Commission. We currently lead a multijurisdictional effort to provide building inspection services to 6 Kent County communities.

Federal Funds Experience

Cascade Township has extensive experience in working with federal funds, including receiving CARES Act funding from several sources in 2020 and 2021 and receiving our own allocation of ARPA funds in 2021-2022. We are aware of single audit procedures for federal funds and have an audit firm in place that can help ensure compliance with all regulations.

Studies on Impact

While there is a large body of research that proves that access to high-speed broadband internet is essential to a positive quality-of-life, the Covid-19 pandemic cemented the issue. During the pandemic, households that lacked access to high-speed internet, including those that live in the Alaska Ridge neighborhood, struggled with mandated activities such as the ability to work from home and attend school virtually. While being prepared for the next pandemic or pandemic-type event is essential, research is showing that many of the adjustments to our lives during the pandemic are becoming the "new normal." Professor Tsedal Neely from the Harvard Business School notes, "I don't think remote work will be permanent at the scale we saw in March, but I have no doubt that remote work will increase. We're definitely going to see a much bigger population working remotely." As these changes to our work life become permanent, it is as important as ever that our residents have access to the technology needed to become successful.

Guidehouse Ranking Notes

 **Eligibility**

 **Sustainability**

 **Feasibility**

Broadband expansion is
eligible



PROJECT #247

Seeds of Promise - Technology to Grow

Identify the need for the proposed project

In recent history, and currently on going, the Covid pandemic has made the need for fast and reliable internet connection and accessibility to technical hardware (laptops, printers ect.) much greater. "

Brief Description

In the Madison Square neighborhood access to free wifi and a secure network is a need that has to be addressed expeditiously. TTG aims to enhance broadband and internet access throughout the community. Through upgrades to Connectivity and technical hardware at Seeds of Promise, there is a great opportunity to provide this community with a safe and equitable place for all residents to use any resource regarding internet access, access to laptops or desktops, printers, multimedia projects areas. Through the use of technology, we will expose the community to career opportunities and training to increase tech literacy.

Long-Term Benefit

The community will benefit from this project through the availability and efficiency of having a safe, and efficient internet and technical support. With this project we will be able to assist students that need internet access, residents who are looking to find employment through online search, accessibility to resources that require internet access or connected hardware, and education and training support for residents looking to go into fields that require internet access and accessibility to

Intended Beneficiary

The Madison Square Neighborhood - any resident that needs access to internet, computers and related hardware.

Estimated Cost

30,000 - 50,000

Project Management Experience

We have been awarded grants frequently.

Federal Funds Experience

Seeds of Promise has been granted federal funds frequently throughout the history of the organization.

Studies on Impact

n/a

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$30,000

Maximum Cost: \$50,000

Submitter Info

Name: Westly Johnson

Organization: Seeds Of Promise

Project Overview

Funding Group: Infrastructure

Project Theme: Broadband

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

Local philanthropy and grants

Partnership

n/a

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

Broadband infrastructure projects are eligible



PROJECT #276

CBRS/Private LTE Infrastructure for Broadband Public Experiment

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$2,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$2,300,000

Submitter Info

Name: Josh Freeney

Organization:
Grand Rapids Public Museum

Project Overview

Funding Group: Infrastructure
Project Theme: Broadband
Project Status: New Project
Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

Grand Rapids Public Schools,
Grandville Avenue Arts &
Humanities

Identify the need for the proposed project

Need was initially identified via hybrid classroom experiences with GRPS Museum School students who were using existing broadband solutions. This need was further highlighted by 2020 Census Data. Current broadband survey efforts are underway in Kent County with no data currently available, but Ottawa County can reasonably be used as a comparable. A recent survey (below) identified 11% of homes have no connectivity and 26% fewer homes have access to broadband Internet speeds at 25/3 Mbps (which we would contend is a conservative estimate).

<https://www.miottawa.org/Departments/Planning/pdf/Broadband-Data-Collection-Executive-Findings-Report.pdf>

Brief Description

We propose CBRS / Private LTE Infrastructure be developed on current fiber already existing within Greater Grand Rapids. We believe CBRS / Private LTE can provide communities access to high bandwidth connectivity more rapidly, broadly, and cost effectively than laying new fiber. Such coverage can augment current broadband needs within the community by deploying approximately mile-wide "zones of coverage" within which dozens upon dozens of households can have access to connectivity within a year that would otherwise take several years to build out and deploy. We believe such infrastructure has the further benefit of scaling cost-effectively to any community with underserved coverage that has access to fiber. As public-access CBRS / Private LTE has not been deployed on any scale within Greater Grand Rapids we do not have firm numbers on the hard costs to design, build, and maintain such coverage. That is why we firmly suggest it is critical for this public experiment to take place and the learnings of which made available to the general community in order to fully vet and evaluate this strategy that we hope will be vastly more efficacious, expedient, maintainable, scalable, and upgradable than a purely fiber-to-home strategy.

Long-Term Benefit

The long term benefit of this proposed project will be hard data on how efficacious a CBRS / Private LTE approach is when weighed against alternative broadband connectivity strategies. Such data will greatly improve future broadband decision making with decisive data on comparable strategies, as the results of this experiment will be made publicly available. This has implications on rural areas, and is potentially an excellent way to extend fiber endpoints to many customers at a distance.

Intended Beneficiary

Kent County communities we have identified with underserved broadband needs near fiber will receive new connectivity free of charge for 1 year as a result of this experiment in order for us to fully understand the costs and make the data results publicly available.

Estimated Cost

2 - 2.3 million

Project Management Experience

We have multiple responsibilities that have us working with the county in regular reporting cycles.



(Page 2)

Federal Funds Experience

The Grand Rapids Public Museum has worked with the National Endowment for the Humanities and Institute for Museum and Library Services.

Studies on Impact

We are aware of one in-progress research effort through Wayne State University, but as of yet the results are not available. This highlights the need for a scaled experiment to prove or disprove the effectiveness of this approach.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$2,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$2,300,000

Submitter Info

Name: Josh Freeney

Organization:
Grand Rapids Public Museum

Project Overview

Funding Group: Infrastructure
Project Theme: Broadband
Project Status: New Project
Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

Broadband expansion is eligible

Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

Grand Rapids Public Schools,
Grandville Avenue Arts &
Humanities



PROJECT #6

Grattan Township Library/Parks and Recreational Center

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$1,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$2,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Michelle Alberts

Organization: Grattan Township

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Broadband

Project Status: Existing Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

Township funds and capital campaign.

Partnership

Kent District Library

Identify the need for the proposed project

In our rural community the need for access to high speed internet, education and park facilities became increasingly evident during Covid. Professionals working remotely struggled, children and seniors had few options gather indoors and outdoors safely.

Brief Description

The building sits on 3 acres overlooking farm fields and orchards. The building itself is over 21,000 square feet, including an indoor gym. Kent District Library is interested in operating in 4-5,000 square feet of the building, offering programs for children and seniors and giving remote workers an adequate environment with quality internet. The gym and outdoor space would be utilized for children's playground equipment, indoor recreational use and additional programming for Kent District Library. Additional office space may be created to home the Townships Sewer maintenance department that has limited internet access and no access to natural gas at its current facility. Other space could potentially be used for art programs, daycare facilities, yoga and other small group exercise classes.

Long-Term Benefit

The residents of Grattan have long desired to have facilities in the Township that benefit its children and seniors. As a lake and agricultural area, having a community benefitting destination could will add neighborhood revitalization and other economic impacts for our local farm stands and businesses.

Intended Beneficiary

The residents of Kent County, specifically in Grattan Township.

Estimated Cost

1-2M

Project Management Experience

Limited.

Federal Funds Experience

Have worked extensively with State grant funds and have always had great financial audit reports.

Studies on Impact

No.

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

Broadband expansion is eligible

One time capital expense

04

BUSINESS GRANTS



PROJECT #238

Kent County Nonprofit Resource Alignment



Identify the need for the proposed project

Family Futures, like many nonprofits, experienced a sudden shift in operations when COVID forced employees to begin working remotely. As the pandemic progresses, we have now embraced a hybrid work model and will likely continue to offer opportunities for employees to work remotely, both to mitigate ongoing transmission of COVID and as an employee-centric benefit. Based on our conversations with other nonprofit leaders, we are not alone. Due to this shift, organizations no longer have the same need for office space and believe this could be an opportunity for area nonprofit organizations and the public sector to further align resources. In addition to local anecdotal evidence, national research supports this need. According to a recent Gallup poll (Feb. 2022), approximately half of the U.S. full-time workforce report that their current job can be done remotely working from home, at least part of the time. Before the pandemic, very few remote-capable employees worked exclusively from home (8%), while about one-third had a hybrid work arrangement. Now, most remote-capable employees work from home at least part of the time, with 42% having a hybrid schedule, and 39% working entirely from home. These changes present an opportunity to create a paradigm shift, rethinking the way organizations have traditionally operated, reducing operating costs resulting in more resources for the provision of services. Colocation and alignment of resources will create synergy among organizations, helping to better align resources to those we serve.

Brief Description

Family Futures is seeking funding to commission an entity to facilitate a planning process for Kent County nonprofit and public sector organizations to help identify opportunities to align resources, such as shared space/occupancy and colocation. This planning process will enlist the support of a consultant to work across organizational boundaries to facilitate a comprehensive planning process. This process will include an inventory of current resources (office space) and remote/hybrid models of organizations. The assessment will review organizational needs based on different modes of work: in-person and together (in-person meetings), inperson and alone (working on-site), remote and together (online meetings and collaboration), and remote and alone (asynchronous work). In addition to this assessment, the study will offer nonprofit and public entities with resources to plan for the future of a hybrid workplace. Not only can organizations realize a cost savings by reducing operating costs, but it is anticipated that a hybrid work model will be necessary for organizations to compete for available talent, as the majority of remote-capable employees prefer a hybrid/remote option.

Long-Term Benefit

This initiative will result in increased collaboration among organizations, reducing operating costs and improving outcomes. In addition to colocation of staff and resources, there is long-term potential to create synergy among partnering organizations. Organizations will have an opportunity to rethink the ways in which they serve the community and those most in need, adapting organizational structures to be more responsive to the diverse needs of the individuals served.

Intended Beneficiary

The direct beneficiaries of this project are area nonprofit and public sector organizations. Indirectly, the project will benefit those each entity serves by increasing the amount of resources devoted to the provision of services rather than administration/occupancy costs.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$65,000

Maximum Cost: \$70,000

ARPA Request: \$65,000

Submitter Info

Name: Candace Cowling

Organization: Family Futures

Project Overview

Funding Group: Improving Government Operations

Project Theme: Business Grants

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

No committed source of match funding to date.

Partnership

This project will engage several nonprofit service organizations, local foundations, and other public entities. Family Futures will lead the commissioning of the planning process, but the intent is to share ownership of the process with all participating organizations.



(Page 2)

Estimated Cost

\$65,000 - \$70,000

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$65,000

Maximum Cost: \$70,000

ARPA Request: \$65,000

Submitter Info

Name: Candace Cowling

Organization: Family Futures

Project Overview

Funding Group: Improving Government Operations

Project Theme: Business Grants

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

No committed source of match funding to date.

Partnership

This project will engage several nonprofit service organizations, local foundations, and other public entities. Family Futures will lead the commissioning of the planning process, but the intent is to share ownership of the process with all participating organizations.

Project Management Experience

Family Futures has a strong track record of leading large countywide projects. Family Futures is a current Kent County Ready by Five Early Childhood millage service provider, serving thousands of families each year through our evidence-based Kent County Healthy Families home-visiting initiative and our Connections program. In addition to direct service provision, Family Futures also facilitates county-wide initiatives, such as the Home Visitor Provider Network and is an active member of Kent County collaborative initiatives, such as KConnect and the Great Start Collaborative.

Federal Funds Experience

Family Futures is experienced in managing federal awards both as a direct recipient and subrecipient of funding. Due to the amount of federal funding received each year, Family Futures already conducts a single audit and is in compliance with Uniform Guidance requirements. Current/past federal funding includes the Promise Neighborhood program and the Encouraging Family Foundations initiative.

Studies on Impact

Yes. There is a body of research to support the practice of nonprofit resource sharing and the colocation of resources/staffing. Examples - Vinokur-Kaplan, D. (2017, December). New Public Governance, Social Services, and the Potential of Co-Located Nonprofit Centers for Improved Collaborations. Eisinger, S. M., & Vinokur-Kaplan, D. (2019). Shared Space and the New Nonprofit Workplace.

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

Small business support is eligible



PROJECT #293

Prevention Program Monitoring and Evaluation

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$2,813,000

Maximum Cost: \$2,813,000

Submitter Info

Name: Sonia Noorman

Organization: West Michigan Partnership for Children

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Business Grants

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

Bethany Christian Services,
Catholic Charities West
Michigan, D.A. Blodgett-St
Johns, Samaritas and Wellspring
Lutheran Services

Identify the need for the proposed project

Approximately 9500 of Kent County residents participated in prevention services last year through Bethany Christian Services, Catholic Charities West Michigan, D.A. Blodgett-St Johns, Samaritas and Wellspring Lutheran Services. Over 1,000 parents had children placed in foster care in fiscal year 2021. Families whose children were removed were often involved in a variety of prevention services or some were not involved in any. Currently there isn't a great way to determine what services really address the needs that put children at risk of removal. This project will provide information on what services are being utilized and have positive outcomes for children and families. Due to the siloed nature of referral systems and services provided, and the large number of agencies providing the services, there are challenges ensuring families are engaged in prevention services that will address the needs of the family. This can make it difficult to know what referrals have been made for an individual family, if a referral was successful, and what services were provided to the family. At a systems-level, it also makes it difficult to coordinate services, understand services needed, know what programs are responsive and impactful, and identify service gaps. WMPC's partnership with the five agencies will allow for a seamless incorporation of prevention program monitoring and evaluation. WMPC will hire a team of Data Quality Analysts, Utilization Analysts and Performance and Quality Improvement Coordinators and will utilize technology platforms (for example, FindHelp and Five Points). The project will assess and securely share the needs of families across contractual programs, actively track referral activity to ensure barriers are removed to families receiving services. Data analytics will be performed at a systems-level, ensuring the most efficient and effective coordination of services, development of best practices around engagement and service provision, as well as increased knowledge regarding which programs are responsive and lead to best outcomes. Racial and ethnic disparities will be identified and analyzed to ensure the impacts of systemic racism are addressed. Phase one of this project would be focused on the five foster care providers to establish strong data analytic platforms. Phase two would bring in other agencies who provide prevention services to more fully encompass the breadth the prevention services.

Brief Description

This funding would support a team of Utilization and Data Quality Analysts and Performance and Quality Improvement Coordinators who would lead systemwide prevention program monitoring and evaluation. Utilization Analysts monitor, analyze, and report on significant utilization trends, patterns, and impact on resources as well as identify service needs and gaps in service array. Data Quality Analysts develop and analyze dashboards and data visualizations for partners and stakeholders, as well as conduct validation testing of internal and external data and work with appropriate stakeholders to correct discrepancies in the data. Performance and Quality Improvement Coordinators assist with developing and implementing strategies, plans, and tools for monitoring and continuous quality improvement of the referral process, prevention services and share best practices.

Long-Term Benefit

Kent County would have an integrated referral system with ongoing analysis of 1) the responsiveness of service delivery by providers, 2) engagement of parents, and 3) outcomes for children and families. This project would strengthen Kent County families through ensuring prevention services are provided in the communities that need them, are meeting intended outcomes, and continue to reduce the number of children who experience foster care in Kent County.



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$2,813,000

Maximum Cost: \$2,813,000

Submitter Info

Name: Sonia Noorman

Organization: West Michigan
Partnership for Children

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Business Grants

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

Bethany Christian Services,
Catholic Charities West
Michigan, D.A. Blodgett-St
Johns, Samaritas and Wellspring
Lutheran Services

Intended Beneficiary

Children at risk of removal from their familial home will be the primary beneficiary of services, as well as the families of these children. The goal is to keep children safely at home with their families and ensure families receive the support they need.

Estimated Cost

\$2,813,000.00 for three years

Project Management Experience

For the past five years, WMPC has administered foster care and adoption services in Kent County through subcontracts with over 30 providers.

Federal Funds Experience

WMPC has completed quarterly cost reports with the State which includes all revenue and expenses and includes federal funds. Staff at the agency have been trained in managing federal grants.

Studies on Impact

n/a

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Individuals or communities served aligns with Treasury guidelines' definition of 'impacted' or 'disproportionately impacted'. Could also be support to non-profits.



Sustainability

Lacking guaranteed funding after 2026 though partners were identified



Feasibility

PROJECT #252

County of Kent Microbusiness Capacity Building Program



Identify the need for the proposed project

Microbusinesses and small businesses face unique challenges in today's economy, from staffing and supply shortages, to navigating the complex world of grants and loans for recovery and relief. Many communities lack a centralized place for businesses to discover and apply for crucial capacity-building programs. With FORWARD, our team of experienced, knowledgeable thought leaders, domain experts, operations and support staff, and community partners will quickly implement and launch the County of Kent Microbusiness Capacity Building Program to connect microbusinesses with targeted grants and programs intended to help them thrive. There have been several publications measuring the impact of COVID-19 pandemic measures – such as mandatory closures in the early stages of the pandemic and social distancing, health and sanitation requirements, and downward demand shifts thereafter – on microbusinesses. A 2020 study published in the Journal of Economics & Management Strategy found that “the number of active business owners in the United States plummeted by 3.3 million or 22% over ... February to April 2020.” This decline disproportionately impacted businesses owned by women and BIPOC. Many microbusinesses and small businesses simply shuttered; the remaining faced and continue to face significant challenges in recovery and rebound. The US Treasury Department has been providing assistance to small businesses across the country in the form of tax credit, emergency capital investment, and paycheck protection programs. However, many of these programs can be inaccessible to microbusinesses and small businesses; moreover, the benefits from these programs may not be felt immediately. These types of businesses often need short-term capital injections to stay afloat. In our experience in administering COVID-19 recovery/relief programs, we find that local assistance offered by municipalities are more accessible, timely, and successful for microbusinesses, small businesses, and nonprofits. (Please see our answers in the Organizational Capacity section for details and outcomes on the assistance programs we have administered.) Our leadership, operations, and support team are well-versed in these types of civic programs, economic recovery efforts, customer service, and information technology. In addition, our team members have years of professional and lived experience in economic development, community development, homelessness, housing, emergency management, and other related fields. They understand firsthand the circumstances and challenges faced by County businesses and will work closely with staff and partners to ensure optimal operations. Since 2015, LiveStories has worked with more than 350 local, state, and federal governments and agencies to become a trusted steward of community programs across the United States. Funding has assisted businesses with recovering from challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic, including periods of shutdown, declines in revenue, or increased costs. In addition, funds support a robust local economy by providing direct assistance and access to additional real-time resources, all pushed to the applicants based on eligibility provided in their profiles. We currently administer more than \$35 million in small business and nonprofit assistance/grant programs and distribute \$2 million in assistance payments every week. We have seen the impact of these types of programs on the communities and are interested in doing the same for the County

Brief Description

LiveStories is proposing the County of Kent Microbusiness Capacity Building Program to provide capacity building, support, and funding to local businesses and microenterprises. Key elements of the program include: - Direct Assistance Grants: \$5,000 mini-grants for eligible microbusinesses located within the County. Eligible expenses include business rent/mortgage, payroll, infrastructure improvements, and operating expenses for products or services. - Customer Support Center: Customer service and referrals for inbound inquiries from businesses. Available Monday through Friday, from 8 AM to 6 PM ET, and can be reached via telephone, secure online chat, and email. Online Portal: Leverages our FORWARD portal. The program directory within the portal was designed to connect businesses to any federal, state, and local resources for which they may be eligible. Portal allows businesses to search, apply, and track applications for those resources. While this program is available to all businesses with 50 or fewer employees, the program may focus outreach efforts on target industries, as defined by the County. The program provides \$5,000 grants and is expected to assist 45 businesses with grant funding and capacity building. Grants may be used for business rent/mortgage, payroll, infrastructure improvements, and operating expenses. Eligible businesses will also receive access to up to 25 additional state, local, and federal small business resources and programs.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$250,000

Maximum Cost: \$250,000

Submitter Info

Name: Raven McShane

Organization:

Gecko, Inc. dba LiveStories

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Business Grants

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

n/a



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$250,000

Maximum Cost: \$250,000

Submitter Info

Name: Raven McShane

Organization:

Gecko, Inc. dba LiveStories

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Business Grants

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

n/a

Long-Term Benefit

We believe that our proposed model provides the County with a scalable, efficient, and cost-effective solution that will provide direct assistance to local microbusinesses, as well as connect these businesses with needed additional resources, resulting in a marked increase in capacity and sustainability for the County's economy. We anticipate that this program will support 45 microbusinesses.

Intended Beneficiary

This program is intended to benefit microbusinesses within the County.

Estimated Cost

The estimated costs for this program is \$250,000. LiveStories' total cost represents 9.5% of the funds being made available for this program. The following is a breakdown of the services and associated costs for program delivery and management has been provided below: Small Business Grants: \$226,250.00 / Project Administration: \$3,750.00 / Portal Development: \$2,500.00 / Marketing/Outreach: \$3,750.00 / Application Intake: \$7,500.00 / Payment Services: \$6,250.00. We will work with the County to finalize the costs before the start of the project.

Project Management Experience

LiveStories was established in 2015 and is headquartered in Seattle, Washington. Since our inception, we have worked with more than 350 local, state, and federal governments and agencies to become a trusted steward of business assistance programs across the United States. Our FORWARD solution helps our customers streamline community development, communication, and compliance to maximize their recovery efforts. In addition, our significant experience in working with these types of programs and resources – including outreach, marketing, staffing, platform, operations, and capacity – makes us well-equipped to successfully administer our proposed County of Kent Microbusiness Capacity Building Program from Day 1. Because we are doing this work in communities across the United States, we have been able to establish best practices, efficiencies, and capabilities that translate to quicker, effective, and robust program implementation and management. Highlights of LiveStories' qualifications and unique capabilities include the following: - Administering assistance programs like ARPA, CARES, CDBG, and CSLFRF. Our integrated approach uses a modern technology stack and a team of experts to provide end-to-end program management support, streamline and automate manual processes, and reduce program costs. Our extensive capacity incorporates training and coaching internal and external key personnel on how to effectively manage grants, including fiscal and programmatic reporting requirements, the scope of services, terms, coordinate and participate in external funder audits, including preparation of review materials and outcome/benchmark reports, and other related activities. - Managing large-scale coronavirus-related assistance programs. We have experience deploying and managing multi-million dollar assistance programs for households, businesses, and nonprofits. Our offering includes full administration and management of assistance programs, including connecting applicants to the County's program and other resources, collaborating with local partners to design programs, developing applications, collecting and reviewing applications, distributing funds, providing application and technical assistance, providing ongoing reports to leadership, and following all document retention requirements. - Providing trauma-informed, compassionate support to people in need. Housing instability and homelessness are traumatic events for people who find themselves suddenly struggling. People in need of assistance programs like the County's program may be under high levels of stress and anxiety, which is why we are compassionate, empathetic, and understanding at both the organizational and customer service levels. If needed, we will work with our customers to design assistance programs that mitigate barriers and burdens to assistance. In addition, our support center team is trained to navigate applicant interactions with respect and empathy toward an applicant's situation, which has been key to diffusing any tension and refocusing the interaction on getting the assistance they need. - Targeted program outreach. We will work with the County to develop program-specific communications and outreach plans to enhance awareness of the programs we administer, especially in historically disadvantaged and marginalized communities. This collaboration allows us to amplify the reach and capacity of the County's program, connect with a greater number of applicants, and provide culturally and linguistically sensitive service to applicants. - Mitigation of barriers to access for diverse ethnic backgrounds. Our culturally and linguistically sensitive and relevant outreach, as well as simple and intuitive processes paired with customized technical assistance, ensures that target communities can effectively navigate the program and any other resources and programs that the County may make available to them. - Monitoring and learning in real time about the needs and impact



(Page 3)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$250,000

Maximum Cost: \$250,000

Submitter Info

Name: Raven McShane

Organization:

Gecko, Inc. dba LiveStories

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Business Grants

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Federal Funds Experience

The majority of the assistance and grant programs we have been contracted to administer are federally funded. Because of our significant experience in working with these types of programs, we are well-equipped to administer the County's program effectively and will ensure that the program adheres to all required rules, regulations, and guidance.

Studies on Impact

Yes. There have been several publications measuring the impact of COVID-19 pandemic measures – such as mandatory closures in the early stages of the pandemic and social distancing, health and sanitation requirements, and downward demand shifts thereafter – on microbusinesses. A few publications have been cited below. - Fairlie, Robert. "The Impact of Covid-19 on Small Business Owners: Evidence from the First 3 Months after Widespread Social-Distancing Restrictions." Journal of Economics & Management Strategy, John Wiley and Sons Inc., 27 Aug. 2020, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7461311/>. - Lewis, Pamela. "Supporting Microbusinesses in Underserved Communities during the COVID-19 Recovery." Brookings, Brookings, 9 Mar. 2022, <https://www.brookings.edu/research/supporting-microbusinesses-in-underserved-communities-during-the-covid-19-recovery/>. - "NFIB Covid-19 Survey: Small Business Recovery Remains Fragile." NFIB, 27 Apr. 2021, <https://www.nfib.com/content/press-release/coronavirus/nfib-covid-19-survey-small-business-recovery-remains-fragile/>. - "Assistance for Small Businesses." U.S. Department of the Treasury, 13 Apr. 2021, <https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/coronavirus/assistance-for-small-businesses>.

Guidehouse Ranking Notes

 **Eligibility**

Small business support is eligible

 **Sustainability**

Does not include a funding plan or fund availability after expending all the ARPA dollars.

 **Feasibility**

Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

n/a



PROJECT #286

Equitable, Healthy and Zero Carbon Buildings Initiative (E.H.Zero) Housing Renovation Pilot Program

Identify the need for the proposed project

In 2017, the City of Grand Rapids (City) was one of twelve cities selected to participate in the Zero Cities Project (ZCP) to develop an actionable and equitable roadmap to achieve a zero net carbon building sector by 2050. The ZCP was based on having a policy process informed by technical analysis that was to include community collaboration and a focus on equity. The City partnered with the U.S. Green Building Council of West Michigan (USGBCWM) and the Urban Core Collective (UCC) on the ZCP. In partnership with Architecture 2030, our baseline building assessment showed that single family homes make up more than 50% of the building square footage and 37% of all building sector emissions in the city of Grand Rapids. Nationally, a household that spends more than 6% of total income on energy bills is considered energy burdened. The UCC completed a Grand Rapids Equity Assessment which found that Kent County households below 50% of the federal poverty level spend about a third of their income on home energy bills and all households under 200% of the Federal Poverty Level spend more than 6% on energy bills. The assessment also demonstrates that residents of color live in households with the greatest amount of lead in paint, have the least amount of wealth accumulation, and are in areas with the least amount of green space. The UCC also surveyed residents and identified barriers to participation in local home repair, energy efficiency and weatherization programs. The ZCP partners also concluded that a whole homes navigator program offered via trusted community based organizations that addresses all of a household's needs at one time is needed to streamline referrals to existing programs that are offered separately by different organizations (utility energy efficiency and rebate programs, residential health assessments and improvements, home repair services, weatherization programming, water/sewer bill assistance, etc.). In 2021, the ZCP was completed and the partners agreed to continue the work by launching the Grand Rapids Policies and Programs for Equitable, Healthy, and Zero Carbon Buildings Initiative (E.H.Zero).

Brief Description

One of the goals of E.H.Zero is to demonstrate what affordable low-to zero-carbon homes could look like in Grand Rapids while addressing equity, health, financial stability, and local resilience to climate change. This is to be accomplished through a renovation pilot of approximately ten diverse homes to receive wrap-around repairs and services to improve energy efficiency, climate resiliency, housing affordability, and health. The homes will be a mix of renters, home owners, and housing types, and will be located within the Neighborhoods of Focus. This renovation pilot will also seek to eliminate barriers for the households to leverage all available and applicable home repair services related to energy efficiency and improved health and safety. After completion of the pilot, we intend to create a full-blown "Whole Homes Navigator" program that can be used to support households across the entire county. E.H.Zero partners have welcomed GreenStar to the team, a collaborative of GreenHome Institute, Seeds of Promise, Building Bridges, and Elevate who will be paid \$100,000 to manage the pilot. An estimated \$340,000 is needed to conduct the renovation pilot (~\$30,000 per home for 10 homes, \$40,000 more for Greenstar management).

Long-Term Benefit

In the long run, this project will contribute to local advancement of what healthy, affordable, energy efficient, and climate resilient homes can look like in West Michigan. Residents in need will directly benefit from energy savings and improvements to the health and safety of homes. Our community as a whole will benefit from reducing carbon emissions from buildings which contribute to air pollution and accelerating climate change. Access to programs addressing the "Whole Home" will improve.

Intended Beneficiary

Low-income residents experiencing high energy burden located within the City of Grand Rapids' Neighborhoods of Focus.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$340,000

Maximum Cost: \$340,000

Submitter Info

Name: Cheri Holman

Organization: U.S. Green Building Council of West Michigan

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Business Grants

Project Status: Existing Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

City of Grand Rapids, Urban Core Collective, GreenHome Institute, Building Bridges, Seeds of Promise, and Elevate. We have also created a five member BIPOC Consulting Team of residents actively involved in the community to help inform our approach in being equitable in E.H.Zero work.



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$340,000

Maximum Cost: \$340,000

Submitter Info

Name: Cheri Holman

Organization: U.S. Green Building Council of West Michigan

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Business Grants

Project Status: Existing Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

City of Grand Rapids, Urban Core Collective, GreenHome Institute, Building Bridges, Seeds of Promise, and Elevate. We have also created a five member BIPOC Consulting Team of residents actively involved in the community to help inform our approach in being equitable in E.H.Zero work.

Estimated Cost

\$340,000 needed (estimated ~\$30,000 per home for 10 homes in pilot and additional \$40,000 for project management by GreenStar)

*Source of Funding

The total cost of the three-year E.H.Zero initiative was budgeted at \$1.3 million which includes renovation of at least 5 homes. We hope to scale up to 10 renovated homes with Kent County support. So far, the partners have successfully raised about \$1 million for E.H.Zero work which includes generous support of \$600,000 from the Wege Foundation, \$150,000 from the Kresge Foundation, and \$65,000 from the Summit Foundation. We have already allocated \$60,000 to GreenStar to manage renovations of at least 5 homes.

Project Management Experience

The U.S. Green Building Council of West Michigan (USGBC-WM) has several large projects (past & present). A current project is the state-wide Michigan Battle of the Buildings which includes over 1500 buildings representing over 250 million square feet of commercial/industrial real estate competing to be the annual biggest loser of energy/carbon. This project was launched in 2014 and continues to grow. The USGBC-WM facilitated a 4 year project called the Energy Assistance Program funded by the State of Michigan to provide ASHRAE Level audits to educational institutions, houses of worship, non-profits, and small businesses. The USGBC-WM acted as an owners representative contracting with local auditors to provide strategic plans for 20 buildings in Kent County. The USGBCWM hosted the Drawdown Michigan conference in 2019 bringing together 43 partner organizations and more than 500 community members for the largest conference focused on climate change in West Michigan.

Federal Funds Experience

The U.S. Green Building Council of West Michigan (USGBC-WM) has managed several State of Michigan grants for Energy Efficiency and Carbon Reduction. These grants have ranged from \$15k to \$180k and were dollars provided to the State of Michigan by the U.S. Federal Government. So, while the USGBC-WM has never applied directly for a federal grant, we have had to meet the State of Michigan requirements which are in line with their federal reporting requirements.

Studies on Impact

Many studies link the negative impacts of burning fossil fuels to health, such as those referenced on the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health website. The U.S. Green Building Council of West Michigan website includes a Zero Carbon Resource library featuring information on buildings and healthy and best practices from national organizations such as RMI, New Buildings Institute and ACEEE.

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

If the individuals or communities served were narrowly tailored - this would be eligible.



PROJECT #193

Community Insight and the Kent County Community Data Trust

Identify the need for the proposed project

The Johnson Center for Philanthropy has been providing easy access to community data for more than ten years. In summer 2021, the Johnson Center launched Community Insight (link: <https://johnsoncenter.org/community-insight>), a new interactive, online dashboard for displaying data about local communities, understanding community opportunities and needs, and targeting efforts for advancing equity. Community Insight has a limited set of data for each county in the United States. Since the launch, we have received calls each month from Kent County residents, nonprofits, and local government officials looking for more granular data across Kent County because Community Insight does not include neighborhood-level information. The center's well-known, and frequently accessed, community fact sheets – which only cover neighborhoods in the City of Grand Rapids – still use data from 2017. (link: <https://data.johnsoncenter.org/community-profiles>) We have received very positive feedback on the new Community Insight platform. Unlike the static (and outdated) neighborhood profiles, Community Insight allows users to create custom dashboards to further their understanding of community opportunities and focus efforts for advancing equity. Expanding the neighborhood information county-wide is a direct response to monthly requests to the Johnson Center from the community.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$179,155

Maximum Cost: \$758,800

Submitter Info

Name: Jeff Williams

Organization: Johnson Center for Philanthropy, GVSU

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Business Grants

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

The Kent County Essential Needs Task Force, KConnect, the Kent County Health Department, DataWise Consulting, Family Futures, and the Southeast Grand Rapids Promise Neighborhoods initiative have been briefed on Community Insight, have accessed the platform, and/or have specifically requested that data be added to the existing platform for communities in Kent County.

Brief Description

This project would give us capacity to upload and maintain expanded data for Kent County by census tract, and combine those tracts into neighborhoods countywide. This will (1) update existing neighborhood fact sheets with current American Community Survey (ACS) data, (2) expand the fact sheets across Kent County at the census tract level, (3) append 2020 Census data (when released in 2023), (4) provide annual ACS data updates through 2026, and (5) launch the Kent County Community Data Trust. Community Insight (link: <https://johnsoncenter.org/community-insight>) is an interactive, online platform for displaying data about local communities, understanding community opportunities and needs, and targeting efforts for advancing equity. The platform draws on multiple datasets from a range of systems and institutions on topics such as education, health, economic opportunity, and population demographics. The Kent County Community Data Trust (link: <https://www.wearedatawise.com/our-work/community-data-trust>) is a new entity/virtual team that would convene technical and legal leadership to advise community organizations on the interoperability of critical data systems. Improved, interconnected systems are needed both to support aggregate analysis of Kent County's social and educational services, and – with appropriate consent and oversight – to support better alignment among services to individuals and families.

Long-Term Benefit

Community data is frequently siloed across organizations; this project brings these disparate sources under a shared framework (the Community Data Trust). A critical second benefit is expanding the neighborhood-level data across Kent County, putting maps, trend charts, and detailed tables into the hands of every resident. This combination means data about Kent County communities – from the ACS, Community Health Needs Assessment, etc. – can be more quickly loaded and shared with the public.

Intended Beneficiary

Members of the public – especially neighborhood groups and nonprofits – as well as reporters, community advocates, and high school and college students completing community-based research and volunteer projects will benefit most from this proposed project.



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$179,155

Maximum Cost: \$758,800

Submitter Info

Name: Jeff Williams

Organization: Johnson Center for Philanthropy, GVSU

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Business Grants

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

The Kent County Essential Needs Task Force, KConnect, the Kent County Health Department, DataWise Consulting, Family Futures, and the Southeast Grand Rapids Promise Neighborhoods initiative have been briefed on Community Insight, have accessed the platform, and/or have specifically requested that data be added to the existing platform for communities in Kent County.

Estimated Cost

\$179,155 in year 1; \$185,997 in year 2; \$193,118 in year 3; \$200,529 in year 4; inclusive of data loads, staffing, secure hosting and infrastructure fees, and custom programming. Four year total as currently scoped would be \$758,800. It is important to note that this project could be scaled up or down based on available funding because the primary driver of cost is the breadth and depth of data selected for the expanded neighborhood fact sheets.

*Source of Funding

The Johnson Center is currently the lead evaluator for the Grand Rapids-based programs of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation (WKKF). Some of these funds, which focus on the Grand Rapids WKKF Neighborhoods of Promise, could be used as match for community-level data on topics such as economic inclusion and social determinants of health. Similarly, depending on the indicators selected for the expanded neighborhood fact sheets, other active projects of the Johnson Center would be used as match. Our best faith estimate of these amounts are reflected in the answer above. In addition, companion data work – and, depending on federal rules, program funding – from the Promise Neighborhoods project is directly applicable to this work for specific geographies within the City of Grand Rapids. The Southeast Grand Rapids Promise Neighborhood grant runs from 2022 through 2026, which aligns well with the ARPA funding deadlines.

Project Management Experience

The Johnson Center is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year, and has a wealth of experience with large scale, county-wide and regional efforts. We are currently the lead evaluator for projects in Battle Creek Public Schools, as well as the Grand Rapids programs of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

Federal Funds Experience

Currently, the Johnson Center is the lead evaluator and data manager for the five-year Promise Neighborhoods Initiative in Southeast Grand Rapids, funded by the U.S. Department of Education. In addition, the Johnson Center is engaged on a three-year, federally-funded grant to the Michigan Community Service Commission. Senior staff at the center have experience with federally funded projects, including prior work for the U.S. Department of Energy, the U.S. Department of Justice, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Studies on Impact

There is a wealth of prior academic and practitioner research on community engagement and participatory decision making. Specifically for this project, which centers on the use of data by neighborhoods and nonprofits as a tool for community development and community improvement, we recommend reports from entities such as the Elevate Data for Equity program at the Urban Institute (link: <https://www.urban.org/elevate-data-equity>), including the research brief, "Investing in Data Capacity for Community Change." (link: <https://www.urban.org/research/publication/investing-data-capacity-community-change>) The Johnson Center is proud to serve as one of only two Michigan-based partners in the National Neighborhood Indicators Project, also housed at the Urban Institute, which furthers the link between quality data and engaged communities. (link: <https://www.neighborhoodindicators.org/about-nnip/about-network>) The power of data in the hands of communities is also demonstrated by other programs, such as the National Equity Atlas (link: <https://nationalequityatlas.org/>) and the Pandemic to Prosperity project of the National Council on Citizenship. (link: <https://www.pandemictoprosperity.org/>)



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Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Eligible under revenue replacement. Additional information will be needed if the proposal moves forward in the process.



Sustainability

Does not include a funding plan or fund availability after expending all the ARPA dollars.



Feasibility

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$179,155

Maximum Cost: \$758,800

Submitter Info

Name: Jeff Williams

Organization: Johnson Center for Philanthropy, GVSU

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Business Grants

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

The Kent County Essential Needs Task Force, KConnect, the Kent County Health Department, DataWise Consulting, Family Futures, and the Southeast Grand Rapids Promise Neighborhoods initiative have been briefed on Community Insight, have accessed the platform, and/or have specifically requested that data be added to the existing platform for communities in Kent County.



PROJECT #225

Innovative Strategies for Economic Growth in the Kent County Minority Business Community

Identify the need for the proposed project

In 2020, two of this project's current team members, Crystal Bui (Asian Community Outreach) and Bing Goei (West Michigan Asian American Association), worked with Kent County and the City of Grand Rapids on two separate projects to provide economic assistance to businesses impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. Our team members led efforts to conduct outreach and provided technical assistance to Asian-owned small businesses in Kent County and the teams we led helped over 130 businesses obtain relief funds from Kent County and from the City of Grand Rapids. In addition, our team members organized seminars and resources for business owners in our community during the pandemic. Through their work assisting businesses during the pandemic, they identified areas that were particularly challenging for minority business owners, including but not limited to: adoption and use of technology in business operations; access to capital; poor business record-keeping and need for professional consulting services such as accountants and attorneys.

Brief Description

A wraparound program targeted towards businesses owned by members of historically underserved groups in Kent County, such as minority and women-owned businesses. The program's goals are providing opportunity, advancement, and transformation for new and existing businesses in Kent County. Specifically, our business consultants will work with qualified individuals and businesses to ascertain their capital requirements and provide financial assistance for start-up or expansion expenditures; ascertain their technology needs and provide financial assistance for the adoption and implementation of new technology in their operations; and help them secure professional services for their legal, accounting, or other business needs through the retention of skilled professionals in Kent County. In addition, the proposal will create a technology center located in a designated Smart Zone within the city of Grand Rapids to provide business owners with access to technology services for their business operations, such as 3D printing. The program will provide financial assistance and professional consultation to both new and existing small to micro-sized businesses, with the goal of stimulating business creation and development. The Chamber, with its expansive network and resources, can offer consultation for minority investors that seek resources and opportunities for mid-seized ventures, and for foreign investors and companies that seek to do business in Kent County.

Long-Term Benefit

The main long-term benefit of the proposed project is economic growth for Kent County – the project will facilitate the creation of new small businesses and the expansion of existing small businesses. In addition, we will utilize the Chamber's network and resources to help grow new international small businesses in Kent County, increase opportunities to bring new international investments to support small businesses in Kent County, and recruit international talent to Kent County.

Intended Beneficiary

Entrepreneurs and existing small business owners from communities with that are historically underserved or groups with specific barriers (e.g., language barriers, lack of sophistication, lack of formal education) including but not limited to minorities and women.

Estimated Cost

\$6 - \$6.5 million

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$6,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$6,500,000

Submitter Info

Name: Duc Nguyen Abrahamson

Organization: Asian Pacific American Chamber of Commerce, West Michigan office

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Business Grants

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

n/a



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Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$6,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$6,500,000

Submitter Info

Name: Duc Nguyen Abrahamson

Organization: Asian Pacific American Chamber of Commerce, West Michigan office

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Business Grants

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

n/a

Project Management Experience

Team members (Crystal Bui, Asian Community Outreach) and Bing Goes (APACC West Michigan Operations Manager, West Michigan Asian American Association, Inc) previously worked with Kent County and the Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce on the Kent County Small Business Recovery Program. The fiduciary organization on that program (the West Michigan Asian American Association or "WMAAA") received funds from Kent County to assist the GR Chamber in conducting outreach and providing technical assistance to struggling Asian-owned businesses in Kent County. WMAAA hired nonprofit directors from another community organization, Asian Community Outreach (ACO), to manage the project. The GR Chamber was the organization administering the recovery program for Kent County. Our members led teams that helped over 130 small businesses secure grants. Most of the business owners were unsophisticated and the initial applications were poorly written and missing required documentation. Our team worked with business owners to obtain the required documentation and submit complete and compelling applications. Our team also served as the liaison between the Asian business owners and the GR Chamber for follow-up requests. In addition, staff at the GR Chamber asked our team members to reach out to Asian business owners who did not apply for relief through our assistance but were otherwise unreachable or needed assistance with their applications. In addition to helping clients that approached them, our team members helped several businesses that did not apply through their assistance project. The team was a helpful partner to the GR Chamber of Commerce because they facilitated the objectives of the program with a community that is harder to work with due to language barriers.

Federal Funds Experience

APACC in partnership with National ACE received CARES Act funding to provide educational webinars and help small businesses navigate through COVID shutdowns, apply for PPP, and provide virtual resources and networking opportunities to small businesses. We were able to reach 225 clients.

Studies on Impact

Our team has designed this project based on their experience working with past county relief programs. With regard to the creation of a technology center in a designated Smart Zone for small and start-up businesses, a 2020 article from the Journal of Responsible Innovation discussed the "digital divide," or inequality in the information communications technologies in certain communities. The article noted that with the emergence of computers and the internet in the 1990s, companies that adopted ICTs became more competitive and efficient. According to the article, "With the rise of ICTs, it became clear that wealthy parts of society had more access to the technology while less affluent areas of the world were left behind. The 'digital divide' grew." The article noted that innovators and gov't officials have spent significant time battling the 'digital divide' with varying degrees of success, including providing computers to marginalized groups, incorporating ICTs in education and training, and changing economic incentives for companies to invest in ICTs infrastructure in low income communities. See <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/23299460.2020.1808151>

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

This may be eligible if these businesses had negative impacts from Covid. This also means that newly created businesses are not eligible



Sustainability

Does not include a funding plan or fund availability after expending all the ARPA dollars.



Feasibility

PROJECT #18

Black Wallstreet Grand Rapids Development (Eastern Burton Village District)



Identify the need for the proposed project

Grand Rapids made national news in 2015, as Forbes ranked Grand Rapids Michigan the 2nd worst City Economically for Blacks in the USA. GR/ Kent County still has not truly rectified that heartbreaking fact/ crisis

Brief Description

Black Wallstreet Grand Rapids is a economic and tourism start up entity with mission to acquire and develop real estate to build Black Business Districts in the most underserved and least invested ward in GR. (Southeast side Third ward). BWSGR is named after Black Wallstreet in Greenwood Tulsa of the early 1900s. (The Wealthiest Black Community in American History) BWSGR consist of 8 Districts (Burton Eastern District, Oakdale District, Madison Square District, Madison & Hall, Neland & Franklin, Eastern & Franklin, Boston Square, Grandville Ave partially)

Long-Term Benefit

BWSGR goal is to help make GR a diverse, inclusive, cultured world class city for locals and tourist to enjoy. BWSGR goal is to skyrocket GR's Black economy, create jobs, Entrepreneurship, and make safer communities. BWSGR will increase the overall brand value of Grand Rapids beyond our thriving Downtown and a few other great areas.

Intended Beneficiary

Black & brown minority BIPOC communities will be the majority beneficiaries of BWSGR. BWSGR targets investment & development in Southeast Third ward GR (the most poverty stricken, most underserved and least invested ward in GR Michigan currently & historically.

Estimated Cost

(Estimated cost)6.2million per year annually(on average BWSGR will campaign for 60K to 100K per private-public Donor in our Capital Campaign

Project Management Experience

Our Fiduciary's President is a staff of City Hall City of Grand Rapids, and has experience with large projects. Our BWSGR team consists of Entrepreneurs and developers and has experience leading/ managing large projects

Federal Funds Experience

Our organization has not yet/ never worked with Federal Funding.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$6,200,000

Maximum Cost: \$6,200,000

ARPA Request: \$6,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Preston Sain

Organization:

Black Wallstreet Grand Rapids

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Business Grants

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

BWSGR Founders has great relationships with both city & Kent County Commissioners and looks to earn inclusion in both City & County General Budget as a public source of funding in BWSGR public private collective effort mission.

Partnership

Aqume Foundation serves as our 501c3 Fiduciary partner

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$6,200,000

Maximum Cost: \$6,200,000

ARPA Request: \$6,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Preston Sain

Organization:

Black Wallstreet Grand Rapids

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Business Grants

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Studies on Impact

In 2015 world renowned Forbes ranked Grand Rapids Michigan the 2nd worst City Economically for Blacks in the USA. (search pinned top featured post on Black Wallstreet Grand Rapids Facebook for article link) In 2020 www.lowincome.org ranked Grand Rapids top 5 worst city Economically for Blacks in the USA (source available on BWSGR social media platforms & Google)

Supporting Documentation

1. [Capital Campaign Flyer](#)

2. [WGVU Article](#)

3. [Letter of Support](#)

Guidehouse Ranking Notes

Eligibility

Funds are only eligible to small businesses that were impacted or disproportionately impacted. Additional information will be needed if the proposal moves forward in the process.

Sustainability

Does not include a funding plan or fund availability after expending all the ARPA dollars.

Feasibility

In general, proposal is lacking information to make an informed assessment.

Source of Funding

BWSGR Founders has great relationships with both city & Kent County Commissioners and looks to earn inclusion in both City & County General Budget as a public source of funding in BWSGR public private collective effort mission.

Partnership

Aqume Foundation serves as our 501c3 Fiduciary partner



PROJECT #148

The Aroma Labs

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$5,000

Maximum Cost: \$20,000

Submitter Info

Name: Tanya Thompson

Organization: The Aroma Labs

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Business Grants

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

n/a

Identify the need for the proposed project

The Aroma Labs is a unique, creative, gender neutral experience that allows the guests an opportunity to develop their own signature scent. For both personal and business. Groups and gatherings...The Aroma Labs has something everybody to enjoy. Mission: Creating a personal interactive experience that builds community and fosters development of other local entrepreneurs/business owners. Our products (soaps, scrubs, lotions, beard balms/oils) are handcrafted by female entrepreneurs and a portion of our profits go to Michigan Women Forward, which is a funding and grant program for female entrepreneurs within the state of Michigan. The Aroma Labs is a unique experience that was brought to downtown Grand Rapids (flagship store in Kalamazoo) about 8 months ago and we have had a difficult hiring season.

Brief Description

The Aroma Labs is a new business and would appreciate assistance in the form of funding to identify/develop team members for inside and outside sales. These funds would benefit our organization by attracting, training, and continued development for The Aroma Labs.

Long-Term Benefit

The Aroma Labs offers a unique experience like no other in the state of Michigan. Experience based activities provide value to our downtown retail/event/art based community efforts. Providing additional jobs for our micro and macro economy. In addition, The Aroma Labs has served guests from all over our region (Some guests drive from Detroit, Lansing, Chicago) to experience something as unique and creative as The Aroma Labs. These visitor stay, eat, and shop within the community

Intended Beneficiary

The Aroma Labs

Estimated Cost

5,000-20,000

Project Management Experience

None

Federal Funds Experience

None

Studies on Impact

No



Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$5,000

Maximum Cost: \$20,000

Submitter Info

Name: Tanya Thompson

Organization: The Aroma Labs

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Business Grants

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

n/a

The Treasury Guidelines indicate that for projects to be eligible for economic and workforce development there must be a benefit to those who have been negatively and/or disproportionately impacted economically. This includes underemployed and unemployed persons. Additionally, the funds cannot be used to start new businesses.



PROJECT #248

Start Garden 100

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$1,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$1,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Laurie Supinski

Organization: Start Garden

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Business Grants

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

Start Garden works collaboratively with many other Entrepreneurial Support Organizations who prepare entrepreneurs for the Start Garden 100 program. Among them are Spring GR, GROW, SBDC, SCORE, Spartan Innovations etc.

Identify the need for the proposed project

Start Garden currently supports entrepreneurs by providing early stage capital and connections to resources through our Start Garden 100 and 5x5 Night programs. We are intentional about making sure our platforms are accessible to under represented founders in order to help them launch and grow businesses in order to create wealth. In addition to the startup capital we have identified an increased need to provide growth capital for businesses in the expansion phase.

Brief Description

The Start Garden 100 currently selects 100 entrepreneurs to receive \$1000 each to work on their business and prepare for a Demo Day event where they compete to be one of 10 businesses to receive an additional \$20,000. Similar to Detroit Demo Day the next phase of SG 100 would include a growth stage category to allow existing startups to receive growth capital. We currently put \$300,000 a year directly into the hands of entrepreneurs through this program but additional funds would allow us to establish the growth category where the need is great and the dollar amount of the grants would be larger.

Long-Term Benefit

Early stage capital to seed startups creates a robust ecosystem of entrepreneurship. But being able to provide additional capital to businesses that have traction and need funds to continue to grow is critical. Many of these entrepreneurs, despite their success still have trouble securing traditional financing and don't have the network of family/friends money who can invest in their business. Being able to have some next level funding will enhance the Start Garden 100 platform.

Intended Beneficiary

Under represented founders who have shown business growth but do not yet have the ability to secure traditional financing or investment capital.

Estimated Cost

\$1,000,000.00 - would allow us to fund 5 businesses a year for 3 years. The economic impact will be measured by follow on funding that these companies are able to obtain after our investment and also in jobs created as these companies grown and add employees.

Project Management Experience

Our Start Garden 100 platform is already reaching national audience. The funds however are primarily to support entrepreneurs in Kent County and the surrounding area.

Federal Funds Experience

We have not received federal funds in the past.



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Studies on Impact

We do have access to research on ecosystem building and we also have data to back up the demographics of the companies we serve, the startup capital that we've deployed and how that correlates to follow on investment the company receives and also job creation.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$1,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$1,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Laurie Supinski

Organization: Start Garden

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Business Grants

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

Start Garden works collaboratively with many other Entrepreneurial Support Organizations who prepare entrepreneurs for the Start Garden 100 program. Among them are Spring GR, GROW, SBDC, SCORE, Spartan Innovations etc.

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

The Treasury Guidelines indicate that for projects to be eligible for economic and workforce development there must be a benefit to those who have been negatively and/or disproportionately impacted economically. This includes underemployed and unemployed persons. Additionally, the funds cannot be used to start new businesses.

3 year program



PROJECT #43

Off grid net zero house on a city lot

Identify the need for the proposed project

Climate Crisis

Brief Description

Fund construction of a solar-powered net zero home (PHIUS Zero certification) on a lot at 720 Eastern Ave NE. Home will have provisions for seasonal thermal energy storage. Home will also selfgenerate power for two EVs. It will be built as a spec house for sake of learning and demonstration. It will be sold and any profits generated rolled into construction of the next one. Estimated investment needed is \$300K, pending final design.

Long-Term Benefit

Demonstrate capability for housing infrastructure to drive carbon emissions from housing and transportation to zero, in manner that is economical on an LCA basis.

Intended Beneficiary

hmmm...the community at large, but also this new startup business: <https://minetzero.com>

Estimated Cost

250,000 to 350,000 for labor, materials, subcontractors

Project Management Experience

none

Federal Funds Experience

none

Studies on Impact

Yes: Phius Zero homes: Passive House Institute US: <https://www.phius.org/> Yes: storage technology: <https://www.extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/ae/ae-89.html> Yes: my own modeling using SolarEdge Designer software and Excel.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$250,000

Maximum Cost: \$350,000

Submitter Info

Name: Dale Hulst

Organization:
Michigan Net Zero Homes LLC

Project Overview

Funding Group: Infrastructure
Project Theme: Business Grants
Project Status: New Project
Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

I will obtain a small business loan if ARPA funds are not available/appropriate.

Partnership

Greenhome Institute

Guidehouse Ranking Notes

 **Eligibility**

Not a government service - not eligible under revenue replacement. Individuals or communities served is not clear or does not align with Treasury guidelines' definition of 'impacted' or 'disproportionately impacted'. Economic development is not eligible.

 **Sustainability**

One time expense

 **Feasibility**



PROJECT #288

Sewing fashion class school

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$40,000

Maximum Cost: \$75,000

Submitter Info

Name: Reginald James

Organization: Sewing Seeds

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Business Grants

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact:    

Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

n/a

Identify the need for the proposed project

I currently teach sewing classes locally and for the Van Andle museum school. I have a high demand and kids and adults are wanting to attend.

Brief Description

I plan to use the funds to start my fashion slash sewing school. I also would want to help with the community youth in helping keeping them busy with designing and art fashion jus creativity in general.

Long-Term Benefit

I'm thinking the long term would ne a mentorship with the youth not only as kids but as they turn teens.

Intended Beneficiary

I think the youth will benefit the most from my skills of sewing, art and design upholstery and my drawing knowledge. I have 10 custom made hoodies in local museum throughout Grand Rapids.

Estimated Cost

40,000 to 75,000

Project Management Experience

I have alot of experience in getting exhibits ready for museums.. Vit I feel I have experience in all that I do as far as art is concerned.

Federal Funds Experience

none at all

Studies on Impact

I have done some research as far as what's needed in the community. I have talked with parents and kids about things they would like it it all goes back to home economics and that's what I envision for the school.

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Cannot fund a new business. Individuals and communities not narrowly tailored.



Sustainability

Does not include a funding plan or fund availability after expending all the ARPA dollars.



Feasibility



PROJECT #291

Funeral Home Targeting Spanish Speaking Families

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$250,000

Maximum Cost: \$450,000

Submitter Info

Name: Molly Perez

Organization: n/a

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Business Grants

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

n/a

Identify the need for the proposed project

As a licensed master's level social with two decades experience, and as individual in a Latinix family, living my entire life in Kent Co, I have encountered a large population of Spanish speaking individuals and an array of corresponding services. However, in exploring services associated with funerals, cremation, death, grief and loss, bi-lingual options are limited to those who are providing translation services rather than direct support in Spanish.

Brief Description

A funeral home that has a Spanish name, with Spanish speaking staff, adhering to the specific cultural preferences and practices within the Latinix population. Staff providing assistance in one's native language would bring solice to those experiencing grief. Services and products would be tailored to the customs, traditions and norms as it pertains to death within the Spanish speaking community. Culturally appropriate supports would remove the language and cultural barriers at time of increased stress.

Long-Term Benefit

Greif, related loss and trauma can have life long negative implications, such as mental heath crisis, substance use, lost wages, ect. when sufficient coping measures aren't available. A culturally safe space to cope, grieve and gain support would serve as a protective measure in time of loss. Having a local service to address this need directly would improve the quality of life during one of life's most difficult, and yet inescapable realities-death.

Intended Beneficiary

Individuals whose primary language is Spanish as well as those whose native language is Spanish as we often default to our native roots in times of heighten status.

Estimated Cost

\$250,000-\$450,000

Project Management Experience

Applying as an individual. Individually I have experience managing countywide programs for a community mental health authority. This project would require the hiring of staff including a project manager

Federal Funds Experience

Applying as an individual. Individually I have experience managing countywide programs for a community mental health authority. This project would require the hiring of staff including a project manager.



(Page 2)

Studies on Impact

Death is a cultural event. This is an undisputable sociological fact. In heightened situations, such as death, is it imperative that as part of the healthy healing process, communication be clear, accurate and unhindered. Culturally sensitive supports lead to overall increased well-being.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$250,000

Maximum Cost: \$450,000

Submitter Info

Name: Molly Perez

Organization: n/a

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Business Grants

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

n/a

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Cannot fund new businesses.



Sustainability

Does not include a funding plan or fund availability after expending all the ARPA dollars.



Feasibility



PROJECT #257

Connecting with Family, Friends & Community

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$75,000

Maximum Cost: \$100,000

Submitter Info

Name: Becky Tezeno

Organization: Da Fam Worldwide

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Business Grants

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

n/a

Identify the need for the proposed project

We realized that family & communities don't invest in time to get closer, such as family gathering/reunions or neighborhood block parties. People are too busy to make time and effort to invest in their family and communities. Neighbors don't know or communicate with their neighbors. We would like to connect family, friends and community.

Brief Description

Families/communities will have the opportunity to have the ultimate family reunion, class reunion or block party. Each year people will submit why they think they should receive the help/funding for this venture. We would provide assistance for planning the event along with financial assistance for things such as food, entertainment, venue, etc.

Long-Term Benefit

Connecting family and community. Neighbors looking out for each other. Possible reduction in crime and people better understanding each other. Increase in family, community values.

Intended Beneficiary

Families and communities

Estimated Cost

\$75,000 - \$100,000

Project Management Experience

We have planned family gatherings & church events for over the last 20 years.

Federal Funds Experience

No experience

Studies on Impact

No

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

The Treasury Guidelines indicate that for projects to be eligible for economic and workforce development there must be a benefit to those who have been negatively and/or disproportionately impacted economically. This includes underemployed and unemployed persons. Additionally, the funds cannot be used to start new businesses.



Sustainability

Does not include a funding plan or fund availability after expending all the ARPA dollars.



PROJECT #31

Cate's Cafe

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$150,000

Maximum Cost: \$300,000

Submitter Info

Name: Catherine Carns

Organization: Cherry Health Street

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Business Grants

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

n/a

Identify the need for the proposed project

There are a lot of recent shootings in the community and there are elderly people who are still in need of work. What better way to impact the community than by employing people of all ages, denominations, races and economic backgrounds showing them a standard way of living through consistency, a decent wage and positive reinforcement for good work.

Brief Description

A modern cafe, located downtown Grand Rapids near the grand valley university campus. I would employee some full-time, part-time and seasonal help. I would first employee a few stable reliable people, and once my business grows promote the current dependable staff, and hire more part-time and seasonal help. We would serve coffee, lattes, mochas, cappuccino, breakfast wraps, sandwiches and pastries. Fresh fruit, yogurts and oatmeal. My staff would receive training to become qualified baristas, they would receive training to create the different drinks and foods that we serve. There would be levels of employment ranging from management, to assist management, full-time barista, part-time, and seasonal baristas. There would be a direction of employment driven by great customer service, and depending on how well the business did, we would look at raises annually based on the work performance , and also consider the cost of living.

Long-Term Benefit

It is a way to provide employment to people of all skill levels, it's a way to invest in the community by employing people who are looking for entry level employment without the need for experience. It is a way to empower the spirit of entrepreneurship, which is a skill set which may encourage other young people to embrace their goals, and passions, it is a way to continue investing in downtown Grand Rapids, which allows downtown to continue attracting tourists.

Intended Beneficiary

People who are looking for a way to get back into the workforce who have been out of employment for a while and some students.

Estimated Cost

150000 to 300000

Project Management Experience

I have a large amount of experiencing managing large numbers of people within an organization. I am currently apart of a local health center, where we serve a lot of the underserved population. We set up kiosks at local charity and festivals events handing out information about free serves which we provide

Federal Funds Experience

A lot, I currently work with Medicaid, and Medicare, working faithfully to allocate for services we provide in an effort to receive expect PPS reimbursement and so that our organization remains in good standing so that we continue to receive the grant funding we are expecting



(Page 2)

Studies on Impact

n/a

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$150,000

Maximum Cost: \$300,000

Submitter Info

Name: Catherine Carns

Organization: Cherry Health Street

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Business Grants

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact:     

Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

n/a

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

The Treasury Guidelines indicate that for projects to be eligible for economic and workforce development there must be a benefit to those who have been negatively and/or disproportionately impacted economically. This includes underemployed and unemployed persons. Additionally, the funds cannot be used to start new businesses.



Sustainability

Does not include a funding plan or fund availability after expending all the ARPA dollars.



Feasibility

No timeline given for program



PROJECT #308

Minority owned Utility construction business funding

Identify the need for the proposed project

Based on the economic landscape and outlook of the county

Brief Description

Provide working capital funding for a minority owned Utility construction business that is planning to work on infrastructure projects in the country.

Long-Term Benefit

The project will drive more minority entrepreneurs into the industry and create economic growth to the people they support

Intended Beneficiary

Minority, underrepresented and marginalized groups

Estimated Cost

700000

Project Management Experience

The organizations have members and owners with more than 10 years of combined experience.

Federal Funds Experience

10 years

Studies on Impact

We have prepared a business plan to back up our finding.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$700,000

Maximum Cost: \$700,000

Submitter Info

Name: Ange Kramo

Organization:
Black Lake Utility Contractors

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Business Grants

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

Black organizations, score etc.

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Support to small businesses is only eligible in response to a negative economic/health impact and none are identified here



Sustainability

In general, proposal is lacking information to make an informed assessment.



Feasibility

In general, proposal is lacking information to make an informed assessment.

05

COMMUNITY CENTER



PROJECT #68

Renovation of Seidman Club – Boys & Girls Clubs of Grand Rapids



Identify the need for the proposed project

Our Seidman Club, located at 139 Crofton Ave SE in Grand Rapids, serves upwards of 1,000 children and family members annually. Yet the Club was built in 1958 and last renovated more than 20 years ago. The building is showing its age at a time when we also realized the need for more space to serve more youth and families in the community. Additionally, a recent safety assessment found significant areas for improvement. An updated space is needed to be able to continue delivering quality programs and serving our members the best ways we can.

Brief Description

Every year, BGC works with thousands of children and youth between the ages of 6 – 18 who are often facing complex physical, social, and emotional challenges. BGC's programs are offered at three different locations throughout Grand Rapids so that all children and families in the community have access. BGC's diverse programming includes performing arts, sports and recreation, and education programming as well as character and leadership and health and life skills programming. While the services and programs that they have offered to children and families in the community have always been important, the COVID-19 pandemic made this even more clear. BGC adapted its programming to expand Club hours and offer a safe place for children and youth to come to during the day to engage in virtual learning, receive healthy meals, and have opportunities for connection and emotional support. Yet, some of the structural, functional, and stylistic elements of the facilities make it difficult to make as big of an impact as we would like. BGC is requesting funds to assist with the renovations needed at the Seidman Club. Specifically, BGC plans to:

- Install a new security system;
- Repair basic structural elements, such as the roof and broken doors;
- Renovate and reconfigure some of the main spaces and rooms, including adding a new kitchen for preparing meals;
- Incorporate new technologies and improved audio-visual capabilities.

Long-Term Benefit

This project will greatly benefit the children who attend BGC activities and programs. BGC's impact on children in the community is already remarkable. In 2021, they served more than 2,000 youth in their Clubs and logged over 3,400 hours of physical fitness and healthy lifestyles programming. Part of the plans include creating a multifunctional space that can be used by community members for various meetings and group gatherings where families can connect and access additional resources.

Intended Beneficiary

Many of the children, youth, and families that participate in BGC programming face complex challenges, such as financial instability, housing instability, racial and ethnic disparities, and histories of trauma. It is not uncommon for the students in our programs to have had several Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), which are often linked to mental health concerns and chronic health problems later in life if not addressed. BGC serves children and youth in West Michigan between the ages of 6 and 18 years old. Almost half of the children and youth served are between the ages of 13 and 18 years old. Fifty nine percent of youth served identify as male and 41% identify as female, and nearly 75% of the families served have an annual household income of less than \$25,000. The youth mostly reside within City of Grand Rapids' zip codes 49504, 49507, 49503, and 49509, which are areas centered around the three BGC locations. The racial identities of youth at BGC are approximately 67% Black/African American, 14% Multiracial, 9% Hispanic/Latinx, 6% White/Caucasian, and 4% other.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$2,500,000

Maximum Cost: \$4,000,000

ARPA Request: \$1,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Angie Stumpo

Organization: Boys & Girls Clubs of Grand Rapids

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Community Center

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

We have a \$1 million federal appropriation for renovations at the Clubs, of which some would be allocated toward this project, as well as various verbal commitments from foundation funders. We anticipate raising at least 80% of the project cost by the end of 2023. This funding would enable us to reach our full campaign goal on a much quicker timeline.

Partnership

n/a



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$2,500,000

Maximum Cost: \$4,000,000

ARPA Request: \$1,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Angie Stumpo

Organization: Boys & Girls Clubs of Grand Rapids

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Community Center

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

We have a \$1 million federal appropriation for renovations at the Clubs, of which some would be allocated toward this project, as well as various verbal commitments from foundation funders. We anticipate raising at least 80% of the project cost by the end of 2023. This funding would enable us to reach our full campaign goal on a much quicker timeline.

Partnership

n/a

Estimated Cost

\$3 million-\$4 million

Project Management Experience

Our organization has three Club locations in Grand Rapids and a summer camp located in Alto. Although our services focus mainly on these areas within the county, we are adept at managing large projects to serve our community.

Federal Funds Experience

We have received continuous federal grants through the USDA and Office of Justice Programs. We have also been awarded appropriations for capital renovations in the current federal budget.

Studies on Impact

A commissioned study by Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGCA) found that Clubs are a sound investment, providing nearly \$10 in benefits to the community for every dollar invested. The study, conducted by the Institute for Social Research and the School of Public Health at the University of Michigan, found that every dollar invested in Boys & Girls Clubs returns \$9.60 in current and future earnings, as well as cost-savings, to American communities. The biggest benefits are from Club members' improved grades and reduced alcohol use and their parents' earnings. In addition, 97% of Club teens expect to graduate from high school. 76% of low-income Club members ages 12 to 18 who attend the Club regularly reported receiving mostly As and Bs, compared to 67% of their peers nationally.

Supporting Documentation

[Conceptual Design](#)

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Childcare investment is eligible



Sustainability

One-time expense



Feasibility

PROJECT #34

Funding is requested by NIA Centre to build a major physical space to provide programming, activities, and events for the underserved, communities of color, and the broader community.



Identify the need for the proposed project

The need for the project has clearly been identified by the South Division Corridor Plan which includes a 3-mile area located south of downtown. Residents during the planning process indicated that there was a need for a center that focuses on the needs of the African American center to be located in the South Division Corridor. Furthermore, NIA Center commissioned a planning study that further confirmed based upon community input obtained that there was support and the need for an African American Cultural Center to be built in Grand Rapids, MI.

Brief Description

NIA Centre is requesting funding to build a major African American Cultural Center in Grand Rapids. This transformational project will provide programming, events, and educational activities in the areas of cultural arts, health awareness, and entrepreneurship & wealth building. This project will be developed in collaboration with other community partners. It will create employment opportunities for youth and adults. Also, this project will promote tourism and attract people from diverse racial & ethnic backgrounds to Grand Rapids. Finally, people from every race and ethnicity will be able to become involved with the center's work and greatly benefit from cross-cultural engagement.

Long-Term Benefit

1) Continued revitalization of the South Division Corridor 2) Continued neighborhood revitalization 3) Creation of employment opportunities for youth and adults 4) Financial support of minority, women, and broader business owners 6) Continued development of programming that will focus upon cultural arts, health awareness, entrepreneurship & wealth building 7) Promotion of tourism 8) Providing mentoring and learning opportunities to youth. 9) Promoting cross-cultural engagement

Intended Beneficiary

The underserved, communities of color and the broader community will all benefit from NIA Centre building a larger physical space for community engagement as a cultural institution.

Estimated Cost

n/a

Project Management Experience

Robert Upton, Jr., Board Chair of NIA Centre has significant experience in overseeing large projects and events that have impacted

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: n/a

Maximum Cost: n/a

Submitter Info

Name: Robert Upton, Jr.

Organization: NIA Centre

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Community Center

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact:  

Source of Funding

Private donors, corporate support, foundations, community support, city, and state funding.

Partnership

n/a



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: n/a

Maximum Cost: n/a

Submitter Info

Name: Robert Upton, Jr.

Organization: NIA Centre

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Community Center

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

Private donors, corporate support, foundations, community support, city, and state funding.

Partnership

n/a

Federal Funds Experience

Robert Upton, Jr., the Board Chair of NIA Centre formerly worked for the City of Grand Rapids. He has over 23 years of overseeing the compliance of neighborhood associations, agencies, and organizations that received federal funding. Also, he has significant experience working with federal government representatives regarding the City of Grand Rapids' compliance with federal funding requirements. Also, Barbara Welch the Treasurer of NIA Center formerly worked as a branch manager for Old Kent Bank (now referred to as Fifth Third Bank) and has significant experience in the financial services industry when it comes to the administration of funds from federal, state and local funding sources.

Studies on Impact

There is plenty of research available regarding how valuable cultural institutions are to communities. Cultural institutions help foster learning and understanding about history, culture and so many facets of life. No one can place a price tag on how cultural institutions help enhance education within communities. A journal article written by Jasminka Kocoska and Dobri Petrovski documents this entitled, "The Role of the Cultural Institutions in the Civic Education." Also, Joshua Guetzknow has conducted valuable research regarding "How the Arts Impact Communities." He has identified the following areas of impact: Material Health, Cognitive Psychology, Interpersonal, Economic, Cultural, and Social." Cultural institutions enhance the cultural vitality of communities. This has been documented in a book written by Maria Rosario, Florence Kabwasa-Green, and Joaquin Herranz entitled, "Cultural Vitality in Communities: Interpretation and Indicators" that was published by The Urban Institute in 2006. Cultural institutions also contribute to the economic prosperity of communities. The Research team at the American for the Arts publishes the Arts & Economic Prosperity report that documents the economic impact of cultural institutions.

Guidehouse Ranking Notes

 **Eligibility**

Eligible under non-profit support

 **Sustainability**

Project is run by an organization, but more information would boost assessment of sustainability.

 **Feasibility**



PROJECT #116

Boston Square Community Hub

Identify the need for the proposed project

Amplify GR is facilitating a \$100 million redevelopment effort called Boston Square Together to revitalize the Boston Square neighborhood. Boston Square Together (<https://bostonsquaregr.org/>) is a community-focused and collective design plan in which residents, business owners, nonprofit organizations, and city partners are working together to advance a shared vision for the future state of the Boston Square neighborhood. The partners are committed to advancing an equity-focused, wholistic solution that weaves Health, Education, Arts & Culture, Recreation and Technology (H.E.A.R.T) into a mixed-use, mixed-income 10-acre redevelopment area in the neighborhood, removing blighted commercial buildings on the site. This development will include 30,000 square feet of commercial space, 230-250 mixed-income residential rental units, 20 mixed-income homeownership units, a public park and pathways, an early learning center, a community center, and banking and grocery options. This development will be transformational in its impact to the health and wellbeing of residents and as an anchor for further development in a portion of the region that has traditionally been bypassed, overlooked and historically lacking investment. The new development will serve the heart of the 49507 zip code, in which most residents (74%) are Black, Indigenous, or People of Color (BIPOC) (American Community Survey, 2020). The neighbors of this area have a strong bond based on mutual respect and trust making it possible to work together to revitalize the neighborhood in an inclusive manner to create something truly reflective of the neighborhood that exists here currently. This area has the promise to demonstrate what can be accomplished when neighbors work together toward a common goal to improve quality of life for all, when supported by corporate, philanthropic, and governmental partners who champion the work. While the Boston Square / Oakdale neighborhood holds a lot of promise, the people who live, work and worship there encounter many barriers as the area is one of the most under resourced in Grand Rapids as demonstrated by the following data points: • 33% of families live below the poverty line, with a \$29,988 the Household Median Income (Economic Innovation Group, 2022) • 26% of adults without high school diploma (American Community Survey, 2020) • Only 16% of 3rd graders are proficient in Math and Reading (MI School Data, 2021) • Highest incidence of child lead poisoning in the state of Michigan (Healthy Homes Coalition, 2022) • 7 fewer years of life expectancy compared to the adjacent neighborhoods in East Grand Rapids (Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, 2020) What could the neighborhood become if we collectively work together to position neighbors to thrive and not just survive?

The Boston Square neighborhood sits in the city's Third Ward. Historical data has shown ongoing disinvestment from both private and public sources for the Third Ward, which happens to have the city's highest concentration of Black residents. Meanwhile, the other two wards within Grand Rapids have received an influx of investment, spurring economic and community growth. Between 2012-2017, the City of Grand Rapids experienced over \$1.2 billion in investment, only 1.5% of which occurred within the Third Ward (Hicks, 2019). The Boston Square Together initiative builds off public planning efforts, including the 2009 Boston Square Area Specific Plan, the 2019 City of Grand Rapids Strategic Plan, and the 2019 Southtown Business Area Specific Plan. Using these efforts as a starting point, Amplify GR hosted a series of three human-centered design open house planning sessions which were well attended by residents and community stakeholders in the neighborhood. During these sessions, participants voiced their priorities, considered design alternatives, and selected shared project principles that will drive all future development on the 10-acre site. The Boston Square Community Hub, what will be the neighborhoods "front porch and living room" is one of the key developments on the site and aligns with many of the priorities and principles being honored and uplifted through resident-driven, place-based planning (Amplify GR, 2019). One of the unique aspects of the Boston Square Together initiative relates to equitable development. The partners (Amplify GR, City of Grand Rapids, Boston Square Neighborhood Association, and Oakdale Neighbors) entered into a Voluntary Equitable Development & Community Partnership Agreement, the first of its kind in Grand Rapids, to ensure equitable development practices throughout the process from inception to implementation. The agreement established measurable goals including, among other targets, at least 30% of the overall cost of construction will be sourced by companies that are either based in the 49507 zip code, owned by a person of color, women-owned, and/or a Section 3 business (i.e., business that is owned and controlled by low- or very low-income persons). This goal will ensure that the existing neighborhood businesses and entrepreneurs benefit from the investments made during development of the 10-acre site.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$29,441,210

Maximum Cost: \$29,441,210

ARPA Request: \$5,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Jon Ippel

Organization: Amplify GR

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Community Center

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 76% or greater

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

The development partners include Spectrum Health (health clinic, wellness programming, and workforce development), IFF (CDFI), and ELNC (early childhood center). Additional partnerships are being finalized but will include at least three additional nonprofit partners with varying focus areas like youth development, arts enrichment, senior neighbor programming, mental health, and fitness.



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$29,441,210

Maximum Cost: \$29,441,210

ARPA Request: \$5,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Jon Ippel

Organization: Amplify GR

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Community Center

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 76% or greater

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

The development partners include Spectrum Health (health clinic, wellness programming, and workforce development), IFF (CDFI), and ELNC (early childhood center). Additional partnerships are being finalized but will include at least three additional nonprofit partners with varying focus areas like youth development, arts enrichment, senior neighbor programming, mental health, and fitness.

Brief Description

As part of Boston Square Together, Amplify GR is planning to construct the Boston Square Community Hub, a two-story, 45,000 square foot multi-purpose community facility dedicated to enhancing the health and well-being of neighbors. The facility will include a 13,000 square foot health and wellness clinic operated by Spectrum Health, a 9,000 square foot early childhood center operated by the Early Learning Neighborhood Collaborative (ELNC), office and community programming space for Amplify GR, a co-working space to be operated by a bank partner (still in negotiation), a 240-person community event and performance space, a community café, and 6,000 square feet of wellness spaces (e.g., fitness classes, after school programming, and arts enrichment) to be offered by tenants that are still being finalized. For decades, neighbors have been asking for safe spaces to fellowship and gather as well as increased access to services and resources to reconcile social determinants of health and enhance their lived experiences. One of the most exciting aspects of the development is Spectrum Health's Advanced Primary Care model which will focus on value-based outcomes, reducing use of high acuity levels of healthcare, and focusing on preventative tactics to improve the health of the area's vulnerable population. This model prioritizes quality of care over quantity of patients served, which unduly burdens our healthcare system.

Long-Term Benefit

Geography should not determine destiny. Everyone should grow up in strong neighborhoods that produce healthy, and hopeful young people who have infinite opportunities. The Hub addresses neighbor priorities, namely education and enrichment, arts and culture, and health and wellness. These services will enrich the community by addressing health, economic, and educational disparities. As a result, this project will increase equitable outcomes and improve quality of life for generations to come.

Intended Beneficiary

The people who will benefit the most from the Boston Square Community Hub are families living in the Boston Square Neighborhood and surrounding neighborhoods within the City's 3rd Ward. Neighbors will have access to world-class healthcare, highquality early childhood education and pre-school services in a stateof-the art facility, workforce development services, arts enrichment opportunities, after-school programming, and community wellness programming. There are a total of 12,668 households within the 49507 zip code, 5,252 of which are families with children (American Community Survey, 2020). WORKS CITED American Community Survey (2020). "Selected Social Characteristics in The United States." U.S. Census Bureau.

Estimated Cost

\$29,441,210.00

*Source of Funding

Of the \$29,441,210 project cost, a gap of \$5,973,275 remains when accounting for the other sources of funding. These sources include a \$286,496 grant from the City of Grand Rapids Brownfield Redevelopment Authority Revolving Loan Fund, a \$4,416,182 net contribution through the federal New Market Tax Credit Program, \$10,606,924 from Spectrum Health, \$2,759,433 from ELNC, \$4.5 million from Amplify GR, \$200,000 from the Low-Income Investment Fund, and \$698,900 from other tenant improvements. Amplify GR is requesting \$5 million through the Kent County ARPA funding process. The remaining \$973,275 will be secured through philanthropic sources.



(Page 3)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$29,441,210

Maximum Cost: \$29,441,210

ARPA Request: \$5,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Jon Ippel

Organization: Amplify GR

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Community Center

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 76% or greater

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

The development partners include Spectrum Health (health clinic, wellness programming, and workforce development), IFF (CDFI), and ELNC (early childhood center). Additional partnerships are being finalized but will include at least three additional nonprofit partners with varying focus areas like youth development, arts enrichment, senior neighbor programming, mental health, and fitness.

Project Management Experience

Amplify GR serves the Boston Square, Oakdale, Madison Square, and Cottage Grove neighborhoods. To date, the organization has successfully facilitated over \$20 million in investment in the 3rd ward. These projects are either complete or in-progress. Additionally, Amplify GR was awarded State of Michigan Low Income Housing Tax Credits that will support over \$40 million in construction next door to the proposed community center. The organization has not sought to implement county-wide projects.

Federal Funds Experience

In 2020, Amplify GR received a \$799,256 grant from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Administration for Children and Families. This grant funded renovation of four facilities within the 49507 zip code and providing funding for organizational services to recruit new businesses to the neighborhood, assist growing businesses, support employees hired by businesses served, and establish a revolving loan fund for growing businesses in the area. To date, with the support of the DHHS, Amplify GR and its partners (Bethany Christian Services, West Michigan Works!, and Michigan Women Forward) have assisted in the creation of one new business and expansion of four existing businesses. These businesses have created 34 full-time, well-paying jobs that all went to workers who qualify as "low income."

Studies on Impact

Amplify GR utilizes the nationally recognized Purpose Built Communities (PBC) framework of community development. PBC integrates well-managed community facilities within specific neighborhoods as a more cost-effective method of creating greater cycles of prosperity within low-to moderate-income neighborhoods. This approach is intentionally neighborhood-based, ensuring strong partnerships to create more inclusive, equitable outcomes that can break the cycle of generational poverty. In 2018, IFF evaluated the need for early childhood investment in Grand Rapids. The study concluded that "only 30 percent of the need for subsidized and Head Start early childhood education programs is being met in Grand Rapids, putting an undue burden on low-income children and families," particularly in Boston Square and surrounding neighborhoods. In 2020, Kent County completed a community health needs assessment that identified significant health challenges for Black and Hispanic populations in Grand Rapids. These populations were found to be 3 to 4 times more likely to be uninsured and have difficulty navigating the health system. The community health clinic model has been found to address these disparities.

Guidehouse Ranking Notes

 **Eligibility**

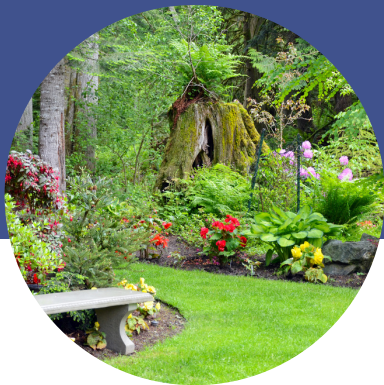
Medical facilities to address disparities in public health outcomes and childcare facilities are eligible capital expenditures. Rehabilitation of blighted properties or demolition of abandoned or vacant properties is also eligible.

 **Sustainability**

Does not include a funding plan or fund availability after expending all the ARPA dollars.

 **Feasibility**

Risk to 2026 completion



PROJECT #253

Cascade Library Community Garden and Activity Space

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$446,000

Maximum Cost: \$446,000

Submitter Info

Name: Joe David

Organization:

Friends of the Cascade Library

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Community Center

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

This request is to fund phases 2 and 3 of the project. Phase one of the project is being funded by the Friends of the Cascade Library and is expected to cost between \$200,000 and \$220,000.

Partnership

Friends of the Cascade Library,
Kent District Library, Cascade
Township

Identify the need for the proposed project

In 2018, the Cascade Library began a survey of patron needs in the community which included an idea board at the entrance to the library. Patrons made many indoor requests, but a consistent theme we discovered was a request for expanding spaces for children to play (both inside and outside the building). This request for outdoor space has only increased during the heart of the pandemic and beyond. In response, staff cultivated ways to use the beautiful land surrounding the library to expand library offerings. These offerings have included story walks, scavenger hunts, teen activities, and outdoor concerts. In addition to these scheduled events, many families use the green spaces by the library parking lot to picnic when the weather allows. There are challenges to the space as it currently exists, however. Near the building, the grass is frequently wet from rain and watering, and water pools and puddles. The broader grassy space beyond the trees frequently dries out and provides the perfect habitat for ant colonies and other bug infestations. Some of the space has invasive plants and areas of poison ivy. The space used for concerts and programs is in near total sun, which is also a deterrent for usage during the summer. Finally, these areas are also not currently ADA accessible, which creates significant barriers for many patrons. The library's vision for the area includes developing places in which: 1. People could safely gather, surrounded by natural beauty 2. Larger events (such as book clubs and story times) could be held 3. Special events (such as concerts) could be hosted 4. People—particularly children—could learn and explore 5. Families could picnic 6. Environmental stewardship would be considered

Brief Description

The proposed project is divided into three main phases of work: Phase One includes creating three unique spaces: 1) a wide programming space, 2) a picnic and meeting area, and 3) perennial and water gardens made up of native plants to add natural beauty and to manage the pooling water. It also includes creating exploratory pathways and natural play areas in the wooded area currently in place. Additional plantings on the periphery of the space would create natural barriers that keep children from wandering away from the space. An ADA accessible sidewalk would be created around and through the space. (Funding for phase one is in place) Phase Two adds more green space to gather on for lawn games and programs. It also adds a pavilion or amphitheater to the space to allow the library or township to host larger performances and have a rainy day option. Phase two also expands the sidewalk beyond the woods and adds more green space for gather or lawn games and a pavilion or amphitheater. Phase Three extends the sidewalk entirely around the building and creates additional native plant areas and smaller tabled spaces for eating, studying, and socializing.

Long-Term Benefit

This project will better utilize the space that exists outside the library for the library and the township to offer opportunities for engagement. It addresses the problems that make the current space unusable by the public and creates attractive and engaging spaces for individuals and groups to engage, explore and play. The outdoor space is also a safe space for those with long-term health concerns to gather without fear, a need that has been amplified since the pandemic began in 2020.

Intended Beneficiary

Residents of Cascade Township and other visitors to the library from around the county.



(Page 2)

Estimated Cost

\$446,000.00

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$446,000

Maximum Cost: \$446,000

Submitter Info

Name: Joe David

Organization:

Friends of the Cascade Library

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Community Center

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

This request is to fund phases 2 and 3 of the project. Phase one of the project is being funded by the Friends of the Cascade Library and is expected to cost between \$200,000 and \$220,000.

Partnership

Friends of the Cascade Library,
Kent District Library, Cascade
Township

Project Management Experience

We do not have experience leading county wide-projects.

Federal Funds Experience

We do not have experience working with federal funds.

Studies on Impact

"Much research exists on the benefits of working/playing outdoors. Studies show that: Developing multi-sensory outdoor spaces that connect people to the outdoors has significant benefits for productivity, energy, memory and overall wellbeing.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/alankohl/2018/06/25/5-data-backed-ways-working-outdoors-can-improve-employee-well-being/?sh=31f83d614eb8>

<https://www.demcointeriors.com/blog/why-outdoor-spaces-are-essential-for-the-21st-century-library/#:~:text=Studies%20have%20shown%20that%20a,for%20library%20users%20and%20staff.>

For children, outdoor play improves health and sleep and outdoor play also offers them opportunities to take appropriate risks as they explore the world.

<https://www.naeyc.org/resources/pubs/yc/may2019/outdoor-play-is-essential> The American Academy of Pediatrics has also emphasized nature play as an important context to children's play. A recent article states: "children should be exposed to the natural environment. This means not only outdoors on a playground but also outdoors in the woods or an open field with parental supervision, and the more exposure to green space, the better."

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

Eligible under non-profit support. Additional information will be needed if the proposal moves forward in the process.



PROJECT #159

Krause Memorial Library Expansion

Identify the need for the proposed project

For 20+ years, staff at the Krause Memorial Library have heard comments and questions from library patrons and residents of the community regarding when the Krause Library will be expanded. The Krause Library, which was last expanded in 1989, outgrew its current building of 9,500sf long ago. A facility that is 85+ years old faces many accessibility issues. A thorough Facility Accessibility Report (conducted in February 2015 by the Disability Advocates of Kent County for Kent District Library) showed definite barriers to access beginning at the main entrance and throughout many aisles. Entrances to the local history room and the only study room do not meet minimum ADA standards. The public restroom doors are heavy and lack an automated opening button. Handicap parking is not located near the entrance ramp by the main entrance. Accessibility issues affect not only those in wheelchairs, but also many seniors, and those with walkers and strollers. Another indicator that the community had outgrown the current library building was the circulation statistics. In 2015, circulation statistics showed that Krause Memorial had the highest circulation per square foot of any branch in Kent District Library—double that of the system-wide average. Additionally, statistics showed that visits per capita to Krause Memorial were triple that of the system-wide average. The Krause Memorial Library is a branch of Kent District Library, which is funded by a millage. Kent District Library provides library services to its communities (including staffing, materials, technology, etc.). However, other than its own Service Center location, KDL does not own or maintain library buildings. This responsibility rests solely with the local municipality. Likewise, KDL does not, and cannot, contribute monies to build new libraries or expand existing ones. Thus, an expansion of the Krause Memorial Library is the responsibility of the City of Rockford, in conjunction with the Townships of Algoma, Cannon, and Courtland.

The Krause Memorial Library has long been a source of pride for the community. It is a beloved institution that is heavily used and enjoys great support. It provides not only reading/viewing materials for the community, but programming for all age groups, as well as technology (public computers, wifi, mobile hotspots, iPads, and a robust digital collection). However, the Krause Library can no longer physically house a collection large enough to meet the needs of the communities it serves. This means that many items requested by patrons regularly need to be brought in from other branches, resulting in longer wait times for patrons. The Library is also in desperate need of more space for programming, study/collaboration rooms, community gathering space, and quiet space for reading or studying. In a bustling building of this size, there is essentially no quiet space. The shortage of space is felt across all areas and services provided to the greater Rockford community by Krause Memorial. Over the past three summers, KDL has partnered with Feeding America West Michigan and the State to provide healthy lunches to students in our communities while school is not in session. Krause Memorial has proudly participated in the program, and response to the free meals has been great. However, storing the meals for so many children in need is a challenge, and an expansion will allow us to operate this needed service more efficiently for the community. For our most popular summer reading programs, there isn't space in the cramped program room for every child who wants to attend—children are either turned away or sit on the floor outside the program room, hoping to catch a glimpse of the program. The Krause Library currently has one study room. It has a maximum occupancy of 2-3 people and also doubles as storage space for tax forms and summer reading club prizes. In a time when more people are working remotely, study and collaboration rooms are also in high demand.

(continued on next page)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$9,100,000

Maximum Cost: \$9,100,000

Submitter Info

Name: Noah Greco

Organization: City of Rockford

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Community Center

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

We are preparing for a community-wide campaign that includes the solicitation of individuals, corporations, and foundations, which will be led by the campaign cabinet.

Partnership

(Listed in main description)



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$9,100,000

Maximum Cost: \$9,100,000

Submitter Info

Name: Noah Greco

Organization: City of Rockford

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Community Center

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

We are preparing for a community-wide campaign that includes the solicitation of individuals, corporations, and foundations, which will be led by the campaign cabinet.

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Identify the need for the proposed project (continued)

During Covid, the Krause Memorial Library and KDL were committed to being there for our residents and communities in any way possible. We instituted curbside service so people could maintain access to library materials at a time when the library was not open for in-person visits. We continue to provide curbside pickup as an option for those who still do not feel comfortable going to public places. We also instituted free printing (with curbside pickup available). We provided online and live-streamed programming for all ages to help people continue to feel connected and combat feelings of loneliness and isolation. We even handed out 'take and make' crafts for children to complete at home. The library partnered with the Kent County Health Department and MDHHS to distribute masks and Covid test kits to any resident who needed them. Perhaps the service that had the most impact on our communities during Covid was the purchase of more than 1,000 mobile hotspots by KDL. At a time when most households were involved in virtual schooling and remote work, these hotspots (which circulate for four months) provided free wifi access to residents in the rural areas of the county served by the Krause Memorial Library. Many residents have expressed their gratitude for the hotspots and other library services provided during the height of Covid, calling them a lifesaver.

In 2017, KDL commissioned a Needs Assessment based on feedback from the Krause Memorial Board, staff, and patrons. George Lawson, a professional library space planner conducted the assessment and worked closely with the Krause Memorial Board, Friends Groups, Branch Staff, KDL Administration, and the community to gather the data needed for the assessment. Multiple staff, board, and community meetings were held in April of 2017. The Assessment was updated in 2018 to include the entire Rockford Service Area (City of Rockford and Townships of Algoma, Cannon, and Courtland). In 2019, the City hosted a series of charrettes, led by Phil Davis of Fishbeck Thompson Carr & Huber. The focus groups were made up of representatives from the City of Rockford and the Townships of Algoma, Cannon, and Courtland and gathered input and opinions regarding what features and services were a priority for an expanded library.

Throughout the process, input from residents in the municipalities was sought out and prioritized. Likewise, professional assistance (architecture, feasibility, fundraising) were retained. In 2018, the house/lot next door to the Krause Library (18 N. Monroe) was purchased by the City of Rockford and the Krause Memorial Library Board for the express purpose of a future expansion of the Krause Memorial Library. Following the 2019 charrettes, an exploratory committee was formed to determine whether a joint municipal effort to expand the Krause Memorial Library was feasible. The exploratory committee was again comprised of representatives from the City of Rockford and the Townships of Algoma, Cannon, and Courtland, along with representatives from Kent District Library and the Krause Memorial Library Board. The exploratory committee contracted with Keith Hopkins of Hopkins Fundraising Consulting to conduct a feasibility study. After a brief covid hiatus, municipal leaders of Rockford, Algoma, Cannon, and Courtland regrouped and began to investigate other options for making the dream of an expanded Krause Library a reality. Ultimately, it was determined that a public and private partnership between the City, Townships, and KDL is the way forward with the project. Progressive AE was hired as the architect and the committee has contracted with The Breton Group to conduct a fundraising campaign.



(Page 3)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$9,100,000

Maximum Cost: \$9,100,000

Submitter Info

Name: Noah Greco

Organization: City of Rockford

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Community Center

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

We are preparing for a community-wide campaign that includes the solicitation of individuals, corporations, and foundations, which will be led by the campaign cabinet.

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Brief Description

This project expands the Krause Memorial Library to meet the needs of the residents of Rockford, Algoma, Cannon, and Courtland, both now and into the future. The current 9,500sf library will grow to nearly 23,000sf—almost 2.5 times larger and much more appropriate for a community of 40,852 residents (projected to be 78,562 by 2040). This will enable us to house a collection large enough to meet community needs. It doubles the size of the program room, provides multiple study/collaboration rooms, provides adequate seating throughout, incorporates quiet space for reading and studying, and creates a community hub. This library expansion will resolve current accessibility issues. Barriers will be removed to enable access to all areas of the library for all people. It allows for the inclusion of a mother's room, and barrier-free and family restrooms (equipped with baby and adult changing stations). The expansion allows the very old building infrastructure (HVAC, plumbing, electrical) to be updated and more cost efficient to operate and maintain. The expansion will provide ample space for children—for both materials and for literacy-based activities. Two outdoor spaces will be included—a programming space and reading patio for those who would like to sit outside to read or visit. The expansion project keeps the Krause Memorial Library in its current location, which residents have expressed as being very important to them, and keeps the library as the anchor of downtown.

Long-Term Benefit

Libraries are the great equalizers of society. They provide equal access to materials, services, technology, and programs. Libraries level the playing field between the 'haves' and 'have nots'. Expanding the Krause Memorial Library ensures that generations to come continue to enjoy the materials, services, evolving technology, and programs that enrich our lives and our communities.

Intended Beneficiary

The nearly 41,000 residents of Rockford, Algoma, Cannon, and Courtland (projected to be 78,562 by 2040) will be the immediate beneficiaries of a Krause Memorial Library expansion. Having adequate and accessible space to provide materials, programs, homework assistance, technology and tech assistance, and meeting/study space are invaluable to people of all ages. An expanded library facility will enable Krause Memorial to enhance our partnerships and collaborations with Rockford Public Schools, along with area private and charter schools in order to further the education of our young people. A library expansion will provide more space to support the library's early literacy initiatives, with our educational play spaces, programming that supports early literacy, and STEAM-based activities for older children and teens. Local businesses will benefit from an expanded library. The library is the anchor of downtown Rockford. More visitors to the Krause Library means more foot traffic to businesses and restaurants downtown. Partnerships between Krause Memorial and local businesses in the form of programs that highlight the services offered by the business are a benefit to the business community, the library, and residents. Local community organizations benefit from a Krause Library expansion by having space available to hold meetings. It is said that children are our future. Public libraries are the cornerstone of a literate society. What better way to ensure the future of our communities than to invest in our children today!



(Page 4)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$9,100,000

Maximum Cost: \$9,100,000

Submitter Info

Name: Noah Greco

Organization: City of Rockford

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Community Center

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

We are preparing for a community-wide campaign that includes the solicitation of individuals, corporations, and foundations, which will be led by the campaign cabinet.

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

*Partnership

Rockford Public Schools, Rockford Chamber of Commerce, Rockford Area Community Endowment, Rockford Area Historical Society, Rockford Rotary, Rockford Lions, Friends of the Krause Memorial Library, Rockford Sportsman's Club, Howard Christiansen Nature Center, West Michigan Therapy Dogs, Bright Beginnings [part of Kent ISD], Story Point Senior + Assisted Living, Bishop Hills Assisted Living, Rogue Valley Towers [sec 8 housing], Richter Place Senior Living, Boulder Creek Assisted Living, Hillview Place [low income housing]

Estimated Cost

9.1 million dollars

Project Management Experience

The City of Rockford recently received a \$500,000 Community Development Block Grant for the construction of new sidewalks to link Low to moderate income homes to City amenities.

Federal Funds Experience

The City also has experience working with federal funds. The most recent example of this is a \$5,000,000 grant the City received for the extension of a watermain.

Studies on Impact

n/a

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

Eligible under non-profit support. Additional information will be needed if the proposal moves forward in the process.



PROJECT #268

A Transformational, Multi-Use & Collaborative Project: A Partnership Between Grand Rapids University Preparatory Academy and NIA Centre an African American Cultural Center

Identify the need for the proposed project

Our proposed project includes a multi-use space located near the heart of the South Division corridor. This 3-mile area in the south of downtown Grand Rapids is the main connector to the City's 3rd Ward, a ward that has received the least financial investment in the city. We identified the need for this project in three ways: • Residents and businesses indicated during the South Division Corridor planning process that there was a need for a center that focused on the needs of the immediate community, primarily people of color. This area is also in close proximity to the Heartside Ministry, which provides programming, and shelter to the homeless community. • The NIA Centre Grand Rapids commissioned a planning study that confirmed support of and need for an African American cultural center in Grand Rapids. • Grand Rapids University Preparatory Academy (UPrep), an award-winning public-private partnership school part of the Grand Rapids Public Schools also located along the city's South Division Corridor identified that there was a need for additional physical space to adequately accommodate its diverse student population and their families (500+ kids and 400+ families) After deciding to partner together in this endeavor, UPrep and NIA Centre learned that the Steelcase Foundation was looking for an opportunity to create physical space more closely situated to the community it serves. This discovery opened the door for the organizations to invite the Steelcase Foundation to be a tenant of the proposed shared space. Sharing this space will allow the Foundation to better realize their mission of collaborating with and connecting resources with people and movements that advance, advocate for and accelerate people toward a more just and liberated community and will give greater opportunities to both UPrep and NIA Centre to advance their own initiatives. Steelcase Foundation recognizes that there is a tremendous need to invest in the lives of communities of color, and the broader community and has expressed its support for such a transformative project that promotes social equity.

Brief Description

Our proposal is to request funding to construct a major multi-use physical space to serve the underserved, communities of color, and the broader community of Grand Rapids. The goal is address challenges in education and health equity and boost community engagement and involvement. The physical space to include: • UPrep Learning & Wellness Center | A multi-use gymnasium, community wellness center, recording studio, classrooms, dance studio, art studio (kiln and darkroom), garden space, and offices. • NIA Centre's African American Cultural Centre | A coffee shop, gift shop, exhibition space, concession area, multi-use concert space, dressing rooms and offices. • Steelcase Foundation (tenant space) | Staff offices, shared space for meetings, events, and community collaboration. • Additional Spaces | A rooftop space, community meeting room, co-working spaces, and kitchen.

Long-Term Benefit

• Continued revitalization of the 3rd Ward area • Employment/internship opportunities • Opportunities for women-, minority-owned businesses • Programming, events, cultural experiences, and collaboration that will invite/inspire cross-cultural community engagement & problem solving • Increased tourism for those seeking diverse, rich cultural experiences • Improved quality of life in the areas of cultural arts, entrepreneurship & wealth building, health

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$10,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$13,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Robert Upton, Jr & Kenyatta Hill-Hall

Organization: NIA Centre & Grand Rapids Preparatory Academy

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Community Center

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

Private donors, corporate support, foundations, community support, city, state, and federal funding.

Partnership

Grand Rapids University Preparatory Academy (UPrep)



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$10,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$13,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Robert Upton, Jr & Kenyatta Hill-Hall

Organization: NIA Centre & Grand Rapids Preparatory Academy

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Community Center

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

Private donors, corporate support, foundations, community support, city, state, and federal funding.

Partnership

Grand Rapids University
Preparatory Academy (UpRep)

Intended Beneficiary

Our vision is that this shared space will benefit the underserved, communities of color and broader community that reside in Grand Rapids, Kent County and the greater Grand Rapids metropolitan area. We do anticipate that the cultural center will attract visitors looking for diverse cultural and entertainment experiences across the state and from other nearby states. This center will create an innovative collaborative space that allows 500+ UPRep students and their 400+ families to make connections, collaborate with business and community partners, and remove barriers by having access to resources available in the shared space. With Steelcase Foundation as a primary tenant, we believe this will provide more relational support to the community to convene, connect and learn collaboratively.

Estimated Cost

\$10,000,000 - \$13,000,000

Project Management Experience

Kenyatta Hill-Hall (Principal, UPRep) | Kenyatta worked with community parents/leaders and the UPRep Board to raise over \$9,000,000 for a state-of-the-art school building on South Division. The current space offers innovative learning for students in the Grand Rapids area and specifically targets the unrepresented 49507 area. UPRep values strong partnerships with parents/guardians and caregivers and is pleased to be part of a community where parents/guardians, staff, scholars, and community partners care for each other and strive to build positive relationships that support academic and social growth. Robert Upton, Jr. (Board Chair, NIA Centre) | Robert has significant experience overseeing projects from his previous work at the City of Grand Rapids and serving in leadership roles in nonprofit organizations. He previously served as the principal staff person for the City of Grand Rapids Community Relations Commission, which led a successful effort to place a major sculpture of Rosa Parks in downtown Grand Rapids. The NIA Centre celebrates family, community, and culture in a holistic manner, actively seeking new intersections of their focus areas to foster a safe, thriving African American community in the greater Grand Rapids area. Advisors Daniel Williams, (President/CEO, Steelcase Foundation) | A leader in education and equity-centered design, Daniel works to advance justice through education and community engagement. Daniel has led the revision of the Foundation's giving strategies to uplift community voices and provide more intentional support for partners while leveraging the Foundation's influence and expertise to drive and support larger-scale social change. He previously led the West Michigan Center for Arts and Technology (WMCAT) where he worked towards equity and innovation, and was co-founder of UPRep. He also sits on the Downtown Improvement District Board, was on the board of Fredrick Meijer Gardens during their most recent capital campaign and expansion and was co-chair of the 4-12th Grand Work Group-KConnect, looking at education structures and needs across Kent County. Brian Cloyd (Board of Trustees, Steelcase Foundation) | Brian is the retired vice president of Global Corporate Relations and Chief Diversity Officer for Steelcase Inc. and currently serves on the boards of WMCAT, UPRep, the National Center for Arts and Technology, University of Detroit Mercy, Education Trust-Midwest, and the Executive Leadership Council. Brian has extensive experience with county-wide projects through his previous board service with Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park, ArtPrize, Economic Club of Grand Rapids, Workforce Development Council, Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce Board, Advisory Council for Grand Valley State University Seidman College of Business, Education Reform Initiative, Student Advancement Foundation, Michigan Business Leaders for Excellence in Education, Grand Rapids Public Museum, The Cherry Commission (Governor's Commission on Education and Economic Development), and ACLU of Michigan. The Steelcase Foundation has a long history of working with organizations on a wide array of projects.



(Page 3)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$10,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$13,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Robert Upton, Jr & Kenyatta Hill-Hall

Organization: NIA Centre & Grand Rapids Preparatory Academy

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Community Center

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

Private donors, corporate support, foundations, community support, city, state, and federal funding.

Partnership

Grand Rapids University
Preparatory Academy (Uprep)

Federal Funds Experience

The leadership of UPrep and NIA Centre, along with our key advisors, have extensive experience working with federal funds, including but not limited to: • Robert Upton, Jr. worked for the City of Grand Rapids and has over 23 years experience overseeing the compliance of neighborhood associations, agencies, and organizations that received federal funding. He has significant experience working with federal government representatives regarding the City of Grand Rapids' compliance with federal funding requirements. • Daniel Williams raised over \$8,000,000 during his time at WMCAT for a new space, working with various partners on the build-out, shared usage, and programmatic elements: additionally, he oversaw many local, State, and Federal grant projects.

Studies on Impact

We look to the example of the Comer Education Campus in Chicago (comereducationcampus.org/impact), a similar multi-use education/cultural/business space. As noted on their website, the benefit of their schools, programs, services, and educational opportunities is felt by both their immediate neighborhood and the city. Much research has been conducted regarding the importance of urban schools having adequate physical space to promote physical fitness, community wellness, the arts, and science. There is plenty of research available regarding how valuable cultural institutions are to communities to help foster learning and understanding about history and culture, enhancing education within communities. A few references include: • The Role of the Cultural Institutions in the Civic Education, a journal article by Jasminka Kocoska and Dobri Petrovski • Joshua Guetzknow's research on how arts impact communities, identifying the following areas of impact: material health, cognitive psychology, interpersonal, economic, cultural, and social • Cultural Vitality in Communities: Interpretation and Indicators (Rosario/Kabwasa-Green/Herranz; The Urban Institute, 2006) looks at how cultural institutions enhance cultural vitality

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Eligible under non-profit support. Additional information will be needed if the proposal moves forward in the process.



Sustainability

One Time Expense



Feasibility

Risk to 2026 completion

PROJECT #76

Rise Up Community Center (Solon Township/Cedar Springs)



Identify the need for the proposed project

Since January 2019, the people of Rise Up Church have been asking, "What might God want to do with 58 acres at the corner of Algoma Ave NE and 17 Mile Rd to serve the Cedar Springs area community?" Recurring themes have been: Affordable Housing – local realtors attest to the great need as do local organizations such as North Kent Connect. Daycare – local daycares have long waiting lists and affordable, available daycare is important for community economic activity and for family wellbeing. Community Space + community development - to gather for learning, serving, and mutual support. Community-facing religious support (We have a church community that has a passion for community engagement) – Cedar Springs area demographics show low involvement in churches which contributes to community isolation and, thus, to lack of positivity and hope. Cedar Springs Public School superintendent Scott Smith identifies the greatest need he sees in the community as Hope. Covid 19 exacerbated this isolation. Farmer's Market – this busy corner has been a natural magnet for vendors over the last 20 years. It is a north Kent County growth opportunity

Brief Description

Rise Up Community Center on the corner of 17 Mile Rd and Algoma Ave NE - A community center in, with, and among the people of the Cedar Springs area in a prime community location. Covered Outdoor space/pavilion for use as a farmer's market and available for community gatherings and/or family use. Day Care Center – to meet an important need in a conveniently located and growing area. Community Center and Church – a multi-use space that serves as a community gathering space and a community-engaged church. Learning Together Barn – a flexible space for serving, fixing, learning, resourcing the needs of community members. (Fixing mowers, sharpening mower blades, household maintenance and repairs, cooking, sewing, woodworking, etc.) Playground – safe hangout space for young families Peaceful park – open, multi-use outdoor space with additional acreage that has potential for many community-serving uses in collaboration with other organizations.

Long-Term Benefit

Rise Up Community Center will be a community-facing, collaborative community hub at an important Kent County intersection that will provide space for small business vendors, micro and small business interaction and work space, service to under-resourced families in the form of an outward-facing church listening to and partnering with people to meet their needs, much-needed day care space, and flexible space to bring positivity and hope to the community.

Intended Beneficiary

Both isolated and engaged community members who need a community center to help them connect and communicate. Home makers, micro and small business vendors who need space and community to network, learn together and share their products. Families who need day care and a community space. Community members who utilize and enjoy the outdoor, play area, and pavilion space (with possible hiking/biking trails). Community members who need positivity and hope.

Estimated Cost

\$6,000,000 - \$10,000,000

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$6,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$10,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Jonathan Huizenga

Organization: Rise Up Church

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Community Center

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

No partners are co-proposing with us yet. However, we are already collaborating with affordable housing agencies for a portion of this 58 acre property. We also intend to seek Solon township cooperation and partnership, especially for a pavilion structure.



(Page 2)

Project Management Experience

Our Pastor has managed a Kent County ARPA grant in 2020 in his role as the Co-President of the Cedar Springs Area Chamber of Commerce.

Federal Funds Experience

Our organization worked through the PPP grant process in which proper records were kept and forms were submitted in order to qualify for grant status for those funds.

Studies on Impact

Research: A "Full Insite" demographic report (Sources: US Census Bureau, Synergos Technologies Inc., Experian, DecisionInsite/MissionInsite) cites the following: projected "moderate" growth for the Cedar Springs area, an average age that is slowly increasing, income that is low for the area but at about the state average, and church involvement that is slightly lower than the state average. Anecdotal evidence: Local realtors and our local community agency, North Kent Connect, are voicing the need for County investment in community building efforts in the north Kent County area. Small business vendors have been asking for permission to use the corner of 17 Mile and Algoma Ave for 20 years.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$6,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$10,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Jonathan Huizenga

Organization: Rise Up Church

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Community Center

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

No partners are co-proposing with us yet. However, we are already collaborating with affordable housing agencies for a portion of this 58 acre property. We also intend to seek Solon township cooperation and partnership, especially for a pavilion structure.

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Only parts of this project are eligible. Construction of new daycare facilities and affordable housing is an eligible use. Other parts are not eligible due to the location not being in a QCT.



Sustainability

Does not include a funding plan or fund availability after expending all the ARPA dollars.



Feasibility



PROJECT #86

Tyrone Twp. Library/Community Center

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$2,100,000

Maximum Cost: \$2,300,000

Submitter Info

Name: Shelley A Worley

Organization: Tyrone Township

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Community Center

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

Kent City Schools, and Tyrone Twp.

Identify the need for the proposed project

We have worked with community members and Kent District Library since 2018 to realize that our current library we have quickly outgrown, with the expansion of needs in the community. We want to keep the library as the hub of our community.

Brief Description

New Tyrone Township library/community center will help meet the needs of the community for generations to come. As the library is a growing hub of information, ideas and excitement over the last 84 years; we wish to remove the constraints of the current building and provide many needed programming options, quiet study rooms, expanded teen space, safe place of all in our community.

Long-Term Benefit

It will be the main hub of activity for all citizens and students; as the accessibility to the elementary and high schools is a key component to the location we chose.

Intended Beneficiary

Families and children, along with Seniors.

Estimated Cost

2.1-2.3 million

Project Management Experience

We have gone thru the COVID ARPA requirements, and went thru the audit process.

Federal Funds Experience

We have been a part of the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund

Studies on Impact

We have done research with Kent District Library which shows from 2001 to 2017 we had a 45% increase in visitors, and during the same time period we had a 231% increase in programs and outreach, along with a 180% increase in circulation during that same time frame. Since 2013 we have seen an increase of 265% in internet and WiFi use.

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

Individuals or communities served is not clear or does not align with Treasury guidelines' definition of 'impacted' or 'disproportionately impacted'.

06

D.E.I.



PROJECT #22

Why Words Matter: Providing LGBTQ+ Healthcare Training for Non-Profit Organizations



Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$15,000

Maximum Cost: \$20,000

Submitter Info

Name: Grace Huizinga

Organization: Grand Rapids LGBTQ Healthcare Consortium

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: DEI

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

None at this time

Partnership

The trainings are conducted in a partnering model with the requesting organization

Identify the need for the proposed project

Why Words Matter is the new program name for professional trainings provided by the Grand Rapids LGBTQ+ Healthcare Consortium (Consortium). Why Words Matter aligns with the overall mission of the Consortium to eliminating LGBTQ+ healthcare disparities in the Grand Rapids area. These trainings focus on empowerment through education and are designed for healthcare providers and ancillary organizations that strive to be affirming and inclusive to the health needs of the LGBTQ+ population. The organization requesting trainings and the Consortium build a collaborative relationship to assure the objectives of the organization are met. SMART Objectives: Outcome Measurement include: -By the end of the grant period, Why Word Matter will have provided 20 (individual and/or series) trainings to non-profit healthcare or ancillary organizations in the Grand Rapids area. -Each quarter of the grant period, a formative evaluation will review comments and ratings for each training. If needed, development and improvements will occur. The formative evaluation will be conducted by President and Vice-President of Operations. -Number of trainings and participants submitted to BOD on a quarterly basis. -Summative evaluation data will contribute to make judgements of the efficacy of trainings. This data collection will occur 6 months post training to the individual organizations for their subjective and objective changes related to trainings.

Brief Description

Presently, the Grand Rapids LGBTQ+ Healthcare Consortium receives multiple requests for trainings from a variety of organizations. Trainings cost \$250.00/hour and a two-hour session covers a basic overview. Multiple sessions may be scheduled based on the organization's specific objectives. Four sessions may be needed to cover diverse topics or to provided staff with multiple options to attend. There is a \$100.00 additional fee for online presentations and videotaping sessions for further use. Training costs may be prohibitive for non-profit organizations and often organization are not able to cover the training expenses. LGBTQ+ individuals frequently rely on nonprofit organizations for their healthcare needs. Affirming providers and organizations can be difficult to find. The Consortium aims to make LGBTQ+ trainings accessible to all healthcare organizations in the Grand Rapids area in order to eliminate healthcare disparities on every level of the organization. This grant would assist with this process. Trainings provide: -Exploration of the importance of pronouns and names - Gaining understanding of minority stress -Providing tools to build an affirming environment - Acknowledge the impact language has on individuals,

Long-Term Benefit

Lack of LGBTQ+ training in healthcare takes a toll on patients. Transgender patients report having to teach their healthcare providers about transgender care. Nearly 8% of LGB individuals and 25% of transgender and gender non-binary individuals reported being denied health care outright (whcic-report_when-health-careisnt-caring.pdf The long term benefit of this project is to eliminate healthcare disparities for LGBTQ+ individuals and population within the Grand Rapids area through education.

Intended Beneficiary

The target population for the trainings are healthcare professionals and ancillary organizations that work with LGBTQ+ patients/clients. The intended beneficiary is the LGBTQ+ community and the reduction/elimination of healthcare disparities they may experience.



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$15,000

Maximum Cost: \$20,000

Submitter Info

Name: Grace Huizinga

Organization: Grand Rapids LGBTQ Healthcare Consortium

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: DEI

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

None at this time

Partnership

The trainings are conducted in a partnering model with the requesting organization

Estimated Cost

\$15,000.00-\$20,000.00

Project Management Experience

We participate in two Pride festivals a year that draw approximately 10,000 people. The planning and leadership for these events involve county wide involvement.

Federal Funds Experience

None

Studies on Impact

Healthcare professionals self-report familiarity with LGBT health issues, however, gaps in practice & knowledge indicate the need for more training. Healthcare organizations also need support in ensuring that their organizations create inclusive environments by educating staff and leadership on nondiscrimination policies

<https://doi.org/10.1089/lgbt.2018.0118>.

Lack of LGBTQ+ training in healthcare takes a toll on patients. Transgender patients report having to teach their healthcare providers about care. Nearly 8% of LGB individuals & 25% of transgender report being denied health care outright (whcic-report_when-health-care-isnt-caring.pdf (lambdalegal.org)). Training of healthcare providers will provide information and improve skills which may lead to improved quality of healthcare for LGBT people

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5577719/>.

Trainings increased knowledge of LGBTQ health care issues and are effective at increasing comfort levels working with LGBTQ patients (<https://doi.org/10.1186/s12909-019-1727-3>). In addition, The National LGBTQIA+ Health Education Center provides trainings with the purpose of optimizing quality and cost-effective health care

<https://fenwayhealth.org/the-fenway-institute/ed>.

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Behavioral health services are eligible



Sustainability

Appears the project ends at the end of a series of educational sessions.



Feasibility



PROJECT #89

Healthcare Staffing and Consulting

Identify the need for the proposed project

As many as 19 million older Americans are expected to need longterm care (LTC) services by the year 2050, more than double the number who required LTC in the year 2000. Over time, this population (as well as the general population) will become increasingly racially and ethnically diverse. Consumers of healthcare services report a preference for providers who share their own race/ethnicity and cultural background. As well as in certain areas, preference of sex in the care performed such as bathing. These findings raise questions about how racial and ethnic diversity is reflected in the current LTC workforce, and how the demographic makeup of the workforce will be matched to consumer needs in the future. I am a Registered Nurse and while working throughout the pandemic many concerns were populated by residents in the facility I was working at. Many of the residents were Caucasian yet many of the workers were African, African American and Hispanic.

Brief Description

All LTC workers will need the skills to care effectively for persons from other racial/ethnic groups and to work effectively with coworkers from different racial/ethnic groups. Not only do persons need to come into the long term care environment with the training for their job but also implicit bias and culture training.

Long-Term Benefit

Increase in job retention for persons of all racial and ethnic groups. Decrease in turnover of long term care employees due to miscommunication and lack of cultural awareness. This training will not only help people feel more joy in working in a diverse workforce it can help them in their ability to de-escalate situations outside the workforce and be more empathetic and kind towards others that do not speak and look like themselves.

Intended Beneficiary

Healthcare providers in West Michigan and the West Michigan Community

Estimated Cost

\$50,000-75,000

Project Management Experience

None

Federal Funds Experience

I have worked in long term care and funding for these organizations has been federally, Medicare and State, Medicaid funded.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$50,000

Maximum Cost: \$75,000

Submitter Info

Name: Amy Leep

Organization: Comply, LLC

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: DEI

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

I have started the business and have \$20,000 in capital

Partnership

A glimpse of Africa and West Michigan Kenyans



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$50,000

Maximum Cost: \$75,000

Submitter Info

Name: Amy Leep

Organization: Comply, LLC

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: DEI

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

I have started the business and have \$20,000 in capital

Partnership

A glimpse of Africa and West Michigan Kenyans

Studies on Impact

This project is/was supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under grant number U81HP26494, Cooperative Agreement for a Regional Center for Health Workforce Studies. This information or content and conclusions are those of the authors and should not be construed as the official position or policy of, nor should any endorsements be inferred by HRSA, HHS or the U.S. Government. Please cite as: Bates, T., Amah, G., Coffman, J. (2018) Racial/Ethnic Diversity in the Long-term Care Workforce. San Francisco, CA: UCSF Health Workforce Research Center on LongTerm Care UCSF Health Workforce Research Center on Long-Term Care, 3333 California Street, Suite 265, San Francisco, CA, 94118 Copyright © 2018 The Regents of the University of California Contact: Janet Coffman, PhD, MA MPP, janet.coffman@ucsf.edu, 415-476-2435

Guidehouse Ranking Notes

 **Eligibility**

Workforce development is eligible

 **Sustainability**

Does not include a funding plan or fund availability after expending all the ARPA dollars.

 **Feasibility**



PROJECT #190

VoiceKent Survey Series

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$620,000

Maximum Cost: \$752,000

Submitter Info

Name: Jeff Williams

Organization: Johnson Center for Philanthropy, GVSU

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: DEI

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

Family Futures, the Kent County Essential Needs Task Force, and KConnect are our primary partners.

Identify the need for the proposed project

VoiceKent and VoiceGR were a community survey series, last fielded in 2017, that explored residents' views and experiences related to quality of life in Kent County, Michigan. Even though the data is five years old, the Dorothy A. Johnson Center at Grand Valley State University (Johnson Center) currently receives monthly calls from nonprofits, health systems, and the public alike asking if the data has been updated.

Brief Description

The center conducted its first community-wide survey in 2001. Collaborations with community partners and methodology updates led to 2017's VoiceKent. This updated survey asked Kent County residents about health, economic opportunity, discrimination and inclusion, and overall quality of life in the county. (See <https://johnsoncenter.org/collection/voicekent-voicegr/> for the data and special reports – including a focus on Latinx residents.) This project would convene a broad stakeholder panel of community-based organizations and residents to revise the instrument and conduct new VoiceKent surveys in 2023, 2024, 2025, and 2026. In addition to a statistically valid random sample of residents, we will engage community partners in a direct outreach campaign, similar to the successful broadband community survey conducted by Merit in neighboring Ottawa County. Annual surveys allow a consistent base of questions to be repeated each year, along with a topical focus (e.g., health care in 2023, housing in 2024, and community safety in 2025). A topical focus allows the larger community to track changes over time (e.g., asking questions about the perception of community safety in 2025 gives the community a sense of progress – or regression – since 2022). As a community, when we use data to better understand the realities our neighbors face, we locate the starting point for change. We can target programs and funding strategies to ensure no Kent County resident is left behind or overlooked.

Long-Term Benefit

The primary benefit is to create a trusted community barometer of life in Kent County, measuring resident attitudes toward the economy, social services, workforce development, education, and the community in a consistent way over time. This resource would allow the community to track trends over time and develop flexible, responsive strategies for change.

Intended Beneficiary

The primary beneficiaries are nonprofit and community-based organizations that (1) cannot afford to field direct, representative surveys of Kent County residents at a large scale, and/or (2) cannot find data about their community through traditional resources like the American Community Survey. Having regular access to large scale survey data allows nonprofits and community members alike to pinpoint areas for change – targeting programs, funding strategies, evaluation, and advocacy for and with the people and places that need them most.

Estimated Cost

\$155,000 to \$188,000 per year for four years (2023-2026), depending on the number of oversampled demographic populations and geographies, to design, field, and analyze the survey; engage a diverse network of community partners before and during survey administration; display summary results in the existing Community Insights platform for public use; and convene a quarterly community advisory committee. Total = \$620,000 to \$752,000 across the four years.



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$620,000

Maximum Cost: \$752,000

Submitter Info

Name: Jeff Williams

Organization: Johnson Center for Philanthropy, GVSU

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: DEI

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

Family Futures, the Kent County Essential Needs Task Force, and KConnect are our primary partners.

*Source of Funding

The Johnson Center is currently the lead evaluator for the Grand Rapids-based programs of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation (WKKF). Some of these funds, which focus on the Grand Rapids WKKF Neighborhoods of Promise, could be used as match for community-level data on topics such as economic inclusion and social determinants of health. This amount is reflected in the answer above. In addition, if this project is funded, the Johnson Center would seek funding from community partners interested in specific geographies or populations to match and/or defray the use of ARPA funds, in partnership with Kent County.

Project Management Experience

The Johnson Center is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year, and has a wealth of experience with large scale, county-wide and regional efforts. We are currently the lead evaluator for projects in Battle Creek Public Schools, as well as the Grand Rapids programs of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. In addition, the most recent iteration of this survey – VoiceKent 2017 – was a county-wide project led by the Johnson Center and commissioned by the Kent County Health Department.

Federal Funds Experience

Currently, the Johnson Center is the lead evaluator and data manager for the five-year Promise Neighborhoods Initiative in Southeast Grand Rapids, funded by the U.S. Department of Education. In addition, the Johnson Center is engaged on a three-year, federally-funded grant to the Michigan Community Service Commission. Senior staff at the center have experience with federally funded projects, including prior work for the U.S. Department of Energy, the U.S. Department of Justice, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Studies on Impact

Specifically for this project, which centers authentic community voices at the core of a community engagement strategy, we recommend research reports such as the Elevate Data for Equity program (link: <https://www.urban.org/elevate-data-equity>) or the Community Engagement Methods project (link: <https://www.urban.org/research/data-methods/community-engagement-methods-urban>) at the Urban Institute. The Johnson Center serves as one of only two Michigan-based partners in the National Neighborhood Indicators Project, also housed at the Urban Institute, which furthers the link between quality data and engaged communities. (link: <https://www.neighborhoodindicators.org/about-nnip/about-network>) The Urban Institute is also one of the national technical assistance providers for the U.S. Department of Education's national Promise Neighborhoods program. (link: <https://www.urban.org/policy-centers/metropolitan-housing-and-communities-policy-center/pro>) One of the core components of the Promise Neighborhoods approach is both community and parent surveys, and the national network has a ten year record of community engagement and improvement based on these surveys.

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

Individuals or communities served is not clear or does not align with Treasury guidelines' definition of 'impacted' or 'disproportionately impacted'.

PROJECT #275

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Training and Position



Identify the need for the proposed project

The Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan (AAAWM) recognizes that diversity equity and inclusion (DEI) efforts are never ending and always evolving. We have noticed our partner agencies asking for trainings on specific topics related to DEI and in order to better serve our partners and have a positive impact on the interactions partnering agencies have with older adults in the community

Brief Description

This project would fund a part-time DEI employee that would focus on community outreach and identify common themes in terms of needs and desires within the older adult population. This project would also help fund training opportunities for AAAWM staff as well as our community partners through the Kent County Senior Millage. Furthermore, we would have one employee from the agency become certified in cultural competency and implicit bias training so we can offer trainings on a regular basis to new staff and new partnering agencies.

Long-Term Benefit

By providing a broad scope of DEI trainings to our staff and partners, the community will become more accepting, understanding, and inclusive in both their professional and personal lives. Adding a parttime DEI position to help with community outreach will also build bridges and create lasting relationships and impacts within diverse communities.

Intended Beneficiary

AAAWM partner organizations and clients

Estimated Cost

150000

Project Management Experience

The Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan (AAAWM) has quite a bit of experience managing and leading county-wide projects. We are the fiduciary of the Kent County Senior Millage and manage funding from the Senior Millage that is awarded to partnering agencies. Furthermore, AAAWM manages RideLink, a county-wide transportation program for older adults 60+ that operates using senior millage dollars and is a collective of 5 community organizations that provide the transportation service. AAAWM also has ongoing projects and initiatives such as the Kent County Elder Abuse Coalition, Dementia Friends, Caregiver Resource Network and Family Caregiver University that are county and some, regionwide projects that help support older adults and their caregivers/community members.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$150,000

Maximum Cost: \$150,000

Submitter Info

Name: Sabrina Minarik

Organization: Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: DEI

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

A portion of the Kent County Senior Millage currently funds training for our partners. We have a budget of \$10,000 a year for partner trainings and we would continue to utilize those funds as well as ARPA funds for our training initiatives.

Partnership

n/a



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Federal Funds Experience

The Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan is a fiduciary of Older Americans Act (OAA) funding. AAAs were created in 1974 by the federal Older Americans Act with the mission of creating home and community-based services to maximize the independence and dignity of older adults.

Studies on Impact

n/a

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$150,000

Maximum Cost: \$150,000

Submitter Info

Name: Sabrina Minarik

Organization: Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: DEI

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Eligible under non-profit support. Additional information will be needed if the proposal moves forward in the process.



Sustainability

Does not include a funding plan or fund availability after expending all the ARPA dollars.



Feasibility

Source of Funding

A portion of the Kent County Senior Millage currently funds training for our partners. We have a budget of \$10,000 a year for partner trainings and we would continue to utilize those funds as well as ARPA funds for our training initiatives.

Partnership

n/a

07

DISABILITY SERVICES



PROJECT #96

Adaptations Improve Job Satisfaction, Reducing Employee Turnover



Identify the need for the proposed project

Our service industry supporting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) in the community has been in a staffing crisis for decades, primarily due to low Medicaid reimbursement rates resulting in low wages. The pandemic pushed the crisis into a staffing emergency with our organizations experiencing 20-30% position vacancy rates. For many years, Thresholds, Spectrum and MOKA and other providers of services to people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) have been working individually and collaboratively to address this severe, persistent direct care workforce shortage. The pandemic and economic turbulence have exacerbated the staffing crisis to an emergency, as people have exited the field or retired. Research indicates that this staffing crisis is not just a local, but a national challenge, for which one solution or approach will not be adequate. There is broad agreement that Medicaid rates must increase so providers receive the necessary funding to pay employees living wages and adequate benefits. However, no one believes that rate increases alone are enough to address this system-wide failure.

Many advocacy efforts are currently in action across the State to raise Medicaid reimbursement rates, improve training portability and flexibility, and develop direct care professional career ladders. We are not aware of larger initiatives to address potentially transformative technological and physical adaptations to the treatment milieu; however, our organizations have proven examples of adaptations making that very transformative difference for the people we serve and our workforce: Implementing SMART technology at one home reduced the staffing need by 1.5 full time equivalents. This relatively simple technology also increased the autonomy and self-esteem of the residents in the home. Adding an ARJO lift at another home reduced the need for personal care staff assistance by 50%, from two employees to one. Adaptations can be costly and funding is not readily available, which has made implementation slow and inconsistently applied. But even our limited experience shows that adapting structures, making the physical plant more universally accessible, and adding technology support transforms our workplaces and the lives of persons served. It has even reduced the need for staff, a game-changer in the current employment climate. These onetime, straightforward and cost-effective changes to our programs are a necessary element to protect and retain employees and better the lives of everyone. Though this approach alone will not solve the severe staffing crisis, it is a key part of a necessary multi-pronged approach to complement other statewide efforts, and is a one-time investment for remarkable transformation.

Brief Description

This project is a collaboration of three nonprofits that serve people with IDD, experiencing an aging, shrinking workforce, severe staff shortages and tasks requiring physical and emotional stamina. The goal is to transform workplaces so staff can focus on relational/behavioral support and have reduced physical burdens, and persons-served can achieve their highest levels of autonomy. Adding or enhancing technological, equipment and physical plant modifications to the homes where people receive care will ensure that current and future employees can continue the important role of treatment and care for our most vulnerable citizens. Additionally, technology and/or adaptive equipment allows the staff to spend more time with the persons served and give them a more independent quality of life. Specifically, this project would identify key elements of care that could be transformed via technology, equipment and physical plant enhancements. Examples include making treatment programs more universally accessible, use of SMART and other technology, and purchase of electronic equipment to use in place of manual labor. The partner agencies on this project have a combined 47 programs in Kent County where direct care staff work. Each agency's specific projects involve adding technology/equipment, and/or physical plant enhancements to replace or ease manual labor.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$2,700,000

Maximum Cost: \$3,500,000

Submitter Info

Name: Jacquelyn Johnson

Organization: Thresholds Inc

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Disability Services

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

MOKA, Spectrum Community Services, and Thresholds Inc with endorsement from Network180 (Kent County Community Mental Health)



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$2,700,000

Maximum Cost: \$3,500,000

Submitter Info

Name: Jacquelyn Johnson

Organization: Thresholds Inc

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Disability Services

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

MOKA, Spectrum Community Services, and Thresholds Inc with endorsement from Network180 (Kent County Community Mental Health)

Long-Term Benefit

By improving employee productivity and reducing the burden of some elements of the job, employee satisfaction and retention increases, and employee injuries and turnover decreases. Modifying the way work is performed will also improve the lives of persons served, giving employees time and energy to focus more intentionally on interpersonal connections with persons served. Importantly, this will reduce the negative impact that the staffing crisis has on our agencies and the community.

Intended Beneficiary

Current Direct Support Professionals working in Adult Foster Care homes in Kent County and the people with intellectual and developmental disabilities living in specialized licensed residential homes in Kent County. Supporting the frontline workforce by improving their jobs through technology and physical enhancements will provide the support at the front end of delivery, which may also lower emergency room visits and police interventions. Staffing shortages lead to failure to support people effectively in adult foster care homes, causing short term hospital stays that turn into long stays due to those same staffing shortages. Currently, nearly 50 Kent County residents are waiting for openings in our homes. As we are able to lower our employee turnover rates, there is the potential to serve more people who are waiting for these vital services.

Estimated Cost

\$2.7 - \$3.5 million

*Source of Funding

Each organization is committed to seeking alternative supplemental funding and in-kind donations to support technology or physical plant adaptations. We also agree to meet quarterly to share best practices and strategies for implementation outcomes as well as alternative funding options. This learning and sharing of best practices will allow us to leverage the benefit of the ARPA funds across the entire network of providers.

Project Management Experience

MOKA, Spectrum and Thresholds are three of the four largest providers of Medicaid services for people with IDD in Kent County. We have been publicly funded for over 40 years, contracting and collaborating with Community Mental Health (Network180) to meet the needs of people with IDD in a way that makes best and most efficient use of taxpayer dollars. We have been partners with the County for a decades-long, County-wide project dating back to the beginning of deinstitutionalization, managing tens of millions of county dollars and successfully caring for tens of thousands of Kent County residents.

Federal Funds Experience

All three nonprofits are contracted service providers for Network180, serving a Medicaid population. We also receive Social Security and Medicare funding. We are familiar with billing codes for all services we provide and are able to provide the services according to the guidelines set by the federal government. We have experience billing electronically to the payor and have a compliance system in place to monitor billings for accuracy. Each of our organizations has over 40 years of experience managing federal funds.



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Studies on Impact

Yes. A number of national and local research articles support the need for increased reimbursement rates to increase wages, enhance the image of this profession, create career ladders, and improve work conditions and efficiencies through use of technology or adaptations. See "Community Supports in Crisis: No Staff No Service" article in following link:

https://ici.umn.edu/products/PERjPdfZQgGW_TqyOH_Utg See "Forging a Path Forward to Strengthen Michigan's Direct Care Workforce" that addresses the need to make work easier to support employee retention. <https://www.chcs.org/media/Forging-a-Path-Forward-to-Strengthen-Michigans-Direct-Care-Workforce.pdf>

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$2,700,000

Maximum Cost: \$3,500,000

Submitter Info

Name: Jacquelyn Johnson

Organization: Thresholds Inc

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Disability Services

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact:  

Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

MOKA, Spectrum Community Services, and Thresholds Inc with endorsement from Network180 (Kent County Community Mental Health)

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Eligible under non-profit support - need more information.



Sustainability

One time expense



Feasibility



PROJECT #114

Beyond26 Program Office Construction

Identify the need for the proposed project

Beyond26 began in 2018 by a group of community members who noticed a lack of opportunity for adults who are over the age of 26 and have disabilities. This group, comprised of parents of adult children with disabilities and individuals deeply connected to these families, understood that 26 is a critical age for an adult with disabilities; this is the year that they age out of Michigan's education system. While the next step should likely be employment, these opportunities are, unfortunately, few and far between for adults with disabilities. Beyond26 bridges this gap between local businesses and a community of excited and available jobseekers through networking and advocacy. After consulting a variety of local agencies who also work with individuals with disabilities, it was undeniable that this service was much needed in our West Michigan community. Upon opening our doors, Beyond26 had an immediate outpouring of individuals coming forth and seeking job placement services. Today, Beyond26 is constantly striving to successfully support individuals with disabilities and connect them to meaningful employment so they may thrive as individuals, and thrive within our community. Our work has made us increasingly aware of how important housing and social programs are in the lives of individuals with disabilities as well. As we continue to build relationships with other disability support organizations, we are also made aware of the benefits that would come from working side-by-side and making our services centrally located; benefits which include increasing the efficiency of our organizations, and more importantly removing barriers to access for those that we serve.

Brief Description

Beyond26 plans to partner with David's House Ministries and Compassionate Hearts to build a collective that allows our organizations to operate side-by-side as we offer support to individuals with disabilities in three major areas of need: employment, housing, and social integration. The funding from this proposal would be used to support building costs for Beyond26 alone, which would be used to construct one building (around 15,000 sq ft) and would include administrative offices and program offices for our microbusinesses, which provide direct employment for individuals with disabilities. 15+ acres of land has already been pledged by a donor toward this project, and the project has recently been approved by the City of Kentwood. All that remains is the construction of the buildings

Long-Term Benefit

Beyond26 has been in operation for 5 years. In that time we have served over 115 individuals, largely through volunteer labor and in-kind donations of office space. Owning a facility, especially one so close to our referral partners, will ensure long-term organizational stability and accessibility of our services to those who need them. Likewise, recipients of our services will be able to access housing services and social/recreational services more easily as well.

Intended Beneficiary

Adults with disabilities, especially Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities

Estimated Cost

\$4,500,000- \$5,000,000

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$4,500,000

Maximum Cost: \$5,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Dirk Bakhuyzen

Organization: Beyond26

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Disability Services

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

Capital campaign (Individual donors, corporate sponsors, grants, etc.)

Partnership

David's House Ministries,
Compassionate Heart Ministries

Project Management Experience

None

Federal Funds Experience

None

Studies on Impact

Employment, housing, and social integration are major social determinants (SDH) of health for all individuals, and each area needs to be addressed for a true impact on quality of life. An article published in the 2018 issue of Disability and Rehabilitation stated that, "Disparity between people living with and without a disability is unambiguous when comparing SDH such as employment and income, housing, transport, and social support... This negative consequence of disability is commonly addressed relative to individual SDH components, for example there are separate support mechanisms for income, housing and transport... When considering changes to the social determinants of health resulting from disability acquisition, it is impractical to view these changes and those affected in isolation. Consideration of this multidimensional effect on life associated with the acquisition of disability will be useful in disability research, advocacy and support services." A. Frier, F. Barnett, S. Devine & R. Barker (2018) Understanding disability and the 'social determinants of health': how does disability affect peoples' social determinants of health?, Disability and Rehabilitation, 40:5, 538-547

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$4,500,000

Maximum Cost: \$5,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Dirk Bakhuyzen

Organization: Beyond26

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Disability Services

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

Capital campaign (Individual donors, corporate sponsors, grants, etc.)

Partnership

David's House Ministries,
Compassionate Heart Ministries

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Housing support is eligible



Sustainability

Need funds for construction only



Feasibility

Unclear on if project can be completed by 2026. Further, Questions about whether they have the capacity to expand their services to support 5-7K people, need a sustainable business plan to evaluate.



PROJECT #267

Grand Rapids ADA Curb Cuts

Identify the need for the proposed project

Grand Rapids' Vital Streets program identified sidewalk connectivity and multimodal transportation as a priority. The City recognized that lack of curb cuts was a barrier to persons with limited mobility in some areas of the sidewalk network. The City intends to eliminate these barriers by installing ADA compliant ramps at intersections with curb barriers.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$4,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$4,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Tim Burkman, P.E.

Organization: City of Grand Rapids

Project Overview

Funding Group: Infrastructure

Project Theme: Disability Services

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Brief Description

Currently, the City upgrades existing ramps and curb cuts when completing street projects, but this method makes slow progress. The City proposes a focused project to address an estimated 1,450 curb barriers throughout the city by installing ADA compliant curb cuts at identified locations. The City would issue unit cost contracts for the work including curb cuts, ramps, and acceptable detectable warning surfaces. Concurrent and future additional work would continue through the City's Vital Streets program to address curb cuts that were installed under previous ADA design criteria, but do not meet current standards.

Long-Term Benefit

This project will improve opportunities for people with disabilities or limited mobility to use the sidewalk network to reach destinations such as work, school, healthcare, shopping, parks, and transit. The project demonstrates a commitment by Grand Rapids and Kent County to address usability issues for people of all ability levels and takes a significant step forward toward ADA compliance and Universal Design.

Intended Beneficiary

All residents and visitors with mobility issues including disabled persons, elderly, children and adults with strollers. The universal design of curb cuts is for the safety of all mentally, physically, and visually impaired pedestrians.

Estimated Cost

\$4,000,000.00

Project Management Experience

Incorporated in 1850, the City of Grand Rapids is the second largest city in Michigan with a population of 198,917 within about 45 square miles. Grand Rapids is a full-service city providing a wide range of public services including development services, planning, engineering, drinking water, sewer, wastewater treatment, street maintenance, traffic safety and parking, trash and recycling, parks, recreation, forestry and cemeteries, fire, police, and so forth. These functions are fully supported by administrative/central service departments. The Engineering Department employs 37 staff and performs project services for road maintenance and reconstruction, sidewalks, utilities, city facilities, and vital streets (complete streets + green infrastructure). The department also provides support for permitting, surveying, city GIS data, and asset management. Over the past three fiscal years, the department has initiated 286 new Capital Projects and awarded 148 projects with a total value exceeding \$260.4 million. The Engineering Department's internal structure supports the award and management of projects of any size. It utilizes a webbased bidding system, Accela for permitting, and Microsoft Project to manage engineering projects. The Department is experienced in managing projects with multiple funding sources. The City maintains a financial system that includes fund accounting and assigns codes to track grants. This allows proper tracking of project details and prevents commingling of funds. Staff tracks time worked by project. Engineering's own accounting staff audit each disbursement by funding source in compliance with the OMB Uniform Administrative Requirements (2CFR 200).

Source of Funding

The sidewalk/vital streets program would match up to \$200,000 per year.

Partnership

n/a



(Page 2)

Federal Funds Experience

The City has extensive experience managing federal funds including EPA, FEMA, EDA, DOE, HUD, and FHA. The engineering department has a full-time staff person to support grants.

Brief Description

Americans with Disabilities Act Title II Regulations, Subpart D – Program Accessibility, 35.151 (2016) https://www.ada.gov/regs2010/titleII_2010/titleII_2010_regulations.htm#a35151 ADA Chapter 4 Accessible Routes <https://www.access-board.gov/ada/chapter/ch04/#a406> ADA.gov https://www.ada.gov/2010ADASTandards_index.htm • 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design <https://www.ada.gov/regs2010/2010ADASTandards/2010ADASTandards.htm> • Guidance on the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design <https://www.ada.gov/regs2010/2010ADASTandards/2010ADASTandards.htm> Effects of ramp slope on physiological characteristic and performance time of healthy adults propelling and pushing wheelchairs <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4305601/>

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$4,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$4,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Tim Burkman, P.E.

Organization: City of Grand Rapids

Project Overview

Funding Group: Infrastructure

Project Theme: Disability Services

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

Potentially eligible under Public Health.

Source of Funding

The sidewalk/vital streets program would match up to \$200,000 per year.

Partnership

n/a

PROJECT #207

GRAAA's James C. Veen Observatory Assembly Room



Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$550,000

Maximum Cost: \$600,000

Submitter Info

Name: Marc H Daneman & Chris Miller

Organization: Grand Rapids Amateur Astronomical Association

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Disability Services

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Identify the need for the proposed project

The Grand Rapids Amateur Astronomical Association (GRAAA) Board of Directors and its Sustainability Committee began a strategic planning process five years ago to identify programming, operational and capital improvements for our organization and 52-year-old James C. Veen Observatory. This effort prioritized physical improvements to the Observatory to provide year-round usability, ADA access, modern restrooms, and expanded classroom and meeting room space. Dan Voss Construction of Ada was engaged to deliver a preliminary design for a building addition to meet these objectives

Brief Description

GRAAA would use the ARPA funds to construct an ADA accessible climate-controlled 50 ft by 30 ft annex to the existing building. It will include meeting /classroom space for 50, in-door & out-door ADA accessible restrooms, storage space, and AV technology. The lowprofile design and unobtrusive location will retain the observatory's unique front profile. Preliminary drawings and cost estimates for the annex were prepared by Dan Voss Construction. Renderings along with a Rough Order of Magnitude cost estimate are available for your review

Long-Term Benefit

This addition extends the 52-year-old Observatory for another 50 years for the Kent County community by enabling a wider range of services. The new facility would supplement GRAAA's ongoing outreach efforts to promote community interest in astronomy. By becoming a year-round and ADA facility, we would not need to rent or find locations for large events or for the winter months. Allowing us to add program like Telescope Lending in Libraries, Telescopes in the Parks and expand GRPM's programming

Intended Beneficiary

The entire Kent County community will be served with our monthly presentations, Observatory events, and outreach activities. Most benefitted will be the professional and novice astronomers, high school and college students, scout troops, families, social and church groups who seek a unique experience enjoying the night sky and learning about astronomy. This project will directly benefit our members and observatory visitors and accomplish our commitment to offer value to a diversity of social groups and levels of interest. Offering these services in a new and larger space will allow GRAAA to expand its ongoing outreach efforts (with the programming noted above), especially to the western and northern portions of the county, which are far less accessible to the Lowell area Veen Observatory. All of this will have a transforming impact on the quality of life for all Kent County residents and support the infrastructure of the Observatory's unique architecture

*Partnership

Grand Rapids Public Museum. We have had an on-going relationship with the Museum since our inception in 1955. The Museum has long supported GRAAA by providing meeting facilities, and through financial and administrative support in operation of Veen Observatory. Some of our outreach events are co-sponsored by the Museum and its Roger G. Chaffee Planetarium. We also work regularly with local school groups (such as the Grand Rapids Public School's Zoo School), area scouting programs, and local colleges. We have worked closely with and received grants from the Grand Rapids Community Foundation, Lowell Area Community Fund, Lowell Cable Television (LCTV) Endowment, and numerous private groups and foundations.



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$550,000

Maximum Cost: \$600,000

Submitter Info

Name: Marc H Daneman & Chris Miller

Organization: Grand Rapids Amateur Astronomical Association

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Disability Services

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Estimated Cost

\$600,000 is needed to meet the overall construction of the new assembly building as recommended by our consultant. The projected 2021 construction cost for the addition was \$550,000. Above this cost will be the inflationary impact, audio-visual technology suitable for classroom and public events and road improvements for winter access. Should it be impractical to raise the entire amount needed for a new structure, we have explored the feasibility of a scaled back effort involving integration of expanded floor space and the ADA compliant restroom into the current building. This would meet a portion of our facility goals with a budget cost in the \$300,000 range. GRAAA would certainly consider these changes if necessary.

*Source of Funding

GRAAA's General Operations Funds; a Second Phase Capital Improvements Campaign; local community funds (GRCF, Lowell Community Fund, LCTV, and others); and member contributions and donations. GRAAA will be conducting its own Capital Improvements Campaign for equipment and other support. If needed, GRAAA will commit to providing about a one-third match of ARPA funding in support of the project.

Project Management Experience

Since 2017 GRAAA has raised more than \$200,000 which was used to fully acquire ownership of 16 acres of land surrounding Veen Observatory. GRAAA has since used a combination of donated and general operational funds to make extensive improvements to the property. The three principal telescopes have had upgrades or refurbishment over the past five years. The GRAAA has developed a capital improvements plan and is underway to complete its goals. By the end of 2022, through a donation from a current member, the goal to install a park pavilion for outdoor classes and social events will be done. In 2023, through another donation, a new stand-alone rotating dome will house a solar telescope. Other grounds and building improvements are in the planning stages. GRAAA is an all-volunteer organization. It has received help from supporting institutions such as the Grand Rapids Public Museum, but most consistently it is the result of the hard work from a dedicated team of members. Several of our volunteers and board members have expertise and professional backgrounds to lead and ensure that all funding from ARPA is closely monitored and properly managed.

Federal Funds Experience

The GRAAA itself has not received federal funds for any of its work to date. However, several GRAAA members, and staff in the development office of the Grand Rapids Public Museum have professional experience in managing projects which included large donor contributions (as described above), and with federal and state programs in their professional and vocational positions. Individual member vitas and program examples can be provided as needed.



(Page 3)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$550,000

Maximum Cost: \$600,000

Submitter Info

Name: Marc H Daneman & Chris Miller

Organization: Grand Rapids Amateur Astronomical Association

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Disability Services

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Studies on Impact

GRAAA's Sustainability Committee completed in 2021 a two-year Strategic Plan that identified physical and operational requirements for the Veen Observatory and grounds – if the Veen is seen another 50 years. This is described in the GRAAA's Capital Idea Board Priorities, which looked at possible projects over the next ten years. The number one priority identified was the addition to the Veen Observatory. GRAAA retained Dan Vos Construction Company in 2021 to provide a schematic design and estimated costs for the building addition. The ARPA Funds would be used to construct this Assembly Room. The strategic planning efforts also addressed the need to expand membership, organizational marketing, social and media efforts, and new and expanded programming, much of which is now continuing as part of a second phase of this strategic planning process

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

Eligible under non-profit support. Additional information will be needed if the proposal moves forward in the process.

PROJECT #62

Social Connection Opportunities for People with Autism



Identify the need for the proposed project

We, Autism Support of Kent County (ASK), are the ONLY organization in the state of Michigan offering social and connection programs for individuals with autism. People with autism struggle with the social, recreational and emotional facets of life and may have difficulty communicating.. They have higher than normal rates of anxiety and depression due, in large part, to the fact that they find it difficult to "fit in" to regular society and have a hard time making friends. Our social opportunities end up being the only way for these autistics individuals to connect with others, and these groups profoundly affect their quality of life, as they have connection to others and finally belong somewhere. Our constituents are telling us that they need more connection to others, more opportunities for things to do, and more life skill and independence development. The need we see is huge, but we do not have the funds to enhance our capacity to serve everyone who wants to be served. We are being told that the areas of need are greatest for children, teens and young adults. However, expanding our program for older adults is important too. Many people with autism are not employed for various reasons. They tend to end up spending the vast majority of their time in their home alone. This leads to a high rate of depression and loneliness. Because autistics struggle socially as a result of being autistic, being isolated makes it much worse. The more time they spend alone, the less confident they are, the less likely they are to seek employment, and the greater number of communication and independent skills they tend to lose. Being around others and practicing the social skills that don't come naturally to them leads to less loneliness, more confidence, greater desire to attempt to get a job or volunteer, and a happier life overall.

Brief Description

We are requesting funding for expansion of these programs: - CLUBHOUSE GROUP FOR YOUNG ADULTS- a drop off social skills and life skills program that meets weekly (ages 15 and up). We would like to expand this program to TWICE each week. -THEATER GROUP- a performing group that meets weekly and performs two plays annually (ages 12 and up) We would like to expand to include more than 20 actors. -SOCIAL GROUP- a group that meets twice each month for fun and friendship for teens and young adults (ages 12 and up) We would like to expand this group to meet weekly. - OLDER ADULT SOCIAL GROUP- meets monthly for anyone over age 35 with autism We would like to expand to meet twice each month and have funds provided for those who cannot pay. We are requesting funding for the creation of these new programs: ELEMENTARY-AGED SOCIAL GROUP- we are also requesting funds to create a social group for kids in elementary school. We currently have a list of 16 families that want to participate in this group as we believe that practicing social skills earlier leads to better outcomes later in life. MENTORSHIP FOR PARENTS: We would like to have funding for staff to create a mentorship program and materials for families who have children who are aging out of the school system. Securing guardianship, SSI, Medicaid, housing and planning for the future of a disabled child is extremely complicated, and families need help and support that currently isn't offered anywhere else.

Long-Term Benefit

Because people with autism struggle socially and with communication, they tend to be isolated. Being isolated can lead to skill decline, loneliness, lethargy and a lack of motivation, and even mental health issues like anxiety and depression. Meeting the social needs of the autistic community can encourage employment, lead to greater life satisfaction, reduce mental distress, and help support families with children with autism. This makes life better for everyone in a community

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$20,400

Maximum Cost: \$20,400

Submitter Info

Name: Pamela Liggett

Organization:

Autism Support of Kent County

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Disability Services

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

We are actively seeking donations, writing grants, and growing our fundraising events to be able to implement these changes as soon as possible

Partnership

n/a



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$20,400

Maximum Cost: \$20,400

Submitter Info

Name: Pamela Liggett

Organization:

Autism Support of Kent County

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Disability Services

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

We are actively seeking donations, writing grants, and growing our fundraising events to be able to implement these changes as soon as possible

Partnership

n/a

Intended Beneficiary

The largest beneficiaries of our expanded programs would be teens. In the creation of new programs, the beneficiaries are children with autism. Overall, we serve families affected by autism and autistic people of all ages.

Estimated Cost

We are requesting funding for expansion of these programs: -

Clubhouse Program- add a second section for 12 teens/young adults- \$6,000 + Theater Group

Expansion- \$2,400 + Social Group/ Older Adult Group- \$3,600 + Elementary Group Creation- \$3,600 +

Mentorship Program and Materials- \$4,800

Project Management Experience

We have been the only autism organization in West Michigan for over 25 years. We have received some grants during COVID 19. We understand the responsibility of being in this position.

Federal Funds Experience

We have received a grant during COVID 19, so we understand how to report outcomes, monitor progress and assess the program.

Studies on Impact

Not at this time, however, a study in England was conducted that found that people with autism had a much greater risk of feeling suicidal than the general population. The study attributed these suicidal thoughts to the loneliness and isolation that comes with the social challenges and awkwardness of autism. Our goal is to create safe places for individuals with autism to connect and belong, and therefore, be happier. We believe that our priority should be on making life better for those with autism in West Michigan, and we believe that we are well-suited to doing so.

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Eligible under non-profit support. Additional information will be needed if the proposal moves forward in the process.



Sustainability

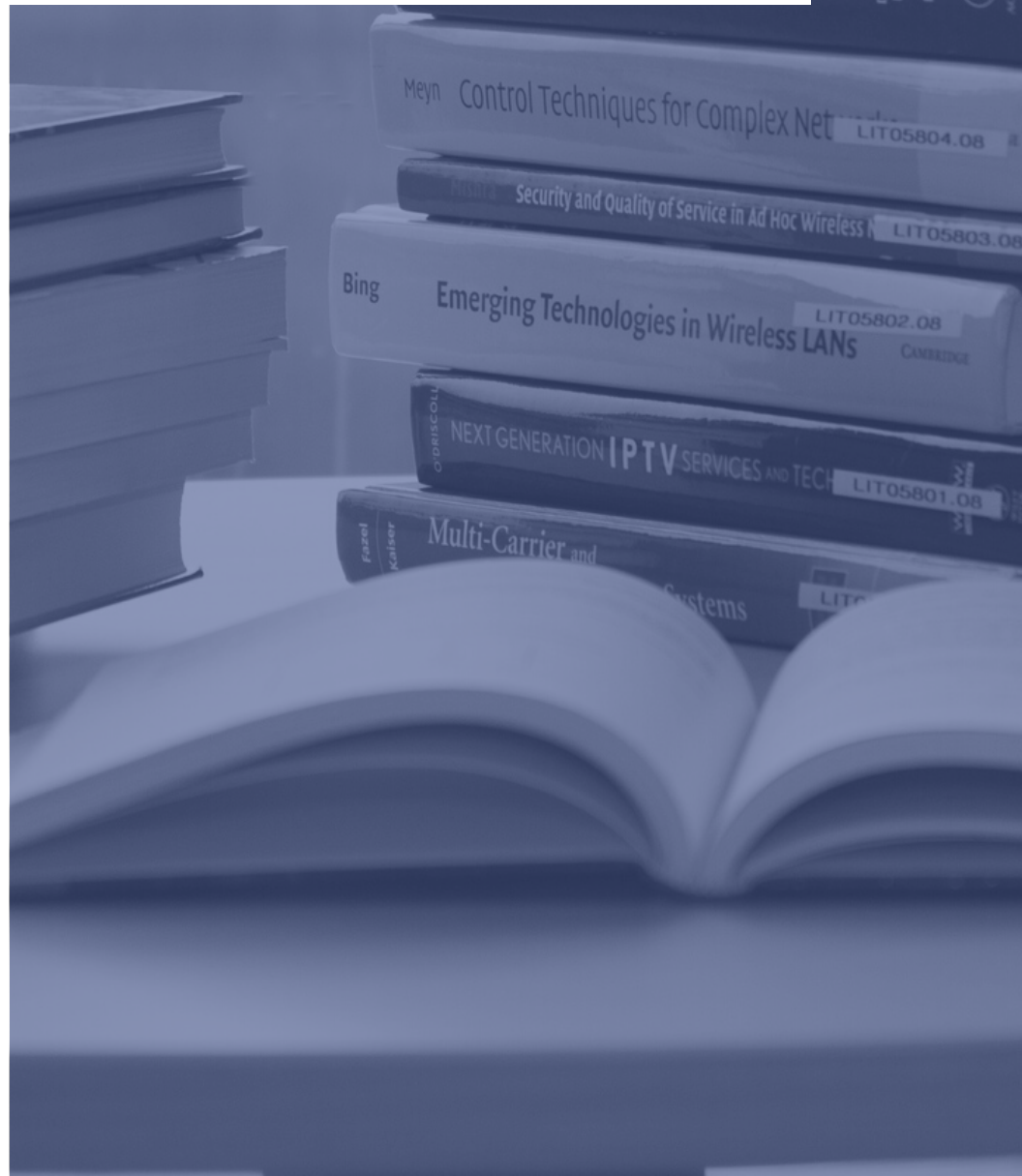
Does not include a funding plan or fund availability after expending all the ARPA dollars.



Feasibility

08

EDUCATION





PROJECT #147

Water Education and Career Program

Identify the need for the proposed project

Similar to water and wastewater utilities across the nation, a high proportion of our workforce will be eligible for retirement within the upcoming years resulting in critical positions experiencing concerning staffing issues. The larger utilities, Grand Rapids, Wyoming, Grandville, and Plainfield as well as the other smaller utilities in Kent County all are struggling with this challenge. In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic eliminated or severely limited outreach opportunities to the community while pandemic conditions simultaneously limited hiring, leaving 25 percent of the crucial utility operations positions vacant for over two years. Above all, our current workforce lacks sufficient diversity and does not accurately represent the residents we proudly serve. Therefore, we must create innovative and equitable opportunities to rejuvenate the water field with diverse and qualified individuals passionate and excited about protecting public health. A targeted, long-term, vertically integrated water education and career program will aid in achieving these goals. In short, implementing a program that is designed to build a person's knowledge-base and skills throughout all learner stages while providing several opportunities to practice gained skills in an applied setting will garner interest in the water and wastewater industries and increase the talent pipeline within our community. The City is currently partnered with Grand Rapids Community College and Bay College in the design and implementation of a "West Michigan Water Career Program" focused on infrastructure workforce development utilizing a multi-pronged approach of public outreach, education, and hands-on experience. These partnerships provide the foundation and support necessary to make this program successful. We work with our partner organizations to provide direct pathways to careers in utility operations and management by building a person's skills and knowledge base to the fulfill the professional and regulatory requirements of working in this public service industry.

Brief Description

Funding will provide support to aid in the removal of functional barriers limiting participation in the educational and workforce development opportunities, especially for those desiring to participate from underserved communities. This support would fund the elimination of barriers such as mileage reimbursements for travel between GRCC and the worksites, student support services - childcare, work footwear and clothing... and tuition and other professional support. Funding would also be used to support K-12 educational outreach in the form of educational supplies, career open houses and other outreach activities. A detailed funding proposal has been prepared and is available. The overarching mission of the City of Grand Rapids Water Education and Career Program is to provide learning opportunities about the value of clean water and the important roles water and wastewater industries have in protecting our water resources at all ages and learner stages. The longterm plan for this program, after it is piloted in Grand Rapids, is to reach out to our County and neighboring utilities to partner in this work.

Long-Term Benefit

The proposed water education initiative is a long-term effort to build upon the relationships and the knowledge base of students regarding the water industry. Strengthening our relationships within the Grand Rapids and Kent County community will translate into more young adults exploring the opportunities within the water industry providing our utilities with the pipeline of local talent to meet our staffing needs.

Intended Beneficiary

Area Utilities and well as area residents being provided a career path and the tools to make it assessable to all of our residents.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$500,000

Maximum Cost: \$500,000

ARPA Request: \$500,000

Submitter Info

Name: Mike Grenier

Organization: City of Grand Rapids

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Education

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

GRCC, Bay College, Department of Education



(Page 2)

Estimated Cost

\$500,000.00

Project Management Experience

The City of Grand Rapids has deep experience managing large projects.

Federal Funds Experience

The City of Grand Rapids has deep experience working with federal funds.

Studies on Impact

Yes. Two studies that have been influential in the design of this education program are Making Youth Apprenticeships Equitable and Effective: Lessons from North Carolina and Cognitive Apprenticeship in Educational Practice: Research on Scaffolding, Modeling, Mentoring, and Coaching as Instructional Strategies. The report from North Carolina addresses common barriers that are often limiting diverse individuals from participating in internship and apprenticeship programs, all of which have been addressed in the design and implementation of the education program. The second research paper discusses the importance of K-12 introduction of topics and how it is important to utilize teaching and learning at younger ages as well to prepare our future talent.

<https://www.ncjustice.org/publications/making-youth-apprenticeships-equitable-and-effective-lessons-from-north-carolina/>

<https://www.taylorfrancis.com/chapters/edit/10.4324/9781410609519-42/cognitive-apprenticeship-educational-practice-research-scaffolding-modeling-mentoring-coaching-instructional-strategies-vanessa-paz-dennen>

Supporting Documentation

1. [Letter of Support #1](#)

2. [Letter of Support #2](#)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$500,000

Maximum Cost: \$500,000

ARPA Request: \$500,000

Submitter Info

Name: Mike Grenier

Organization: City of Grand Rapids

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Education

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

GRCC, Bay College, Department of Education

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Workforce development and childcare investment is eligible



Sustainability

This is just the pilot program. Continuation is contingent on success.



Feasibility



PROJECT #65

Baxter Community Center Out of School Time Programming

Identify the need for the proposed project

Our organization identified the need for this proposed project by listening to our community. It was birthed out of our Full Day School Age Care program which ran during COVID when students were attending online school. Parents of students in our Child Development Center shared that they were struggling to figure out what to do with their older children, as they had to go to work and had few options for their elementary aged students. We opened one classroom where students could work independently, eat breakfast, lunch, and a snack, and get physical activity everyday either outside or in our gym. This led to our first year of summer programming last year and expanded into afterschool and spring/winter break programs this school year.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$263,000

Maximum Cost: \$263,000

Submitter Info

Name: Danielle Guinsler

Organization:
Baxter Community Center

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Education

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

The City of Grand Rapids and the State of Michigan

Partnership

The City of Grand Rapids

Brief Description

Baxter Out of School Time programming is for K-8th grade students when school is not in session and their parents or caregivers need to be at work or school. We know that adults have less absences and are late to work less when they have consistent, reliable care for their children. Oftentimes elementary and middle school aged children are left alone during out of school time hours if a caregiver must be at work, leading them to watch television or play video games. Baxter's Out of School Time programming provides enriching activities like STEM experiments and golf lessons for students alongside healthy meals and snacks to nourish them. During the school year, there is homework time and educational field trips to places like the Grand Rapids Art Museum. In the summer, students spend time at Joe Taylor Park creating arts and crafts, playing basketball in the Baxter gym, and visiting John Ball Zoo. This program even provides care during winter and spring break as we know many parents cannot take that time off from work. Parents surveyed after our first year of afterschool programming reported that their students' attitudes toward school improved, their homework completion increased, and their academic performance was better after participating in the program. We partner with vendors like STEM Greenhouse, the Grand Rapids Public Library, Strong Dance LLC, and Big Nik Basketball to provide an assortment of opportunities for students to stay physically active and learn.

Long-Term Benefit

The long-term benefits of this proposed project to the community include decreased rates of truancy, as studies show that afterschool programming can improve school-day attendance. Consistent participation in afterschool programs has shown lower dropout rates and has helped close achievement gaps for low-income students. For older youth, regular participation in an afterschool program may also reduce risky behaviors and help them gain college and career-needed skills.

Intended Beneficiary

The residents of the Baxter neighborhood ages K-8th grade and their families are the intended beneficiaries.

Estimated Cost

263000



(Page 2)

Project Management Experience

We have been part of previous funding cycles that required extensive reporting out on demographics and information about beneficiaries.

Federal Funds Experience

We have worked with federal funds in the past and currently, including Childcare Stabilization grant funds.

Studies on Impact

Yes, there is research from the RAND Corporation:

<https://www.wallacefoundation.org/knowledge-center/pages/the-value-of-out-of-school-time-programs.aspx>

The Afterschool Alliance:

http://www.expandinglearning.org/docs/ExpandedLearning&Afterschool_Infographic.pdf

The Council for A Strong America:

<https://www.strongnation.org/articles/930-from-risk-to-opportunity-afterschool-programs-keep-kids-safe> AIR: <https://www.air.org/resource/brief/ready-work-how-afterschool-programs-can-support-employability-through-social-and>

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$263,000

Maximum Cost: \$263,000

Submitter Info

Name: Danielle Guinsler

Organization:

Baxter Community Center

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Education

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

The City of Grand Rapids and the State of Michigan

Partnership

The City of Grand Rapids

Guidehouse Ranking Notes

 **Eligibility**

This program is eligible as addressing educational disparities that predate the pandemic, since this school is located in a QCT

 **Sustainability**

Does not include a funding plan or fund availability after expending all the ARPA dollars.

 **Feasibility**



PROJECT #280

ACO Professional Development & Advancement Program

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$1,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$1,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Crystal Bui

Organization:

Asian Community Outreach

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Education

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

n/a

Identify the need for the proposed project

Asian Community Outreach is a community organization that serves the Asian community in Kent County. Through our work with volunteers and youth since our inception, we have observed that young people in our community who are children of immigrants do not have access to, or opportunities to build, local professional networks to leverage once they enter the workforce. Through this proposal, we seek to create an internship program that gives youths from the Asian community the opportunity to develop their skills and professional network.

Brief Description

We propose the creation of an internship program for college students that compensates the students for applying their skills on projects for the organization and provides them with mentorship and training with professionals and organizations in Kent County. The program will consist of teams of students working on various community projects in the areas of health, financial security, access to legal services, and education (all of which are core focus areas for the organization). The students will be compensated at market rate for their services and provided with meaningful feedback and opportunity to network within the greater community. The program will help students develop their professional networks by pairing them with Asian professionals in Kent County for mentorship; the program will also cover the costs of education and training for students' professional development.

Long-Term Benefit

The benefit is to build and retain talent in Kent County and provide opportunities for young adults of color to develop their professional network for which they can leverage on graduation from university. Our goal is to encourage the brightest to come back and work in Kent County; we believe young professionals of color would be more willing to do so if they have networks and opportunities in place.

Intended Beneficiary

Local government and business organizations in Kent County that seek diverse and talented workforce as well as young adults of color who come from backgrounds with certain barriers (e.g., children of new arrivals, low-income household, households where English is not the primary language, households where the student is among the first in the family to attend college, etc).

Estimated Cost

1000000

Project Management Experience

The organization previously received funding from Kent County under the CARES Act to provide emergency relief to our constituents in Kent County. Our executives have also worked on County sponsored projects providing technical assistance and outreach to the Asian business community.



(Page 2)

Federal Funds Experience

Yes, we received funds under the CARES Act from Kent County through our local United Way in 2020. We served over 200 individuals/households.

Studies on Impact

Yes, though not entirely on point, there have studies about the availability of and access to career development activities for youths. See "Availability of and Access to Career Development Activities for Transition-Age Youth with Disabilities" in the journal of Career Development for Exceptional Individuals. Volume: 33 Issue: 1 page(s): 13-24. First published online: August 24, 2009. There have also been articles concerning the impact of sustained professional development through project-based learning. See "Impact of Sustained Professional Development in STEM on Outcome Measures in a Diverse Urban District" from the Journal of Educational Research, Volume 109, 2016 - Issue 2.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$1,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$1,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Crystal Bui

Organization:

Asian Community Outreach

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Education

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Workforce development for the unemployed is eligible



Sustainability

Does not include a funding plan or fund availability after expending all the ARPA dollars.



Feasibility

Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

n/a



PROJECT #278

GRPS- Ottawa Hills High School Culinary Arts Program

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$442,141.36

Maximum Cost: \$542,141.36

Submitter Info

Name: Rodney Lewis

Organization: Grand Rapids Public Schools- Ottawa Hills High School

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Education

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Funds (ESSER) These federal funds have been granted to school districts in support of the pandemic.

Partnership

Grand Rapids Community College- Secchia Culinary Institute

Identify the need for the proposed project

Pre-pandemic the Grand Rapids Public Schools identified multiple industry growth areas in the West Michigan marketplace. One of the areas of growth was the hospitality and tourism industry, inclusive of culinary arts. The Academy of Hospitality & Tourism was launched during the 2019- 2020 school year. During the first year, the academy was awarded the Governor's Award for Innovation Tourism Collaboration between the Grand Rapids Public Schools and Experience Grand Rapids. At the beginning of the 2021-22 school year, we had to re-launch the program due to the challenges with the pandemic. It was difficult to recruit scholars for the program due to the delivery of instruction, virtual and in-person. Since that time, we identified a need to expand the program to support the interests of our scholars. The interests were identified through a survey conducted by the Principal at Ottawa Hills High School. This led to discussions with the local community college, Grand Rapids Community College (GRCC).

Brief Description

The proposed purpose of this project is to create a culinary arts program to support the scholars of Ottawa Hills High School. In addition, the program would have the potential to support the families and surrounding community members of the school during the evening hours. The program will provide culinary skills sets and certifications that will allow scholars of Ottawa Hills High School to enter the growing industry of hospitality & tourism from an entry level position. In the Greater Grand Rapids marketplace alone, there is a high need of certified culinary specialist in a variety of areas, such as food, bake, and beverage, etc. The program would partner with Grand Rapids Community College (GRCC) - Secchia Culinary Institute. GRCC would assist in the development of courses to be offered at Ottawa Hills High School as dual enrollment credit. In addition to the dual enrollment credit, scholars will also be assessed to earned certification credentials. In addition, scholars will be enrolled in dual enrollment courses on the campus of the GRCC during their senior year. This will assist students who plan to have the collegiate experience and transition into the Secchia Culinary Institute. Scholars who do not plan to continue with the postsecondary experience will have the option of entering the culinary workforce with their earned credentials.

Long-Term Benefit

- Creates and supports a diversified workplace in the hospitality & tourism industry.
- Provides opportunity to the underserved population of scholars who attend Ottawa Hills High School - 95% scholars of color, greater than 87% of scholars who receive free lunch.
- Guarantees credentials and college-level credits for the scholars.
- Stabilize and increase the enrollment of Ottawa Hills High School
- Creates a viable high school option on the southeast side of Grand Rapids.

Intended Beneficiary

The proposed project benefits multiple stakeholders. The scholars enrolled in the program at Ottawa Hills, the workplaces of the greater Grand Rapids community, the southeast side of Grand Rapids, and Grand Rapids Community College. Lastly, the patrons who select to eat within the workplace that our credential scholars work.

Estimated Cost

\$442,141.36- \$542,141.36



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$442,141.36

Maximum Cost: \$542,141.36

Submitter Info

Name: Rodney Lewis

Organization: Grand Rapids Public Schools- Ottawa Hills High School

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Education

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Project Management Experience

The Grand Rapids Public Schools has managed an assortment of bond projects in support of our facilities and infrastructure, located within Kent County. Our organization partners and collaborates with many third-party vendors in design, building, and finishing our projects.

Federal Funds Experience

Our organization manages approximately \$30 million annually, excluding ESSER funds. This includes line items such as 31a, Title I, Title II, and Title III funds.

Studies on Impact

Research does not exist that supports the disproportionately impacted communities; however, there is a need in the scholars served at Ottawa Hills High School, as well as the community of color on the southeast side of Grand Rapids.

Guidehouse Ranking Notes

 **Eligibility**

May qualify as enhanced funding to a high-poverty district

 **Sustainability**

Lacking guaranteed funding after 2026 though partners were identified

 **Feasibility**

Source of Funding

Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Funds (ESSER) These federal funds have been granted to school districts in support of the pandemic.

Partnership

Grand Rapids Community College- Secchia Culinary Institute

PROJECT #213

The Junior Achievement Free Enterprise Center: "Building Futures...Inspiring Dreams"



Identify the need for the proposed project

In Kent County, 20 percent of children under the age of 18 live below the federal poverty level [1]. While our education system prepares students with knowledge on various academic subjects, many young adults graduate and enter the "real world" with little understanding around employability/entrepreneurship and financial education. In fact, more than half of American adults do not have a budget and 75 percent of college graduates wish they had received more help preparing for their financial futures. [2] This is particularly important for people of color, who are disproportionately living below the federal poverty level and face significant educational and economic disparities. [3] Junior Achievement of the Michigan Great Lakes (JAMGL) is the West Michigan chapter of Junior Achievement (JA) USA which is a Regional Operating Center of JA Worldwide, an organization serving over 12 million students across the world annually and in 2022 was nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize. JA's mission is to inspire and prepare young people to succeed in a global economy. JAMGL seeks to address these disparities and provide youth in Kent County with opportunities to learn key job skills and gain valuable business experience, ultimately setting them on a path for greater economic and career success. JAMGL's programming provides youth with opportunities to learn about different business opportunities, gain critical job skills, and explore their personal interests and passions. Our programming also helps cultivate skills such as creativity, problem-solving, collaboration, and self-efficacy, giving students the support and confidence to build a meaningful future.

At JAMGL, we traditionally serve nearly 70,000 students each year in a 50-County Michigan footprint, serving approximately 25 percent of the K-12 student population in Kent County, and providing a variety of educational programs, including proven lessons in financial literacy, work and career readiness, and entrepreneurship to positively impact the lives of young people. These lessons align with national and state educational standards and are delivered to millions of students across the country with the help of our education partners and volunteers from the local community. Research shows that JA Alumni are more likely to have a college degree, feel confident managing money, have career success, and to have started or run their own business as an adult. JAMGL has been offering programming in Kent County for over 65 years beginning with the JA Company program as JA's only program and transitioning to in-school programming beginning in the early 1970s. When the JA BizTown and JA Finance Park experiential learning labs were developed by JA USA and came online in JA areas across the nation, JAMGL president, Bill Coderre, began investigating these programs for possible placement in the JAMGL footprint. As the programs developed and matured, the evaluation results showed them to be some of the most powerful student impact programs that JA has to offer. It was then that Bill Coderre and the JAMGL Board became convinced that Kent County and West Michigan young people should have the same opportunities to experience these highly impactful programs directly addressing the challenges of financial literacy and work readiness as young people in other communities. As the plan emerged to develop a facility to hold these two new JA USA programs, it became obvious that West Michigan needed a third learning lab, one focused on entrepreneurship. JAMGL has conceived of and created a vision for a new and locally developed Entrepreneurship Incubator to add to the entrepreneurial ecology that has emerged in West Michigan, where roughly 25 percent of employees work at small businesses. [4] Helping high school young people start and run a business is incredibly impactful as small businesses are integral to our community's economy. Small businesses allow entrepreneurs to provide the community with specialized services or products, create meaningful jobs, and keep more money circulating locally.

References: [1] Kent County Health Department. (2018). Kent County Health Equity Assessment. Retrieved from https://www.accesskent.com/Health/HealthEquity/pdf/2019_Health_Equity_Report.pdf. [2] Rose, S. (2021). 10 eye-opening financial literacy statistics. OppU. Retrieved from <https://www.opportunitymyth.org/opportunitymyth.tntp.org>; Chad Stone and others, "A Guide to Statistics on Historical Trends in Income Inequality" (Washington: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, 2020), available at <https://www.cbpp.org/research/poverty-and-inequality/a-guide-to-statistics-on-historical-trends-in-income-inequality>. [4] U.S. Small Business Administration. (2021). 2021 Small Business Profile: Michigan. Retrieved from <https://cdn.advocacy.sba.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/30142526/Small-Business-Economic-Profile-MI.pdf>.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$16,488,250

Maximum Cost: \$16,488,250

ARPA Request: \$1,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Jay Ediger

Organization: Junior Achievement of the Michigan Great Lakes

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Education

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 76% or greater

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$16,488,250

Maximum Cost: \$16,488,250

ARPA Request: \$1,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Jay Ediger

Organization: Junior Achievement of the Michigan Great Lakes

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Education

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 76% or greater

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Brief Description

JAMGL is establishing a new facility called the JA Free Enterprise Center in Grand Rapids, which will house three unique, state-of-the-art learning labs. Trained volunteers will guide the student experience in the labs: • JA BizTown (5th - 6th Grade). Preceded by up to 20 in-school lessons, students learn how to run a town. Students experience the lab for a day working in their storefronts and living their lives as consumers, taxpayers, and citizens. All students earn a paycheck, purchase things, and vote to establish laws and elect a mayor. • JA Finance Park (8th - 12th Grade). Preceded by up to 20 in-school lessons, students visit the lab, are assigned a career, and visit storefronts representing aspects of their budget, which they must decide how to manage. Lessons cover: Career Exploration; Income and Taxes; Saving and Investing; Managing Risk; and Credit and Debt. • JA Entrepreneurship Incubator (10th - 12th Grade). Students participate in a signature business education leadership experience. Students will develop and run their own small businesses. This facility will also house the JA West Michigan Business Hall of Fame, a Spirit of Freedom Gallery and a volunteer training center to equip JA's extensive volunteer network.

Long-Term Benefit

JA's impact on young people is significant. National research shows that JA programs increase equitable access to economic opportunity, high school graduation rates, and employment rates. This project brings JA's most powerful programs to West Michigan and establishes the facility needed to house them. Generations of Kent County young people will be prepared to enter the workforce, manage their finances, and create businesses, ergo have the skillset and mindset to build a thriving West Michigan.

Intended Beneficiary

Children and youth in Kent County will benefit from this project. JAMGL traditionally annually serves 25 percent of school-aged children in Kent County and 94 percent of the school districts in Kent County. For the proposed facility, the focus will be on students in grades 5 - 12 who live within an hour radius of this Kent County facility. In fact, we anticipate 85 percent of students served will be residents of the Grand Rapids region. The remaining students will come from other counties adjacent to Kent County and from within JAMGL's footprint. Approximately half of the students JA serves on an annual basis come from Low-to-Moderate-Income households. The JA Free Enterprise Center will provide 20,000 students per year with opportunities to increase their knowledge of financial literacy, workforce readiness, and entrepreneurship. Helping students strengthen their understanding of these concepts will have a positive impact on their financial futures and the economic wellbeing of themselves and their families.

*Partnership

Junior Achievement is collaborative by design. All of our programs involve partnering with Kent County organizations who have young people and partnering with organizations who have employees who can volunteer. In the last three years, just in Kent County, JAMGL has partnered with school districts to deliver programs in classrooms in 189 different schools with volunteers from 145 different organizations. JA is in discussions with school districts and schools across Kent County regarding these new programs which has been met with enthusiasm and JA is directly partnering with the following companies who have committed to Storefront Sponsorships in these learning labs: BISSELL Homecare, Meijer, Gordon Food Service, LMCU, Independent Bank, The Eileen DeVries Family Foundation, Perrigo, Scott Pranger Family Foundation, Northpointe Bank, Biggby Coffee, Chick-Fil-A, Spectrum Health, Mercantile Bank, Fox Motors, and The Huizenga Group.



(Page 3)

Estimated Cost

\$16,488,250.00

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$16,488,250

Maximum Cost: \$16,488,250

ARPA Request: \$1,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Jay Ediger

Organization: Junior Achievement of the Michigan Great Lakes

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Education

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 76% or greater

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

*Source of Funding

JAMGL has received over \$14 million to-date from a variety of sources for this project including individuals, corporations, foundations, and governmental agencies. These sources of funding include: • Tom & Mickie Fox (\$1,000,000.00) • Karl & Susan Hascall (\$1,000,000.00) • Haworth (\$1,000,000.00) • L.J. "Midge" VerPlank (\$700,000.00) • Bissell (\$625,000.00) • Jandernoa Foundation (\$500,000.00) • Kraig & Mary Klynstra (\$500,000.00) • John & Nancy Kennedy (\$500,000.00) • Eileen DeVries Family Foundation (\$475,000.00) • Frey Foundation (\$315,000.00) • 80/20 (Don Wood) Foundation (\$290,357.00) • Don & Jodi Heeringa (\$250,000.00) • Meijer, Inc. & Meijer Foundation (\$250,000.00) • State of Michigan Appropriation - MEDC (\$250,000.00) • The Pranger Family Foundation (\$250,000.00) • Spectrum Health Hospital Group - Helen DeVos Children's Hospital (\$250,000.00) • Doug & Maria DeVos Foundation (\$250,000.00) JAMGL is requesting \$1 million from the Kent County American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) to help cover costs related to building maintenance, technology/infrastructure, and COVID-19 mitigation strategies (i.e., enhanced digital capabilities). This support will allow us to invest in the future of Kent County's economy and contribute to the development of a thriving, innovative, and sustainable business climate with a knowledgeable and skilled workforce.

Project Management Experience

JAMGL has significant experience managing and implementing large county-wide projects as we have been providing programming in Kent County for more than 65 years. In the last 10 years, JAMGL has served over 300,000 Kent County young people averaging over 30,000 Kent County young people per year. This is equal to approximately 25 percent of the Kent County K-12 population to which JAMGL has delivered programming to annually.

Federal Funds Experience

Junior Achievement of the Michigan Great Lakes has a strong track record of managing state and federal funds. For example, JAMGL successfully received and managed two Payroll Protection Program loans, both of which were in excess of \$200,000 and completely forgiven as we adhered to the loan rules and requirements. In addition, JAMGL received and managed a \$250,000 gift from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation for this project. We are confident that we have the expertise and resources to successfully manage federal funds, adhering to all requirements and expectations outlined in a grant agreement.

Studies on Impact

Junior Achievement is one of a few nonprofits to use independent, third-party evaluators to gauge the impact of its programs. Since 1993, independent evaluators have conducted studies on Junior Achievement's effectiveness. Findings prove that Junior Achievement has a positive impact in a number of critical areas including financial literacy and entrepreneurial skills. In addition, Harvard University's Global Education Innovation Initiative has identified the JA Finance Park model as an innovative curriculum and teaching initiative related to 21st-century skills in financial literacy education. JA conducted third party evaluations of the impact of these labs on urban, suburban, and rural school students from across the U.S. who participated in these programs. These studies have shown that the JA BizTown and JA Finance Park learning labs are the most powerful programs JA has to offer.



(Page 4)

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

May be eligible if it targets high-poverty school districts/disproportionately impacted communities.



Sustainability

The learning labs may not be able to continue without funding, but there are multiple partners



Feasibility

Risk to 2026 completion

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$16,488,250

Maximum Cost: \$16,488,250

ARPA Request: \$1,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Jay Ediger

Organization: Junior Achievement of the Michigan Great Lakes

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Education

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 76% or greater

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)



PROJECT #227

Full STEAM Ahead: A Dedicated STEAM Learning Space for Kent County

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$62,500,000

Maximum Cost: \$62,500,000

ARPA Request: \$14,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Maggie Lancaster

Organization:

Grand Rapids Children's Museum

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Education

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 76% or greater

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Identify the need for the proposed project

Grand Rapids Children's Museum (GRCM) is a social space central to building community and providing educational opportunities for children, families, and visitors alike. More than a community attraction, the GRCM has taken on the charge of shaping the next generation of the workforce by providing a safe space where all children can explore, tinker, play, and wonder. The digital economy demands we prepare today's learners for tomorrow's careers. Successful learners in the 21st century embrace critical thinking, creativity, curiosity, collaboration and courage. The future workplace landscape must include a new generation of innovators, inventors, analysts and revolutionary designers prepared to conquer the challenges they inherit and the new ones that arise. Their training begins with age-appropriate play in spaces that inspire! In 2018, as we were developing a five-year strategic plan with support from renowned consultant Michael Kaiser of the DeVos Institute of Arts Management, we identified the need for a dedicated STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) space with a focus on educating children in upper elementary to middle school. We have served millions of children through carefully curated experiences that bring tangible expression to learning, but our ambitions to expand our educational offerings are larger than our current spatial resources. Our community stakeholders, including school districts, after-school providers, and other community-based organizations, have acknowledged the gap in Grand Rapids' current ability to serve children in upper elementary and middle school and support our desire to create a space to serve them. In their formative years, this young demographic is balanced precariously between being kids and becoming young adults. It's a time when learning runs the risk of drudgery, curiosity is lost and kids begin to self-impose limitations on what they can and can't do. This is especially true among minorities and females. An expanded space will allow us to truly serve all children throughout West Michigan!

Brief Description

The shared vision of the GRCM and the Grand Rapids Public Library for a STEAM learning center will introduce an exciting new amenity for critical development to Grand Rapids and beyond; one which will facilitate the development of children into critically thinking teens, and offer not only educational opportunities, but also a necessary resource for underprivileged community members. This new structure will be an inclusive, unrestrictive, and dynamic cultural space for STEAM learning including: dedicated workshop and classroom spaces for inquiry and innovation, flexible spaces for ephemeral installations and collaborative programming, and supplemented parking for the Library, the City of Grand Rapids, and visitors. Located at 181 Library St NE in Grand Rapids, the building will combine parking and programming into a unified 150,000 SF structure mindful of both the historic Ryerson Library adjacent and the urban fabric of the neighborhood. The GRCM will be the primary steward of the 60,000 square feet of finished space and will lead the charge to collaborate with other community organizations to bolster activity and enhance rotating programs. The GRCM on behalf of our institution, our partners, our collaborators and the community is requesting \$14 million in ARPA support to aid in the realization of this building. This project improves the quality of life in our community, creates an even larger draw for local and out-of-school for all children in our community.

Long-Term Benefit

It is our long-range plan, but also our social responsibility, to shape the next generation of the workforce by providing a safe space where all children can embrace objective analysis, creativity, curiosity and collaboration. Some of the greatest minds in history were successful because they could fail, explore, and be curious. Our mission is to provide a welcoming and inclusive space with positive learning experiences and influence the next wave of critically thinking professionals.



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$62,500,000

Maximum Cost: \$62,500,000

ARPA Request: \$14,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Maggie Lancaster

Organization:

Grand Rapids Children's Museum

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Education

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 76% or greater

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Intended Beneficiary

Children in Kent County will benefit the most from this project. We hope to instill a love of lifelong learning in the children who visit our space for generations to come. Our STEAM educational approach to learning guides inquiry, dialogue, and critical thinking. The end results are children who take thoughtful risks, engage in experiential learning, persist in problem-solving, embrace collaboration, work through the creative process, and carry these skills into adulthood. This project will create a permanent exhibit that provides the tools for successful future-focused learning, in addition to the representation needed to help children of all colors and genders see themselves in careers that support the next generation of industry and innovation: providing great ROIs for our children and our community! The Museum, in collaboration with project partners, will accomplish this by incorporating STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) in its exhibits, programs, and events. The STEAM movement (incorporating the arts into STEM) was championed by John Maeda, president of the Rhode Island School of Design from 2008-2013, who believes that the arts are critical components to innovation. The concept incorporates the artistic and design-related skills and processes in STEM. "Yes, we have an alarming STEM shortage in our country. But every engineer who comes up with a new innovation, practices far more than math, engineering, and technological prowess. They also use design-thinking, creativity, communication, and artistic skills to bring those innovations to fruition...Today's innovators are creative beasts, working collaboratively in open workspaces, sharing ideas globally with other thinkers, and combining their STEM powers with some killer STEAM talents. Today's Google workers aren't just software engineers or coders sitting in dark rooms lit only by computer monitors. They're design-thinkers...Today's trailblazers are communicators who design, craft, experiment, and pioneer in the light." (Why the "A" in STEAM Education is Just As Important As Every Other Letter, Gunn).

Despite this compelling research, however, the National Institute for STEM Education reports that only 42 schools in the United States today have received a STEM certification. Children rely on their caregivers, their individual teacher's ability, and community-based resources for these STEAM experiences that are so critical to their development. As such, GRCM's offerings are designed within the framework of open-ended and child-directed play, a proven critical component of healthy child development. It is our goal and priority to serve a target audience that reflects the diverse demographics of our community. To increase a child's access to developmental play regardless of income, we created Play it Forward to break down barriers including Field Trip Scholarships, reduced admission nights, memberships for social service organizations, a Mobile Museum, and Museums for All. Museums for All is a national initiative to encourage museum attendance among low-income and underserved families that allows EBT (Electronic Benefit Transfer) card holders to qualify for a reduced admission rate of only \$1.75 per person for up to four people. GRCM chose to expand this program to include coverage for WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) recipients and allow up to 12 family members. Museums for All has been wildly successful! Our attendance numbers grew steadily prior to the pandemic, specifically attracting many first-time visitors to the Museum. We expanded the program again last spring to include Pay What You Can Annual Memberships. Qualifying families pay \$20 plus a donation of what they can afford for full membership benefits. Since its inception in June 2021, 250 qualifying families have signed up! Currently, 25% of our guests are Museums for All participants, helping us support families who were most negatively impacted by the pandemic according to research. Beyond improving the Quality of Life for our community, this project will also benefit Community Health and Economic Innovation and Workforce Development: Community Health - Several studies demonstrate the impact STEAM and developmental play has on the physical, mental, and emotional health of both children and adults.

(continued on next page)



(Page 3)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$62,500,000

Maximum Cost: \$62,500,000

ARPA Request: \$14,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Maggie Lancaster

Organization:

Grand Rapids Children's Museum

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Education

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 76% or greater

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Intended Beneficiary (continued)

A 2018 study conducted by the American Academy of Pediatrics confirmed that “play provides a singular opportunity to build the executive functioning that underlies adaptive behaviors at home; improve language and math skills in school; build the safe, stable, and nurturing relationships that buffer against toxic stress; and build social-emotional resilience...The health benefits of play involving physical activity are many. Exercise not only promotes healthy weight and cardiovascular fitness but also can enhance the efficacy of the immune, endocrine, and cardiovascular systems. Play decreases stress, fatigue, injury, and depression and increases range of motion, agility, coordination, balance, and flexibility. Play not only provides opportunities for fostering children’s curiosity, self-regulation skills, language development, and imagination but also promotes the dyadic reciprocal interactions between children and parents, which is a crucial element of healthy relationships. Through the buffering capacity of caregivers, play can serve as an antidote to toxic stress, allowing the physiologic stress response to return to baseline.” Economic Innovation and Workforce Development - Workforce development begins early in life. Spaces like the GRMC, where children can explore, tinker, and create, are foundational for the economic health of our nation. Study after study confirms this fact. A 2018 study of middle schools in New York City “found that students who completed the Young Engineers Program under STEAM demonstrated a greater interest in technical career fields, increased confidence in their ability to do math and an increased belief that learning science can be useful to solve problems later in life.” Our local STEM Greenhouse’s 2019 study found that “Almost three times as many participants who were not proficient in math...developed more favorable attitudes toward STEM. Similarly, their STEM Career Interest also increased, suggesting that low-performing students may especially benefit from further exposure to STEM programming.”

*Partnership

City of Grand Rapids (Project Partner, Infrastructure) Grand Rapids Public Library (Project Partner, Exhibitions and Programming) Civic Theater (Community Partner, Programming) STEM Greenhouse (Community Partner, Educational and Programming) Grand Rapids Public Schools (Community Partner, Constituents) Boys & Girls Club of Grand Rapids Youth Commonwealth (Community Partner, Constituents) The Breton Group (Consultant, Fund Development) Fishbeck (Architecture, Engineering, and Construction Management) Our Community's Children (Community Partner, Educational and Programming) This project is wellsupported within the community. Please find the following Letters of Support uploaded through the Cares Act Question form on the Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce Website website: Quality of Life Keli Christopher, PH.D., Founding Executive Director, STEM Greenhouse Rosalynn Bliss, Mayor, City of Grand Rapids Community Health James Fahner, MD, Division Chief Pediatric Hematology and Oncology, Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital Shannon Harris, Executive Director, Expanded Learning Opportunities Network & Our Community’s Children Economic Innovations and Workforce Development Randy Thelen, President & CEO, The Right Place Jen Schottke, President, West Michigan Construction Institute Leadriane Roby, Ph.D., Superintendent, Grand Rapids Public Schools

Estimated Cost

The costs outlined below include both the construction costs (soft costs not included) of the new building and programmatic costs to ensure the success of the space over a period of 5 years. The costs associated with both categories will be covered by various stakeholder organizations. The GRMC is requesting ARPA funds to support approximately 22% of the overall project costs. Below is an in-depth breakdown established by Fishbeck and the GRMC: \$22.5 M Parking Structure (Including: Foundations, Structure, Vertical Circulation) \$2.5 M Green Roof \$4 M Exterior Facade \$1 M Site Improvements \$14 M Interior Buildout \$13 M Permitting/Survey/Geotech/Environmental Fees \$ 5 M STEAM Exhibits \$500,000/yr Consumable Materials for Exhibits



(Page 4)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$62,500,000

Maximum Cost: \$62,500,000

ARPA Request: \$14,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Maggie Lancaster

Organization:

Grand Rapids Children's Museum

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Education

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 76% or greater

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

*Source of Funding

The Museum has undertaken a large capital project and is working to raise \$12 million as part of our long-range plan. The campaign kicked off with a \$1.3 million dollar lead gift in appropriations money from the state of Michigan. With great momentum and support from the Breton Group, GRMC began meeting with other prominent foundations and lead donors in the community to secure additional leadership gifts of \$100,000 or more. This process is ongoing. Once this phase of the campaign is completed, GRMC will shift its focus to securing major donors with gifts between \$25,000-\$99,999. We are also actively fundraising through our long term relationships with community foundations. We are working with our community partners including the Grand Rapids Public Library and the City of Grand Rapids for funding and in kind services and donations to offset costs of the project as well.

Project Management Experience

GRMC has experience with leading and managing the day-to-day of large scale projects. Our CEO, Maggie Lancaster, has been in this position for six years, leading many large events across the community and has several years of prior experience serving as a board member and/or event committee chair for several non-profit organizations. Our COO, Erin Crison, has 16 years of experience in leading nonprofits. To ensure this project is completed on time and on budget, we have intentionally brought in other partners: Fishbeck, an architecture, engineering, environmental sciences, and construction management firm based in Grand Rapids and located throughout the Midwest, will be our design partner for this unique project. Their track record of designing forward-thinking spaces, experience in complex projects, and commitment to the community makes them an excellent fit for the realization of this vision. The Fishbeck team has recently worked with Grand Valley State University, Feeding America West Michigan, Spectrum Health, Gerald R Ford International Airport, Gerald R Ford Presidential Museum, and many others within our community on projects in excess of \$100,000,000. In close collaboration with GRMC, Fishbeck will lead us through the complex design process, ensuring we engage our community and maximize the investment. We have partnered with The Breton Group to help us create a capital campaign and achieve our fundraising goal. The Breton Group possesses 25 years of experience in fundraising including feasibility studies, capital campaigns, and fund development planning. The Breton Group has worked with our Board of Directors and leadership staff to develop a longterm development plan and will help us create a new community of donors to support this project and the long-range vision of the Museum. We are also in the process of identifying a creative design and exhibit building firm that will help us design and build our STEAM exhibits. We are interviewing organizations who specialize in unique and creative design for spaces and who will bring extensive experience to this project. Once engaged, this partner will work under the direction of our STEAM Director to create, design, and deliver exhibits that are engaging and accessible for all children.

Federal Funds Experience

GRMC has experience in managing the compliance requirements of federal grant dollars. In fact, much of the funding GRMC receives comes with strict requirements such as the funding we receive annually from the Michigan Arts and Culture Council. Erin Crison, our COO, has over 16 years in nonprofit management at many organizations that receive federal funding including the YMCA of Metropolitan Washington, Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Holland, and Boys & Girls Clubs of Grand Rapids Youth Commonwealth. She has set up our system to ensure all the many and varied compliance requirements are met. Due to the availability of COVIDrelated funds, approximately 25% of GRMC's funding in the last two years was federally sourced.



(Page 5)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$62,500,000

Maximum Cost: \$62,500,000

ARPA Request: \$14,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Maggie Lancaster

Organization:

Grand Rapids Children's Museum

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Education

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 76% or greater

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Studies on Impact

Quality of Life: Graham, Nicholas James. Using arts integration to make science learning memorable in the upper elementary grades: A quasiexperimental study, 2016. Cunninton, Marisol. Cultivating Common Ground: Integrating Standards-Based Visual Arts, Math and Literacy in High-Poverty Urban Classrooms, 2014. A study on the relationship between theater arts and student literacy and mathematics achievement, 2014. Douma, Kara. Playing to Learn in Middle and High School, 2022. Community Health: Yogman, Michael. The Power of Play: A Pediatric Role in Enhancing Development in Young Children, American Academy of Pediatrics, 2018. Gray, Peter. The Play Deficit, <https://aeon.co/essays/children-today-are-suffering-a-severe-deficit-of-play>, 2013. Economic Innovations and Workforce Development: Belastock, Elieen. How STEAM Education Can Prepare Students for the Workforce, 2019. Community Research Institute. STEM Greenhouse STEAM PLC Pilot Report, 2019.

Guidehouse Ranking Notes

Eligibility

Possibly eligible under non-profit support or under education to disproportionately impacted communities. Could be clarified during program design.

Sustainability

Lacking guaranteed funding though partners were identified

Feasibility

22% of the project cost is requested. That must be spent by 2026



PROJECT #302

Public Education for Adults and Children Everywhere (P.E.A.C.E.) Television & Radio

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$100,000

Maximum Cost: \$200,000

Submitter Info

Name: Regenail Thomas

Organization: Seeds of Promise

Project Overview

Funding Group: Improving Government Operations

Project Theme: Education

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 76% or greater

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

Local governments, businesses, residents and philanthropist.

Partnership

Seeds of Promise, GRPD, GVSU

Identify the need for the proposed project

Community door knocking campaigns, GR city government meetings, meetings with GRPD officials, deep listening sessions with thousands of residents in 49507, local survey, research and this process.

Brief Description

Host a 49507 community based television and radio shows that focus on community education regarding local issues, promoting public safety strategies and inspiring robust constructive dialogue relating to the most sensitive issues impacting our residents throughout W. Michigan. Equity, diversity and inclusion experts will lead social activities that strengthen communities, and transform how we address public safety issues.

Long-Term Benefit

The long-term benefits include transforming how our community leverages it's unique W. Michigan economic profile and history to produce new, and advance community engagement and transformation strategies.

Intended Beneficiary

All citizens of W. Michigan, specifically citizens of 49507.

Estimated Cost

\$100,000 - \$200,000

Project Management Experience

Project Management Experience

Federal Funds Experience

Extensive experience working in government, and with federal funds.

Studies on Impact

Please see the article in below link:

<https://www.boreal-is.com/blog/improve-community-relations/>

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Risks around any sort of lobbying or political work through this program



Sustainability

Does not include a funding plan or fund availability after expending all the ARPA dollars.



Feasibility



PROJECT #102

Literate Kent County

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$415,000

Maximum Cost: \$415,000

Submitter Info

Name: Bex Takacs-Britz

Organization: SLD Read

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Education

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

We anticipate being able to secure grant funding from local foundations and individual donors for 10% of the project cost

Partnership

This plan will involve partnering with 12 schools that will be identified during the Year 1 workplan

Identify the need for the proposed project

In the largest, most comprehensive evidenced-based review ever conducted of research on how children learn to read, a congressionally mandated independent panel concluded that the most effective way to teach children to read is through instruction that includes five major components: breaking apart and manipulating sounds within words (phonemic awareness), teaching that sounds are represented by letters of the alphabet which can then be blended to form words (phonics), practicing what is learned by reading aloud with guidance and feedback (fluency, vocabulary and reading comprehension). Phonics Fundamentals® incorporates all five components in reading in its program. Teachers are frequently underprepared for the complexities awaiting them in the classroom and expectations are increasing. The lack of early and adequate intervention are contributing to serious consequences: According to Grand Valley State University Community Research Institute's (CRI) most recent estimate; 35% of Kent County youth are living below the poverty level, thirteen percent of adults in Kent County and the State of Michigan do not have a high school diploma and of the 2014 MEAP Scores- 38% of third grade students in Kent Intermediate School District were not proficient in reading. According to First Steps Kent, for the 2017-2018 school year, Kent County was ranked 24th of 83 counties in Michigan for literacy – 49.3% of students were proficient readers in third grade. There is a further disparity in literacy when broken down by race, with BIPOC students averaging 23% (Black) and 29% (Latinx). We have had a partnership with MLK Academy in partnership with the Keller Foundation for the past several years, and have seen a growing need for literacy intervention services since the pandemic. We know that there are schools in Kent County that are often overlooked for grant-funded programs- schools that exist in the margins of need and visibility, and we believe an investment of ARPA funds will be pivotal in closing the achievement gap in 12 of these schools.

Brief Description

Literate Kent County is a 3 year pilot program proposed by SLD Read, intended to provide direct 1:1 student interventions as well as whole-school professional development for the teaching staff in Orton Gillingham based phonics instruction. During Year 1 we plan to build program infrastructure, develop staff, build relationships with schools and funders, facilitate outreach to target schools, and develop self-assessment for districts/buildings to identify the schools that have the greatest opportunity to close their reading achievement gap. During Year 2 we will be providing individualized 1:1 grantfunded tutoring to 60 students across 6 schools. In those same 6 schools we will be providing professional development to the teachers of that school, resulting in a total of 2100 students across the schools benefiting from the professional development of their teachers. In Year 3 we will have a continuation of our work plan, including adding 6 additional schools for both tutoring and professional development (2100 additional students being served). We will also be finalizing our sustainability plan as well as a comprehensive evaluation of the pilot program.

Long-Term Benefit

This funding request falls in both Community Health and Quality of Life. There are numerous studies that link low literacy levels to poor individual health outcomes, and the link between literacy and incarceration is well-established. 85% of juveniles who interact with the juvenile justice system are functionally low-literate, and Juvenile incarceration reduces the probability of high school completion and increases the probability of incarceration later in life.

Intended Beneficiary

K-12 students as well as K-12 teachers in 12 targeted schools



(Page 2)

Estimated Cost

\$415,000.00

Project Management Experience

Since 1974, SLD Read has implemented our educational services in 14 counties in Western Michigan. SLD Read provides a scope and depth of services to people with language-based learning difficulties that is unmatched. SLD Read is dedicated to decreasing the literacy gap through intensive 1:1 language instruction based on the Orton-Gillingham learning model.

Federal Funds Experience

Our CEO has 10+ years experience managing state and federal grants, including work plan development, data analysis, and reporting. Specifically, the grants managed were through Michigan Rehabilitation Services (state) and Department of Education, Administration for Community Living.

Studies on Impact

Report of the National Reading Panel: "Overall, the findings showed that teaching children to manipulate phonemes in words was highly effective under a variety of teaching conditions with a variety of learners across a range of grade and age levels and that teaching phonemic awareness to children significantly improves their reading more than instruction that lacks any attention to PA. Specifically, the results of the experimental studies led the Panel to conclude that PA training was the cause of improvement in students' phonemic awareness, reading, and spelling following training. The findings were replicated repeatedly across multiple experiments and thus provide converging evidence for causal claims." (<https://www.nichd.nih.gov/publications/pubs/nrp/findings>) Low health literacy is associated with more hospitalizations; greater use of emergency care, lower receipt of vaccines, poorer ability to demonstrate taking medications appropriately, poorer ability to interpret labels and health messages; and, among elderly persons, poorer overall health status and higher mortality rates. Poor health literacy partially explains racial disparities in some outcomes (<https://tinyurl.com/3b4ev4fu> Berkman, et. al, 2011)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$415,000

Maximum Cost: \$415,000

Submitter Info

Name: Bex Takacs-Britz

Organization: SLD Read

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Education

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

We anticipate being able to secure grant funding from local foundations and individual donors for 10% of the project cost

Partnership

This plan will involve partnering with 12 schools that will be identified during the Year 1 workplan

Guidehouse Ranking Notes

 **Eligibility**

Individuals or communities served is not clear or does not align with Treasury guidelines' definition of 'impacted' or 'disproportionately impacted'.

 **Sustainability**

3 year pilot program

 **Feasibility**

PROJECT #220

Mavin project for K-12 Talent Development

Identify the need for the proposed project

Employer demand for skills in construction, computer science, and engineering has surged in Kent County over the past 5 years, with average monthly job postings growing by 72 percent over the relevant period (an increase of 1,837 ads, per month, from 2015 to the first half of 2022). The trend is only expected to continue over the next 10 years, with the county projected to gain over 1,500 jobs in these fields alone by 2032. Despite rising demand, however, the volume of talent entering the workforce each year with the skills and credentials to succeed has shrunk by 8.6 percent since 2017. In addition to yielding high growth rates, these are lucrative careers offering a combined median wage of \$34.01 per hour as recently as 2021 – significantly higher than the county-wide median wage of \$22.13. With over 20 percent of the current workforce in these occupations expected to reach retirement age by 2032, it's critical for students in Kent County to begin learning about these emerging career opportunities and to develop the skills necessary to ensure success upon entering the workforce.

Brief Description

The grant award will be used to purchase 1,000 Students 2 Business Kits from the Google Education Marketplace for student in grades 3rd through 8th at five (5) public school districts in Kent County: Northview, Sparta, Godwin Heights, Kelloggsville, and Kent City to engage in career aligned project based learning that will provide exposure to technical skills in additive manufacturing, cyber security, materials sciences, and learn how those skills/tools/technologies are applied to local careers in Food Supply Chain, Healthcare, Manufacturing, Apparel Design, and Public Services in Kent County. Through the hands-on project based modules, there are embedded exercises including communication skills, employability skills and financial planning. Subsequent to completion of each project-based activity, students then explore local jobs aligned to the skills and competencies they just demonstrated along with the educational pathway opportunities available to them beginning in high school. The innovative instructional experience will facilitate a robust and experientially based Educational Development Plan for each participating student including developing a digital talent portfolio highlighting their accomplishments. The project performed in other counties around Michigan and the country has proven to increase interest and confidence in STEM skills and motivate students to pursue careers in high paying STEM related jobs where talent domestically is lacking.

Long-Term Benefit

This will not only impact over 1,000 students but provide a new way for the county to address student learning loss post-pandemic, increase student interest in STEM careers in employment opportunities in the region, increase employment to these highdemand and high paying jobs with the necessary 21st century skills, and support the talent needs of local employers with these jobs.

Intended Beneficiary

County employers focused on manufacturing, construction, IT, students, and educators. According to Vishnu Mano, a Mavin Project contributor and rising Senior enrolled at City High Middle School International Baccalaureate program in Grand Rapids, Michigan, the proposed project helps students from 1st grade through 8th grade gain a greater understanding of the role of technology in different sectors of the workforce. Currently, the only technology-based class that is built into the curriculum at most conventional schools in Kent County is AP Computer Science. Many students, especially those without any prior programming experience, struggle to understand the core concepts of this class, which leads to computer science having one of the highest dropout rates (9.8%), according to the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA). After this initial experience with programming in their AP class, many students immediately rule out software and computer science as possible future careers. By implementing the proposed project with both elementary and middle schools in Kent County, students receive an opportunity to explore the applications of programming across different industries in the workforce, from agriculture and apparel to water and waste. By providing this earlier introduction to programming, the proposed project helps students more accurately choose and have confidence in highly skilled STEM career paths by enabling them to discover the potential that the applications of skills they performed have across a diverse range of industries.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$350,000

Maximum Cost: \$350,000

Submitter Info

Name: Kevin Stotts

Organization: TalentFirst

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Education

Project Status: Existing Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

Kent County Corporations
support - cash and in kind

Partnership

The partnering K-12 districts include Northview, Sparta, Godwin Heights, Kelloggsville, and Kent City Public Schools. Supporting employers include Meijer, Wolverine Worldwide, GFS, Cascade Engineering, Autocam Medical and others.



Estimated Cost

\$350,000.00

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$350,000

Maximum Cost: \$350,000

Submitter Info

Name: Kevin Stotts

Organization: TalentFirst

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Education

Project Status: Existing Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

Kent County Corporations support - cash and in kind

Partnership

The partnering K-12 districts include Northview, Sparta, Godwin Heights, Kelloggsville, and Kent City Public Schools. Supporting employers include Meijer, Wolverine Worldwide, GFS, Cascade Engineering, Autocam Medical and others.

Project Management Experience

TalentFirst is a catalyst working to ensure an ongoing supply of world-class talent for West Michigan. Composed of over 125 CEOs from the region, TalentFirst illuminates gaps, evaluates leading practices, and advocates for the implementation of those leading practices to make West Michigan a top 20 employment region by the year 2025. TalentFirst works in partnership with key stakeholders, CEOs and educational leaders to facilitate an efficient collaboration that integrates resources, streamlines processes, and leverages energies to address the talent demand needs of each sector.

Federal Funds Experience

TalentFirst has a proven track record of advocating for and securing grants to support educational and workforce development advancement and innovation. Recently, through the partnership with TalentFirst, the Mavin project, and Ravenna Public Schools in Muskegon County, Ravenna was awarded a \$100,000 rural tech grant from the U.S. Department of Education. Ravenna was one of just five schools across the United States selected for the grant. This grant is intended to provide technology education solutions that use competency-based, project based learning to support student's technical skills for in demand and high wage careers in our region.

Studies on Impact

<https://proceedings.open.tudelft.nl/cte-stem2022/issue/view/6/3> Pg.64 - Teaching Computational Thinking with Digital devices Note: CT is analogous to what we would call problem solving/analytical reasoning skills. Pg.83 - Specific Problems with Computational Thinking Note: This specifically talks about the value of integrating multiple disciplines (B-STEAM) into CT projects, not teaching computer science or CT exclusively in a computer programming course. Pg. 88 - Computational Thinking in Language Arts When Teaching Creative and Expository Writing Note: This identifies that when elementary teachers are more exposed to scenarios that involve computational thinking, they are more likely to integrate this into regular instruction activities. As students speak and write about the activities in their learning, this context is offered to the student and the teacher. Pg. 104 - Developing a Continuous, Rather Than Binary, Classification for Measuring STEM Jobs Note: Profiling jobs in Mavin is ultimately to create what is called a STEM index to help granularize the academic skills used in specific jobs to then better help identify and develop talent in K-12 and displaced workers.

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Individuals or communities served is not clear or does not align with Treasury guidelines' definition of 'impacted' or 'disproportionately impacted'.



Sustainability

Does not include a funding plan or fund availability after expending all the ARPA dollars.



Feasibility



PROJECT #298

Sitting Pretty of Michigan Event & Decor Innovative Space

Identify the need for the proposed project

There are many young students that have expressed interest in the event décor profession. Having a space where student can come and learn more about creative ways on decorating and staging an event.

Brief Description

There are no internships that provide students with the opportunity to grow and learn through events & décor. This space not only helps student who have the passion in the event décor and planning. Providing workshops and year round internships to students, will not only contribute and grow there creativity with events, but also will teach them about project management for events.

Long-Term Benefit

The long term goal for this innovation space will not only provide opportunity for students, but those who have upcoming events, such as weddings, bridal and baby showers, galas, open houses and other events. As this innovation space provide clients with a on stop shop, by providing Chiavari chairs, linens, centerpieces, event staging and all other items for an event. Providing the top notch ambiance to those clients who have lower budgets.

Intended Beneficiary

This will benefit young students and lower income clients who want a quality event, but at a more reasonable cost.

Estimated Cost

\$200,000 - \$400,000

Project Management Experience

The CEO/Owner has over 10 years of managing/leading a large county projects, in per current and previous companies,

Federal Funds Experience

n/a

Studies on Impact

n/a

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$200,000

Maximum Cost: \$400,000

Submitter Info

Name: Elisea Barnes

Organization:

Sitting Pretty of Mid Michigan

Project Overview

Funding Group: Improving Government Operations

Project Theme: Education

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

n/a

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

This does not support a qualified group. This is not a government services and therefore not eligible for revenue replacement.



Sustainability

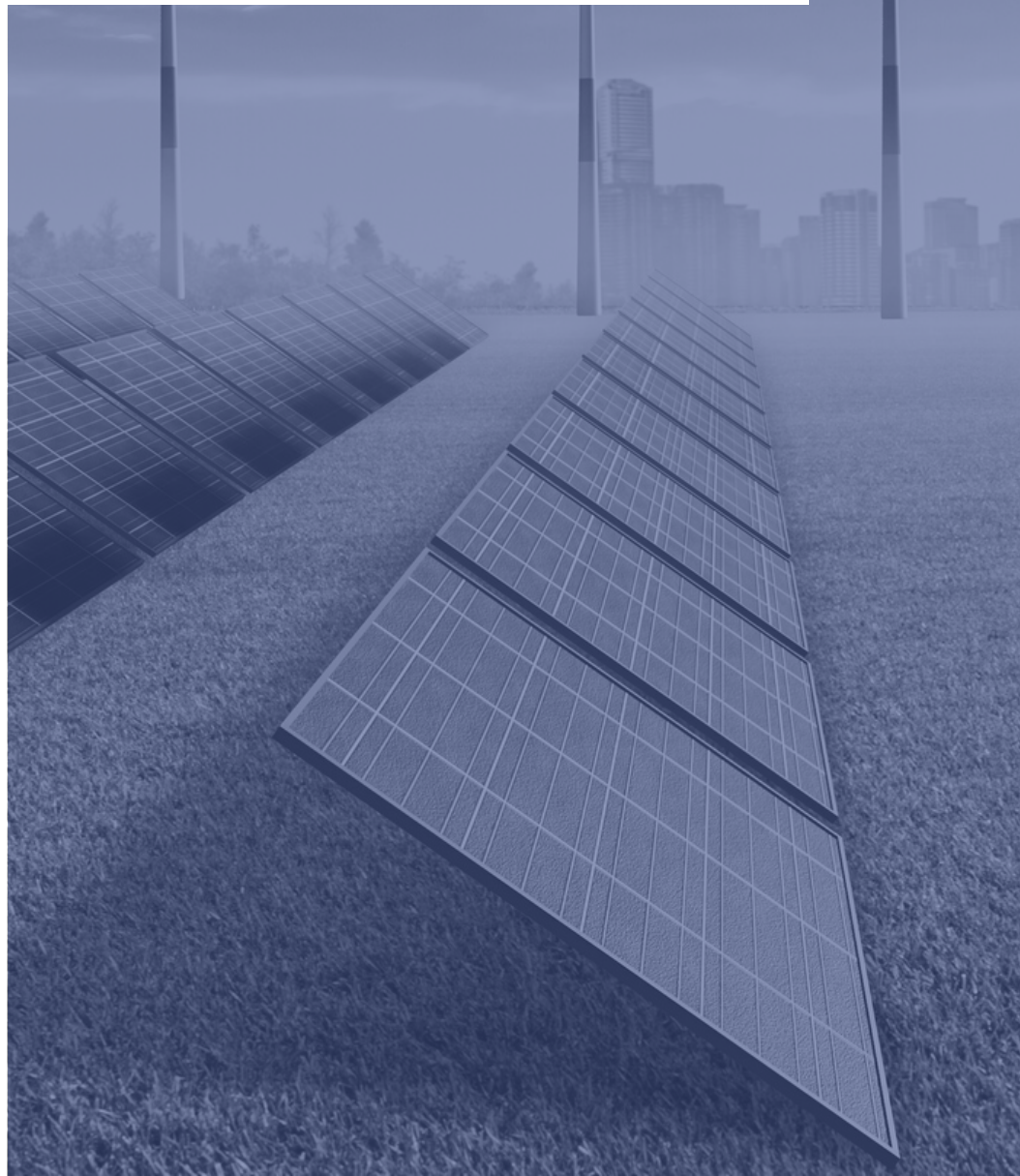
Does not include a funding plan or fund availability after expending all the ARPA dollars.



Feasibility

09

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT



PROJECT #67

Reducing energy burdens and creating healthier homes for low-to moderate income residents



Identify the need for the proposed project

Thousands of households in Kent County live with moderate to severe housing hazards, including lead paint, water intrusion, injury and safety risks, pests, and electrical deficiencies, which increase the risk for illnesses and injuries including asthma, falls, respiratory problems and lead poisoning. Besides the physical health tolls of these homes, they are often very inefficient with outdated mechanical systems, drafty and broken windows, and minimal insulation. Furthermore, the United Way has studied a segment of the population that they define as ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed). This population earns above the federal poverty level but struggles to afford basic necessities, such as housing, child care, food, transportation, and healthcare. An ALICE individual, according to the United Way, is one crisis away from poverty. One of the many barriers to healthy homes and energy efficiency for lower-income and ALICE households is access to upfront capital to make the improvements. The benefits of reducing the high energy burden on these populations extend far beyond energy and utility bill savings. Participants in energy-efficiency programs benefit from improved health and safety, reduced costs associated with arrearages and shutoffs, and greater financial certainty. The concepts of energy efficiency and healthy homes are not mutually exclusive. In fact, basic energy efficiency improvements often complement the principles of a healthy home.

- High-efficiency furnace: With appropriate filters, a high efficiency furnace will improve indoor air quality by removing allergens, benefitting children, seniors, and individuals with respiratory issues
- High-efficiency air conditioner: Air conditioning reduces humidity in the air, which is critical for individuals with respiratory problems. Additionally, by removing humidity, air conditioning also reduces condensation on windows frames and sashes. In older homes with wood windows, this condensation can peel paint, which could contain lead, and create a mold hazard.
- Air sealing and insulation: Air sealing and insulation help regulate the temperature in the home by reducing the flow of air into and out of the home. Additionally, proper air sealing and insulation is accompanied by appropriate ventilation (ridge/eave/soffit vents), which prevents moisture build-up and mold creation.
- Windows and doors: Properly installed, high-efficiency windows help regulate the temperature and improve indoor air quality in the home by reducing drafts and condensation, being operable (as windows in many older homes are painted shut), and eliminating a lead hazard (if the windows being removed were originally painted with lead-based paint).

Kent County residents have utilized Michigan Saves' financing programs at the fourth highest level in the state, with nearly 2,600 residents participating and \$27.8 million in loans. However, approximately 22 percent of Kent County applicants were not able to access Michigan Saves loans due to poor credit or other financial considerations. Michigan Saves sees a need for a cost-share program that combines a small loan with an ARPA-funded grant to address health, safety, and energy issues. Through this offer, we would reduce the energy and health burdens in the ALICE population and begin to address energy equity issues that face vulnerable populations.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$11,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$11,213,667

ARPA Request: \$10,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Mary Templeton

Organization: Michigan Saves

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme:

Energy and Environment

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

\$1,213,667. Participating homeowners would obtain a \$1,000 Michigan Saves loan to use as a cost-share for up to \$6,500 in ARPA-grant funds for a qualifying clean energy project.

Partnership

We would engage several community organizations, including Habitat for Humanity of Kent County, Green Home Institute, Healthy Homes Coalition of West Michigan, and neighborhood groups throughout the county.

Brief Description

Michigan Saves proposes a cost-share program that uses a community approach to deliver health, safety, and energy efficiency improvements to low-to-moderate income homeowners in Kent County. This program would serve residents who earn too much to qualify for free federal weatherization funds and most utility income-qualified programs but do not have enough income, or perhaps good enough credit, to qualify for traditional financing. This customer segment exists within every community and is overlooked when it comes to energy assistance programs. In this program, Kent County homeowners with incomes between 200 and 300 percent of the federal poverty level would be eligible for a low-interest loan from Michigan Saves and an ARPA-funded grant through Kent County for up to \$7,500 of prequalified energy and building performance improvements. Interested homeowners would apply for a small loan of approximately \$1,000 through a Michigan Saves authorized lender. If approved, homeowners would work with local Michigan Saves authorized contractors (there are 71 authorized contractors in Kent County) to identify and implement a scope of work that provides energy and health benefits. All remaining project costs, up to the project cap of \$7,500, would be paid through the ARPA-funded grant.



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$11,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$11,213,667

ARPA Request: \$10,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Mary Templeton

Organization: Michigan Saves

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme:

Energy and Environment

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

\$1,213,667. Participating homeowners would obtain a \$1,000 Michigan Saves loan to use as a cost-share for up to \$6,500 in ARPA-grant funds for a qualifying clean energy project.

Partnership

We would engage several community organizations, including Habitat for Humanity of Kent County, Green Home Institute, Healthy Homes Coalition of West Michigan, and neighborhood groups throughout the county.

Long-Term Benefit

The primary benefit to eligible homeowners would be the immediate reduction in energy use and the corresponding reduction in utility bill costs. A secondary, yet critical, benefit of these types of installations, are the building code improvements, such as improper venting, inadequate electrical panels, and lack of carbon monoxide detectors, that would address health and safety issues often found in older housing stock.

Intended Beneficiary

Low-to- moderate income homeowners between 200 and 300 percent of the federal poverty level.

Estimated Cost

\$11 million (\$10 million for homeowner grants; \$1 million for marketing, outreach, and administration)

Project Management Experience

Michigan Saves has extensive experience managing large statewide projects. As the nation's first nonprofit green bank, Michigan Saves has helped nearly 30,000 families, businesses, organizations, and public entities throughout the state realize their clean energy aspirations through affordable financing. Michigan Saves collaborates with six authorized lenders that provide the capital for residential loans and over 900 authorized contractors who install the energy, health, and safety improvements. Most recently, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services granted Michigan Saves \$2,000,000 to create a statewide, Lead Poisoning Prevention Fund (Lead Fund). The Lead Fund will make affordable financing available to property owners who want to abate lead-based paint hazards, but do not have access to affordable capital. The Lead Fund leverages the Michigan Saves network of authorized lenders and contractors.

Federal Funds Experience

In 2010 and 2011, Michigan Saves received \$26,887,395 in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds through the State of Michigan to implement the BetterBuildings for Michigan (BBFM) Program. The BBFM program was designed to create a sustainable energy efficiency market by providing outreach and education to increase demand, a skilled energy efficiency workforce, and tools for lenders to make ongoing investments in energy efficiency in residential, commercial, and public buildings. The program relied on community-scale outreach and deep energy efficiency retrofits as catalysts for the development of economically, environmentally, and socially sustainable neighborhoods. The BBFM program included specific initiatives for disadvantaged neighborhoods in Grand Rapids.

Studies on Impact

The following research supports the effectiveness of this type of project:

Forrester, S. P., & Reames, T. G. (2020). Understanding the residential energy efficiency financing coverage gap and market potential. Applied Energy, 260, 114307. Available at

<https://justurbanenergy.files.wordpress.com/2020/01/1-s2.0-s03062619319944-main.pdf>.

State and Local Energy Efficiency Action Network. (2017). Energy Efficiency Financing for Low- and Moderate Income Households: Current State of the Market, Issues, and Opportunities. Prepared by: Greg Leventis, Chris Kramer, and Lisa Schwartz of Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. Available at

<https://www.energy.gov/eere/slsc/downloads/energy-efficiency-financing-low-and-moderate-income-households-current-state>



(Page 3)

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Behavioral health services are eligible



Sustainability

Project may need future funding



Feasibility

More details on program/use of funds needed

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$11,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$11,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Mary Templeton

Organization: Michigan Saves

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme:

Energy and Environment

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

Participating homeowners would obtain a small loan of approximately \$1,000 to leverage up to \$6,500 in ARPA-grant funds for an energy project.

Partnership

We would engage several community organizations, including Habitat for Humanity of Kent County, Green Home Institute, Healthy Homes Coalition of West Michigan, and neighborhood groups throughout the county.



PROJECT #198

Kent County Air Quality Awareness and Engagement

Identify the need for the proposed project

The founder's lived experience inspired JustAir. Since being diagnosed with Asthma, Darren has been keen on supporting community awareness and solutions to create a more equitable breathing environment for our most vulnerable communities. JustAir seeks to build upon the community air quality monitoring pilot in Grand Rapids to support other communities throughout Kent County. With community partnerships with groups such as the NAACP of Grand Rapids and Community Collaboration on Climate Change (C4), JustAir seeks to continue to build partnerships throughout the county. Additionally, JustAir is keen on supporting the county towards a vision where your zip code does not determine your quality of life.

Brief Description

Our project is focused on deploying air quality monitors throughout the Kent County community to identify neighborhoods with higher levels of air pollutants. In addition, we will work collaboratively with organizations and community members to raise awareness of air pollutants and identify ways to reduce disparities in air quality within particular neighborhoods, ultimately working to improve the health and safety of our community.

Long-Term Benefit

The project's long-term outcomes are to reduce the overall levels of emission and concentration of air pollutants in Kent County's most vulnerable communities. Through the collection of data and a community-level action plan to engage in activities to improve air quality. Long-term, we hope to improve public health outcomes in the community due to improved air quality, particularly health conditions such as asthma, cardiovascular disease, and lung disease.

Intended Beneficiary

We are keen on supporting communities of color that have disproportionate rates of chronic diseases that correlate with high levels of air pollutants.

Estimated Cost

\$150,000-200,000

Project Management Experience

While we have yet to work with a county partner, we have a number of community of city pilot experiences. This includes permitting process for equipment installation, insurance requirements, fiduciary reporting activities, etc.

Federal Funds Experience

JustAir does not have experience working with federal funds. However, we have a pending application with a community partner fiduciary that does have federal contract experience.

Studies on Impact

Research on the proposed solution for more data and community awareness:

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/10810730.2019.1574320> Research on Health Disparities in Grand Rapids and Kent County: <https://graahi.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Health-Equity-Report...2021.pdf> Research on air pollution impacts on health: <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2019/03/air-pollution-killing-more-people-than-smoking-say-scientists/>

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$150,000

Maximum Cost: \$200,000

Submitter Info

Name: Darren Riley

Organization: JustAir Solutions Inc.

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme:

Energy and Environment

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

We have an opportunity to match funds via the Environmental Justice Data Fund

(<https://www.environmentaljusticedatafund.com/>). We are currently awaiting a review of our proposal.

Partnership

NAACP of Grand Rapids, C4, Department of Environmental Great Lakes and Energy EGLE



(Page 2)

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Behavioral health services are eligible



Sustainability

One time spend on monitors - maintenance concerns.



Feasibility

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$150,000

Maximum Cost: \$200,000

Submitter Info

Name: Darren Riley

Organization: JustAir Solutions Inc.

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme:

Energy and Environment

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

We have an opportunity to match funds via the Environmental Justice Data Fund

(<https://www.environmentaljusticedatafund.com/>). We are currently awaiting a review of our proposal.

Partnership

NAACP of Grand Rapids, C4, Department of Environmental Great Lakes and Energy EGLE



PROJECT #312

Climate Justice and Equity

Identify the need for the proposed project

The federal government redlined Grand Rapids on November 5, 1937 when it published the Home Owners Loan Corporation (HOLC) Map isolating ethnic and minority communities within particular areas. Redlined "D ratings" were neighborhoods characterized by detrimental influences, undesirable population, very poor maintenance, unstable incomes, and difficult collections. By overlaying the historic redlined districts with present-day demographic data, the persistent and continued relevance of racist policies play out on present-day segregation. Higher segregation is associated with lower incomes, lower educational attainment, more crime, worse health outcomes, higher inequality and climate injustices. The book, "A City within a City - The Black Freedom Struggle in Grand Rapids", negatively portrays Grand Rapids as creating a system of managerial racism designed to keep blacks in declining inner-city areas. West Michigan has gained notoriety in recent years as a divided community that is among the nation's fastest-growing and most prosperous for its white citizens, but among the worst for African Americans and other vulnerable populations. Climate Justice addresses the unfair exposure of poor and marginalized communities to the negative impacts associated with inequitable exposure to environmental harms. The highest levels of carbon emissions occur within the historic red-lined neighborhoods, which also houses communities where 25% or more of the population are trying to just get by with living below the poverty level. The energy burden experienced by people living in the impacted areas sometimes reaches 30-40% of a breadwinner's income.

Brief Description

The Promise of C4 is to serve as a facilitator and mediator of partnerships, of education, and of consensus building, as well as creating space for a robust "Climate Justice and Equity" movement in our community. C4's work is to engage, resolve conflict, build strategies, share resources, align vision, and, most importantly, to shift the focus of climate justice to be more equitable. The issues of "Climate Justice and Equity" bring conversation into the public arena, which serves to educate the community, provide space for public input, and the sharing of knowledge, ideas, and best practices. Community education and engagement along with community-wide acceptance are vital to achieve steep reductions in carbon emissions through decarbonization efforts. Neighborhoods become activated with Climate Ambassadors involved in education, training, and engagement. A clear, concise and shared vision emerges from the brainstorming of ideas, setting goals, formulating plans, and dividing up the tasks. Pathways are built for positive communication, connection, and action. Everyone becomes a part of the solution. Local communities are transformed by a modernized infrastructure, generating renewable energy. Distributed Energy Resources (DER) integrate into a smart centralized distribution and transmission system. Utilities manage a variety of renewable energy sources. Efforts will be made to decrease energy burden for the most vulnerable to not more than 6% of annual income.

Long-Term Benefit

Energy will be affordable, accessible, equitable, efficient, clean, and reliable. The federal and state government provides technical and funding assistance. Advancements in technologies make using renewable energy one of the most effective ways to save money, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, create jobs, and meeting growing demand. Resources will be provided for consumers to self-identify practical solutions for their own energy usage. Communities are transformed by modern infrastructure.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$2,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$2,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Terry Gates

Organization:
Healthy Planet Strategies

Project Overview

Funding Group: Infrastructure

Project Theme:

Energy and Environment

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$2,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$2,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Terry Gates

Organization:
Healthy Planet Strategies

Project Overview

Funding Group: Infrastructure

Project Theme:

Energy and Environment

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Intended Beneficiary

Beneficiaries Grand Rapids continues to see strong economic growth across the majority of the city. However, a closer look at the data shows that two communities in the near-south and near-west side – home to 32% of Grand Rapids' population – are excluded from this economic growth, as evidenced by lower rates of educational attainment and higher rates of unemployment and poverty. These neighborhoods are characterized by higher populations of people of color, lower incomes, and higher levels of climate injustice. In 2018, the Kellogg Foundation established Neighborhoods of Focus via the Mark White report. Seventeen Census tracts were identified in the southeast and west parts of Grand Rapids that are behind, on several metrics, than other parts of the city. In the beginning, efforts will be concentrated within the Neighborhoods of Focus, and then eventually rolled out countywide based on lessons learned from early adoption practices. The whole county will eventually be supported to improve the social determinants of health. The entire process will be inclusive of all businesses, organizations and individuals, especially youth. New systems will be built to address climate change centered in wellbeing, the interconnectedness of life and access to shared leadership. Systemic barriers will be challenged to create a just climate future for all. What is best for the community will always be at the center of the conversation. A pathway to success will come from technical expertise and capacity building, engagement with local, state and national government, access to capital, customer engagement and connecting with the hearts and minds of stakeholders. Helping others understand the journey, process and outcomes to come alongside to create systemic change is critical. Collective and collaborative action is needed. A move towards just and circular economic principles should be centered, while moving away from individualistic and capitalistic centered solutions. Residents will be in control of their own sustainable energy future built by the community for the community. A modern energy infrastructure transforms communities into becoming renewable energy generators designed to achieve tangible economic and environmental benefits.

*Partnership

Community Collaboration for Climate Change (C4) Consumers Energy US - Dept of Energy (DOE), energy.gov, grants.gov National Community Solar Partnership (NCSP) Grid-Integrated Efficient Buildings (GIEB); bioenergy office; solar office. US - Dept of Health and Human Services US - Green Building Council West Michigan Green Building Council Great Lakes Renewable Energy Association Debbie Stabenow/Winnie Brinks/Rachel Hood MI Energy Options Chart House Energy MI Saves Raise Green MI - EGLE MI - Energy Office (part of EGLE) Catalyst Partners Climate Justice Alliance Michigan League of Conservation Voters Michigan Environmental Justice Coalition Michigan United Kent County Essential Needs Task Force City of Grand Rapids - Office of Sustainability Grand Rapids 2030 District Michigan Women Forward NAACP Grand Rapids University of Michigan Michigan State University Grand Valley State University Western Michigan University Aquinas College Hope College Davenport University Grand Rapids Community College Grand Rapids Climate Coalition - 64 members West Michigan Environmental Action Council (WMEAC) West Michigan Climate Reality Project Hispanic Center of West Michigan Urban Core Collective Sunrise Movement Grand Rapids African American Task Force West Michigan Sustainable Business Forum Grand Rapids - Water Utility Kent County - Water Utility Kent County Community Action Ann Arbor - Office of Sustainability and Innovations Ann Arbor - Sustainable Energy Utility (SEU) Boston Square Neighborhood Association Amplify GR Seeds of Promise LINC UP Sierra Club All Souls Community Church Kent Democratic Party Kaufman Institute Climate Witness Project Citizens Climate Lobby Bethany Christian Services American Red Cross of Greater Grand Rapids Habitat for Humanity Michigan Utility Consumer Representation Fund (UCPF) Grand Rapids Community Foundation



(Page 3)

Estimated Cost

\$2,000,000.00

*Source of Funding

Grand Rapids is a very philanthropic community. If matching funds are needed, they can be found by funders who are looking for ways to allocate their dollars for worthy causes. The Grand Rapids Public Library has a foundation data base we could use to come up with other sources of funding.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$2,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$2,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Terry Gates

Organization:

Healthy Planet Strategies

Project Overview

Funding Group: Infrastructure

Project Theme:

Energy and Environment

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Project Management Experience

If the project is approved, we would hire a consultant who has experience managing/leading large county-wide projects.

Federal Funds Experience

If the project is approved, we would hire a consultant who has experience working with federal funds.

Studies on Impact

We are working closely with Tom Stanton, who was a clean energy policy analyst with over 40 years experience in state energy and public utility regulatory policies. He was also the Principal Researcher for Renewable Resources and Energy Efficiency at National Regulatory Research Institute (nrri.org). With his experience, he can provide numerous research studies. There has been tons of research done, too many to list, of projects across the nation that will validate the effectiveness of this project.

Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

While the beneficiaries are eligible, it is unclear whether the program itself would be eligible. There are risks here. Program would likely have to be molded to be more eligible.



Sustainability

Lacking guaranteed funding though partners were identified



Feasibility

It is unclear the capacity of this organization to complete this task



PROJECT #131

Rouge River Dam Hydroelectricity study and preliminary design Dam

Identify the need for the proposed project

Hydroelectricity at the City's dam is something the City has considered for a long period of time. A study was done in 1985 that would need to be updated.

Brief Description

The purpose of this project is to secure funding to cover the consulting fees and preliminary design to explore hydroelectricity at the City's dam on the Rouge River. The City is interested in figuring out the viability of the physical location. The consulting would also be used to determine if the project makes sense from a financial standpoint.

Long-Term Benefit

The long-term benefit of this project involves increasing the City's use of clean energy, reducing its carbon footprint, and lower energy costs for government operations. It would achieve a step in our Climate Action Plan.

Intended Beneficiary

This project will benefit the City, its residents, and the surrounding community's

Estimated Cost

\$100,000.00

Project Management Experience

The City of Rockford recently received a \$500,000 Community Development Block Grant for the construction of new sidewalks to link Low to moderate income homes to City amenities.

Federal Funds Experience

The City also has experience working with federal funds. The most recent example of this is a \$5,000,000 grant the City received for the extension of a watermain.

Studies on Impact

Dam restoration does not appear to be necessary, so this is not cost-effective project

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$100,000

Maximum Cost: \$100,000

Submitter Info

Name: Noah Greco

Organization: City of Rockford

Project Overview

Funding Group: Infrastructure

Project Theme: Water and Sewer

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

City of Rockford ARPA funds.

The City will match 10%
(\$10,000)

Partnership

n/a

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

Individuals or communities served is not clear or does not align with Treasury guidelines' definition of 'impacted' or 'disproportionately impacted'.

10

FOOD AND NUTRITION





PROJECT #24

Growing Wyoming: Community Solutions to Nutrition Through School Gardens and Enhanced Education

Identify the need for the proposed project

H.O.P.E. Gardens installs, maintains, and provides learning experiences in hands-on school gardens for K-12 students. H.O.P.E. means Helping Other People Eat, which we do by empowering people to grow their own food affordably and sustainably. Our programs leverage established partnerships with area schools to serve over 2,300 children, families, and adult Kent County residents— with thousands more desiring our support. Our work includes the infrastructural, intellectual, and emotional systemic changes needed to improve the lives of the 1 of every 7 adults and 1 of every 5 children in our state who are food insecure. Our organization is dedicated to supporting the nutritional health, food access needs, resource sharing, and mental health of our neighbors. As a member of the coalition in the Kent County Essential Needs Taskforce (ENTF), which coordinates the efforts of non-profit, government, and private company interventions in critical health services, we see consistent food instability across Michigan. Our focus is on Wyoming, where 60% of students are economically disadvantaged and more than 90% are eligible for free/reduced lunch. Demand for H.O.P.E. Gardens increases through word of mouth as our programming reaches new members of the regional school systems. Our year over year growth signifies the need in our community for our work and trust in our programming and capital investments. Food is intrinsically linked to our diverse cultures and well being, yet often the “where and how” of food is reduced to mindless consumption. Our gardens and programming increase student understanding of how to grow, share, prepare, and find joy in consuming fresh produce harvested through their collective efforts. This proposal focuses on the long-term impact that regular, integrated garden education and access to learning gardens can have on social and community determinants of health. The aim is for our work to provide tools that begin to address disparities in food equity as one route to economic equity, health, and racial justice.

Brief Description

H.O.P.E. Gardens seeks support in 1) installing a garden and infrastructure at 4 public schools in Godwin Heights and Wyoming Public Schools and 2) expanding our health impact by piloting our successful after-school programming as schoolwide, in-class lessons at 3 selected schools in Wyoming, MI. 1. Learning Garden Installation and Expansion: H.O.P.E. Gardens will create and expand learning gardens at four schools: Godwin Heights Middle, Parkview Elementary, North Godwin Elementary, and Oriole Park Elementary. These living outdoor classrooms expose students to growing their own food, working in community, and making healthy food choices. A new garden will be installed at Godwin Heights Middle School with needed infrastructure, including fencing, storage sheds, compost bins, benches, picnic tables, and trellises, added at 3 other school gardens. 2. Hands-On Garden Education: By expanding our successful after-school programming into daytime programs at 3 pilot schools (to be determined) in Godwin Heights and Wyoming Public Schools, all students will gain health, nutrition, and food access benefits. Expanded programming into three schools with whom we are already partners would directly impact up to 1,400 more students.

Long-Term Benefit

This project increases food access and positive health outcomes through direct provisioning of food and the means to grow one’s own food. A small seed in the hand of a child can transform communities to embrace solutions bringing an end to food insecurity. Second, this project gives underserved students learning opportunities needed to bridge gaps created by Covid-19 learning disruptions. Our programming increases food access and STEM learning for students feeling the greatest Covid-19 impacts.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$75,000
Maximum Cost: \$100,000
ARPA Request: \$40,000

Submitter Info

Name: Christie Koester
Organization: H.O.P.E. Gardens

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health
Project Theme: Food and Nutrition
Project Status: Expanded Project
Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

Partner community organizations involved with this project include: Godwin Heights and Wyoming Public School Systems; school administrators, principals, and staff at Godwin Heights Middle, Parkview Elementary, North Godwin Elementary, and Oriole Park Elementary; Ruth’s Chris Steak House; Wege Foundation; and Michigan Fitness Foundation.



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$75,000

Maximum Cost: \$100,000

ARPA Request: \$40,000

Submitter Info

Name: Christie Koester

Organization: H.O.P.E. Gardens

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Food and Nutrition

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

Partner community organizations involved with this project include: Godwin Heights and Wyoming Public School Systems; school administrators, principals, and staff at Godwin Heights Middle, Parkview Elementary, North Godwin Elementary, and Oriole Park Elementary; Ruth's Chris Steak House; Wege Foundation; and Michigan Fitness Foundation.

Intended Beneficiary

The primary beneficiaries are K-12 students in Wyoming, MI, who participate in our hands-on garden programming. Since this program represents increased garden infrastructure, our learning gardens will also impact students at these schools for years to come. Additionally, the pilot expansion of schoolwide garden education will provide H.O.P.E. Gardens with a template for continuing to expand such programming to other schools we serve. Wyoming schools with whom we have partnered and have expressed interest in day programming include Parkview Elementary (345 students), Godwin Heights Middle (619 students), North Godwin Elementary (288 students), West Godwin Elementary (427 students), and Oriole Park Elementary (332 students). We will select three schools with whom to partner for this pilot based on need and interest. Our impact reaches far beyond students as they bring their learning, experiences, and interest in trying and growing fresh food home with them. Secondary beneficiaries are the families and community members who learn alongside their children. As a resource to children and families, H.O.P.E. Gardens provides hands-on learning experiences that teach students the art and science of growing food. As a resource for teachers and administrators, we offer educational programs, curriculum, and school garden design, consultation, and installation. As a resource to the community, we offer regenerative gardening workshops and training, connecting generations and broadening community access to healthy, affordable food.

Estimated Cost

\$75,000-\$100,000

*Source of Funding

The anticipated total project budget for this expansion is \$75,000-\$100,000; we are requesting \$40,000 from ARPA funds. To meet the full budgetary need, H.O.P.E. Gardens has received confirmation from a corporate funder, Ruth's Chris Steak House, which is providing partial support to this project through its annual fundraising event. Depending on the final amount donated from this fundraising event and whether we are selected as an ARPA grant recipient, H.O.P.E. Gardens will pursue additional funding as needed through individual and corporate donations and other available grants. Starting in August 2022, we also will launch a two-year funding agreement with the Wege Foundation to support operational costs, including partial support of our garden education team. H.O.P.E. Gardens has also applied to continue a partnership with the Michigan Fitness Foundation, which will partially support our programming expansion into day programming.

Project Management Experience

Since 2015, H.O.P.E. Gardens has operated throughout Kent County, particularly in Wyoming, and has managed after-school programs, daytime school programs, summer programs, garden installation and maintenance, and the volunteers and staff needed to safely and adequately provide these services to our school partners. We currently serve 15 Kent County public schools located in Wyoming, Grandville, and Byron Center.



(Page 3)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$75,000

Maximum Cost: \$100,000

ARPA Request: \$40,000

Submitter Info

Name: Christie Koester

Organization: H.O.P.E. Gardens

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Food and Nutrition

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

Partner community organizations involved with this project include: Godwin Heights and Wyoming Public School Systems; school administrators, principals, and staff at Godwin Heights Middle, Parkview Elementary, North Godwin Elementary, and Oriole Park Elementary; Ruth's Chris Steak House; Wege Foundation; and Michigan Fitness Foundation.

Federal Funds Experience

H.O.P.E. Gardens has partnered with the Michigan Fitness Foundation on a Community Impact Project since 2019 through a USDA SNAP-Ed grant, and we have applied to continue this partnership to further expand our hands-on school garden programming next year. Our leadership and staff are familiar with federal reporting requirements and understand the importance of following procedures for achieving compliance with federal reporting guidelines and appropriate use of funds. Our process also involves avoiding duplication of efforts across the many collaborators in the project. Additionally, we have received federal funds through the Kent County Covid relief fund, supporting programming for area public schools during the pandemic crisis, and completed all required reporting and documentation.

Studies on Impact

"The Association between Education Outside the Classroom and Physical Activity: Differences Attributable to the Type of Space?" Children, <https://doi.org/10.3390/children8060486>. "Green Schoolyards as Havens from Stress and Resources for Resilience in Childhood and Adolescence." Health & Place, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.healthplace.2014.03.001>. "School Gardens: Helping Students Understand Where Food Comes From to Break Down Barriers to Healthy Food." <https://jscholarship.library.jhu.edu/handle/1774.2/61831>. "Assessing a Garden-Based Curriculum for Elementary Youth in Iowa: Parental Perceptions of Change." HortTechnology, <https://doi.org/10.21273/HORTTECH.18.1.18>. "Curriculum-Based Outdoor Learning for Children Aged 9-11: A Qualitative Analysis of Pupils' and Teachers' Views." PLOS ONE, <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0212242>. "Does Access to Green Space Impact the Mental Well-Being of Children: A Systematic Review." Journal of Pediatric Nursing, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pedn.2017.08.027>. "At Home with Nature: Effects of 'Greenness' on Children's Cognitive Functioning." Environment and Behavior, <https://doi.org/10.1177/00139160021972793>.

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Eligible as it would address food insecurity



Sustainability

One time expense



Feasibility

PROJECT #235

Nourish Tomorrow Advancement Campaign



Identify the need for the proposed project

Feeding America West Michigan's efforts to meet the need for food assistance in Kent County and the other 39 counties throughout its service area in West Michigan and the Upper Peninsula have been hindered by its limited organizational capacity. Its 55,000 sq. foot main facility in Comstock Park, in operation since 2001, now lacks the space to handle the sizable quantities of product it has acquired over the last decade. Since 2017, it has operated beyond its capacity and become pervasively inefficient. The warehouse has produced numerous logistical bottlenecks that have hindered the food bank from pursuing its vision. Its floor is often congested with hundreds of pallets of food stacked two to three high. Forklifts and pallet jacks frequently face traffic jams through the only fully open aisle. The three shipping and receiving docks have faced similar backups. Reclamation volunteers regularly overflow into other departments, disrupting their workflows. The food bank has resorted to inefficient means to match its service area's demand. Administrative and development staff have moved off-site — incurring a monthly rent expense — to fill what used to be office space with food. In 2020, the food bank invested in a new freezer, which was immediately filled to capacity. Soon after, an influx of frozen food from the USDA showed freezer space was still lacking. In response, the food bank increased its off-site frozen storage by over 300% and filled its parking lot to capacity with leased semi-trailers to store excess food, at significant cost. Nevertheless, the food bank saw a 40% increase in food waste in 2020. The food bank's internal inefficiencies have also impaired its external relationships. Because order-fulfillment staff must reorganize pallets while enclosed within such congestion, agency partners frequently wait in line to load their orders. The food bank has only three docks to load and unload food at its current warehouse; it estimates that the optimal dock number is now 13, as it has progressively increased its direct deliveries to communities while agency pickups have decreased. The food bank has turned down many large volunteer groups due to its inability to accommodate them logistically, despite its substantial need for increased volunteer presence. Similarly, it has needed to decline many food donations because the reclamation area is ill-equipped to process them. These challenges have wasted resources that could have helped the 293,500 neighbors facing hunger in West Michigan and the Upper Peninsula, including 68,860 in Kent County. It is clear that the food bank lacks adequate space at its current warehouse.

Food banking best practices across the country have changed. The U.S. is witnessing an emergency feeding system pushed to its limits, exposing the true extent of the hunger problem. Food banks were originally intended to feed people during a crisis, but they have become a de facto grocery store for 46.5 million people living in the U.S. every year who travel to a food bank or food pantry to fill the gaps in their household's capacity to put enough food on the table. SNAP, the most significant federal nutrition program, is used by over 40 million low-income people annually to enable them to afford a nutritionally adequate diet.

According to the Duke Sanford World Food Policy Center's April 2022 study, "The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on U.S. Hunger Relief Organizations," the number one food system weakness selected by the HROs was inequitable access to fresh, healthy food. Over 60% of HROs also perceived overabundance of processed foods leading to diet-related diseases to be a weakness. The Feeding America national organization has created new nutrition guidelines for food banks to follow, but food banks like Feeding America West Michigan, which operate and fundraise independently within their own service areas, must make significant logistical adjustments to accommodate these changes. According to the Feeding America national organization, skyrocketing food and fuel prices over the last year have further constricted food-insecure families' access to food and strained food banks' abilities to support them.

(continued on next page)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$18,700,000

Maximum Cost: \$18,700,000

ARPA Request: \$5,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Jake Sabourin

Organization:

Feeding America West Michigan

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Food and Nutrition

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)



(Page 2)

Identify the need for the proposed project (continued, part 2)

Every aspect of food bank operations, from the procurement of food to the delivery of it, has spiked in cost. Supply-chain disruptions have significantly decreased the amount of food donated to the food bank, necessitating the purchase of massive quantities of food to accommodate the continually increasing need in West Michigan and the Upper Peninsula. Widespread increases in costs and decreases in donated product have coincided with the expiration of several pandemic-era, government-run programs meant to ensure neighbors had access to food. Expanded Child Tax Credits, for example, helped lift millions of children out of poverty and provided extra support for families to purchase groceries and other necessities. Those payments ended in December 2021. Similarly, SNAP households will lose \$82 per month of critical benefits when the Public Health Emergency declaration ends. The loss of these programs is making demand for Feeding America West Michigan's services skyrocket.

The charitable food needs in West Michigan and the Upper Peninsula have grown and changed; to meet those needs, Feeding America West Michigan requires a larger space with room for designated areas to house programs that target specific populations. Consequently, in 2021, the food bank invested \$6,650,000 in organizational resources to purchase a 120,600 sq. foot warehouse at 3070 Shaffer Ave SE in Kentwood. It plans to renovate the building to both address the limitations of its current warehouse and expand its services. The food bank estimates that the new building will enable it to progressively grow its capacity to eventually distribute 37.5 million meals' worth of food per year, a 50% increase over the 25 million meals it distributed in 2020. With community support, the Nourish Tomorrow Advancement Campaign can renovate this space and turn it into the food bank neighbors in West Michigan and the Upper Peninsula need. The new facility will include 3.2 times the freezer and cooler space and twice the dry storage space of the current facility. It will be equipped with three drive-in bays at which agencies will pick up product and an additional 13 loading docks, dramatically increasing the food bank's capacity to provide direct delivery of nutritious food to children and families in need. The facility will include office space as well as collaborative gathering spaces to meet with partners, offer training on best practices, and coordinate partnerships between agencies. These spaces will enable the food bank to aid partners in helping families identify, mobilize, and appreciate the assets, resources, and competencies within their community that can mitigate the impact of stressful conditions like food insecurity. In these spaces, the food bank will continue its work helping agencies identify clients' barriers to accessing their services, destigmatize support services, explain service eligibility requirements, fill out forms, help parents understand their role as advocates, and understand the lingering impact of childhood poverty on their clients. While addressing each family's individual difficulties, the food bank is working to understand and change the structural inequities and conditions that contribute to these difficulties. By providing food at no cost to clients, the food bank enables them to invest scarce resources into other necessities. As less of their money is consumed by food and – in the long term – healthcare, clients become more financially secure and avoid future encounters with hunger; consequently, communities bear reduced food insecurity-driven healthcare costs.

At the Fresh Start Center, an on-site client-choice pantry and education space, clients will be active participants in the process. The Fresh Start Center will not only provide families in need with food but also help them identify their needs and navigate the complex web of social service systems. It will include a commercial kitchen, permitting the rescue of a wider variety of food (e.g. coleslaw with rescued cabbage; prepared and prepackaged nutritious meals for meal programs) and a greater variety of menu items. Guests at the Fresh Start Center will be able to connect with community partners and access resources like recipes, tip sheets, and computers to help them sign up for SNAP and similar programs.

(continued on next page)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$18,700,000

Maximum Cost: \$18,700,000

ARPA Request: \$5,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Jake Sabourin

Organization:

Feeding America West Michigan

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Food and Nutrition

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)



(Page 3)

Identify the need for the proposed project (continued, part 3)

The Fresh Start Center will serve as a model for hundreds of charitable food organizations to incorporate more nutrition-education and wraparound services. The Mobile Food Pantry program, which has delivered food to neighbors facing hunger since 1998, is the food bank's flagship program. By expanding the food bank's capacity to source nutritious food — especially fresh fruits, vegetables, protein, and dairy — the new facility will enable the food bank to refine Mobile Pantry menus to reflect local community and family needs through diverse and culturally appropriate products. While these efforts are currently underway, the capacity of the current warehouse has stymied the speed and scale at which they can unfold. The new facility will provide staff with the means to sort through higher volumes of donated items, assemble more complex and specialized loads, and more easily prepare educational materials for distribution. The new facility will house an area specifically for Golden Groceries, a fledgling program that will provide seniors throughout West Michigan and the Upper Peninsula with two boxes of groceries each month as well as information about support services available to them. These boxes' contents will be tailored to meet the specific dietary needs of the senior population and emphasize fresh, seasonal produce.

By moving into the Kentwood facility, the food bank will be able to expand Gather 2 Grow, its summer meals program, to serve children throughout its 40-county service area and provide a larger variety of high-quality, child-friendly food to organizations operating backpack programs. The food bank plans to conduct child-focused pilot programs including school food pantries and a subset of Mobile Pantries tailored exclusively to children's needs. The food bank also has a number of nutrition-education initiatives under its Fresh Start programming umbrella that it hopes to grow into full programs upon moving into the new facility. One such initiative is A Recipe for Success, which provides neighbors in need with a social and community context to access nutrition-education resources at Mobile Pantries by producing live cooking demonstrations as well as recipe and cooking utensil giveaways. Another initiative, Fresh Start Education Sessions, provides children in preschool through second grade with simple nutrition lessons without burdening teachers. This target population is just beginning to form knowledge and opinions regarding food; early intervention is critical to ensuring they develop healthy habits and maintain them throughout their lives. The food bank's nutrition-education programming aims to provide parents and children with emotional, instrumental, and informational support to promote proper child development through nutrition. Finally, the move will enable the food bank to expand its Prescription for Nutrition pilot into a full-fledged program, ultimately serving its entire service area. Currently, the pilot is a collaboration with Catherine's Health Center in Grand Rapids. Through this "food-as-medicine" program, healthcare providers can screen clients for food insecurity as part of their regular healthcare appointments and then prescribe three days' worth of food to food-insecure clients, tailored to their specific health needs.

The Governor's Food Security Council (FSC) Final Report, released in February 2022, affirmed the need for these programmatic introductions and expansions. Of the study's 11 recommendations for addressing the issue of food insecurity in Michigan, the Nourish Tomorrow Advancement Campaign to renovate the Kentwood facility is a key step in addressing eight of them. Those eight are:

- Increase funding for fresh and culturally appropriate food through local and regional programs.
- Expand childhood nutrition programs and Community Eligibility Provisions in Michigan school districts.
- Improve food access through increased transportation options including home delivery.
- Pursue a federal 1115 waiver to develop a pilot program that addresses the social determinants of health for Medicaid beneficiaries that includes evidence-based interventions that improve access to medically-supported food and nutrition services.

(continued on next page)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$18,700,000

Maximum Cost: \$18,700,000

ARPA Request: \$5,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Jake Sabourin

Organization:

Feeding America West Michigan

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Food and Nutrition

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)



(Page 4)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$18,700,000

Maximum Cost: \$18,700,000

ARPA Request: \$5,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Jake Sabourin

Organization:

Feeding America West Michigan

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Food and Nutrition

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Identify the need for the proposed project (continued, part 4)

- Create a stakeholder coalition to identify innovative and sustainable financing solutions that address food insecurity.

- Increase feedback from Michigan residents utilizing community food programs.

- Create a coordinated support system for clients seeking assistance through the MI Bridges platform.

- Improve infrastructure for food insecurity screening, referral, and diagnostic coding in health care organizations.

The study specifically recommends "grant program(s) focused on bolstering local and regional food initiatives. This should include support, including infrastructure, for... community-based organizations." The FSC recommends "opportunities for greater inclusion of nonprofit organizations that may not be able to match, and to widen flexibility for more varied programs including prescription for health programs... and charitable food programs including mobile food markets and grocery recovery programs." The food bank is West Michigan's main provider of mobile food markets, as well as its main grocery recovery program. As stated previously, it is currently running a prescription for health pilot program. Only by moving to the Kentwood facility can the food bank achieve its plans to expand these programs. "In order to... address the social determinants of health for Medicaid beneficiaries," including "evidence-based interventions that improve access to medically supported food and nutrition services," the FSC recommends "health care and community partners to identify a food insecurity and health demonstration project.... A major focus of this project would be to evaluate the return on investment for a standardized and scalable food-as-medicine intervention."

As the largest charitable food organization in West Michigan, the food bank is uniquely capable of operating a food-as-medicine program, like so many other food banks in the Feeding America network across the country operate in coordination with local healthcare partners. It plans to do exactly that once it gains the necessary capacity through the Kentwood facility. In order to improve food access through increased transportation options including home delivery, the FSC recommends establishing a Michigan Coordinating Council on Access and Mobility (MICCAM) targeting specific "populations experiencing heightened rates of food insecurity" to "make recommendations to policy makers regarding access and mobility efforts for those populations, including allocation of state and federal funds, as they become available (ARPA funds, infrastructure bills, etc.). Initiatives that MICCAM might explore include increasing fresh food availability at pantries and mobile markets across the state, and mileage reimbursement or flat fee payment for home delivery as well as other methods of last mile delivery." One of the food bank's stated goals of moving into the Kentwood facility is to expand targeted programs for children and seniors, as these populations experience heightened rates of food insecurity. Again, the food bank is the foremost provider of fresh food at pantries in Kent County and West Michigan as a whole, as well as its primary provider of Mobile Pantries. The Kentwood facility will also enable the food bank to significantly expand its home delivery programming, especially for seniors via Golden Groceries. The study further recommends creating "a stakeholder coalition to identify innovative and sustainable financing solutions that address food insecurity." The Kentwood facility will further increase the food bank's capacity to collaborate with food industry stakeholders by improving its efficiency, creating dedicated spaces in the facility for collaboration, and increasing its fundraising capacity. FSC notes that "there is currently no functionality for a client to communicate feedback on whether they were able to access the requested resource or program and provide input on what was their experience in doing so." It recommends "a sustainable, on-going approach to obtaining regular feedback directly from residents to gain a better understanding on client experience using various programs and resources, and to drive future investments and improvements based on this input."

(continued on next page)



(Page 5)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$18,700,000

Maximum Cost: \$18,700,000

ARPA Request: \$5,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Jake Sabourin

Organization:

Feeding America West Michigan

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Food and Nutrition

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Identify the need for the proposed project (continued, part 5)

This recommendation, like the Kentwood facility, “will require a one-time investment to build the new capabilities initially but should be sustainable and easily maintained with minor updates achieved through regular system maintenance and updates.” The FSC recommends a coordinated support system for clients seeking assistance through the MI Bridges platform. The Fresh Start Center at the new Kentwood facility, as previously described, will assume this role by guiding clients through the process of signing up for resources such as SNAP or WIC, receiving their feedback, evaluating the responses, coordinating with other community partners and MDHHS, and improving the function of these programs throughout Kent County and all of West Michigan and the Upper Peninsula. In order to increase feedback from Kent County residents utilizing community food programs, the Kentwood facility is an essential step.

Brief Description

The food bank estimates that, by moving into the Kentwood facility and expanding its programs and services, it can increase its distribution of nutritious food to West Michigan and the Upper Peninsula by 30% within five years and 50% overall. This plan has several components, none of which are possible in the current warehouse: Increase collaborative efforts between local charitable food organizations Encourage and model the incorporation of wraparound services into partner programs across West Michigan and the Upper Peninsula Expand targeted programs for children and seniors Expand nutrition-education programs Expand food-as-medicine programs Utilize Mobile Food Pantries as a stop-gap measure while working to transform the fixed pantry system from the reactive, emergency model of the past to a sustainable, nutritionsecurity model The food bank requests \$5 million in grant funds from Kent County ARPA for the Nourish Tomorrow Advancement Campaign to renovate new spaces within its new facility, improve its programming through the use of those spaces, expand its food rescue and distribution capabilities, increase agency support, and build new community partnerships.

Long-Term Benefit

The food bank projects that the Kentwood facility will increase the amount of food delivered to Kent County by 30% within five years, lifting approximately 43,942 individuals out of hunger. It projects an eventual 50% increase in distribution, or approximately 50,702 individuals lifted out of hunger. In other words, this \$5 million grant will position the food bank to lift an additional 16,901 Kent County residents out of hunger each year — well beyond its current capacity.

Intended Beneficiary

The need for food assistance is evident in Kent County. According to the Feeding America national organization, 68,860 (10.6%) of the county’s residents, including 15,390 (9.7%) of its children, experienced food insecurity in 2019. Additional data generated in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic indicate that these numbers increased by 9% and 15%, respectively, in 2021. Given the conditions described previously, the food bank expects to see similar levels of need in the immediate future. According to the United Way’s most recent ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) study, 36% of households in Kent County cannot afford basic necessities.

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(Page 6)

Intended Beneficiary (continued, part 2)

That percentage includes 24,544 households that live in poverty and 63,814 ALICE households, whose incomes do not support their basic costs of living despite exceeding the Federal Poverty Level. Members of the latter group often turn to the food bank's programs when in need of food assistance, as government programs such as SNAP are not always an option. A single person earning minimum wage in Michigan is not eligible for SNAP; neither is a single mother of one earning \$12 an hour. US costs of living — especially those related to the most essential human needs, such as those measured by the ALICE Essentials Index — have risen steadily since 1980 and skyrocketed since 2007; wages have not kept pace. An increasing number of working people need food assistance programs to meet their basic needs. The food bank's programs effectively target families experiencing food insecurity: approximately 70% of the food bank's clients live below the poverty line. In 2021, the food bank collaborated with Public Policy Associates (PPA) to conduct a study of clients' experiences with food insecurity and their attitudes toward food bank programs. Respondents to the PPA study related some of the ways in which they needed to compromise on their own health and wellbeing to make ends meet. 63% of survey respondents indicated that, over the last year, they "bought the cheapest food available, even if [they] knew it wasn't the healthiest option." 55% had eaten food after its expiration date. 49% reported that at least one member of their household had unpaid medical bills. High percentages of respondents reported a need to choose between food and other essential expenses, including transportation (55%), utilities (51%), medicine or medical care (47%), and rent or mortgage (40%).

The food bank's programs are effective in addressing clients' and communities' needs. 90% of respondents to the PPA study indicated a desire to eat more fruits and vegetables and 91% said they do so when Mobile Pantries make such items available to them. 54% said all or most of the fresh fruits and vegetables they eat come from Mobile Pantries. Mobile Pantries play a crucial role in filling in the gaps that federal programs leave behind. 80% of respondents to the PPA study said their SNAP benefits usually last only two or three weeks out of the month. One example of an individual who might seek assistance from the food bank is Sally, a grandmother who, due to a recent surgery on her hands, needed to take time off from her three part-time jobs and struggled to keep food on the table for her grandchildren. Her family's financial situation worsened after her partner lost his job, and past drug convictions prevented her from applying for and receiving aid from SNAP. (Currently, Michiganders with two past drug convictions are ineligible for SNAP for life.) Fortunately, Sally has been able to bridge this gap and fill her grocery bags at the food bank's Mobile Pantries. "It's a godsend," she said. When families are forced to sacrifice their food budget, it can have a serious impact on other aspects of their lives. JP, Anna, and Sarai, community school coordinators at Wyoming elementary schools through Kent School Services Network, shared their stories of hosting Mobile Pantries, spending their days soothing empty stomachs with snacks, listening to kids' concerns and connecting families in need to resources. "You can tell a student's behavior is different if they miss breakfast in the morning," JP said. "Sometimes it just takes us saying, 'Do you want some fruit?' and they feel better." Sarai and Anna shared similar experiences. "A lot of the ones that would end up having to deal with the social worker or behavioral interventionist — a lot of the time, they were just looking for a snack," Sarai said. "I've known families that have struggled with getting food. They're working up to two to three jobs, but they have to pay rent, they have to pay daycare, they have to pay their bills and it's hard. Maybe they have 20 or 30 dollars for food — and if they have five or six kids, is that enough for them?" But thanks to the food bank's programs, JP said, families "can continue to keep paying other bills and saving up money for other things other than just food."

(continued on next page)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$18,700,000

Maximum Cost: \$18,700,000

ARPA Request: \$5,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Jake Sabourin

Organization:

Feeding America West Michigan

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Food and Nutrition

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)



(Page 7)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$18,700,000

Maximum Cost: \$18,700,000

ARPA Request: \$5,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Jake Sabourin

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Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Intended Beneficiary (continued, part 3)

By expanding Gather 2 Grow through the Kentwood facility, the food bank would help many more clients like Abby, a KDL Wyoming Branch librarian and mother of a 2-year-old and 5-year-old. "I went through a divorce over COVID," she said. "Now I'm a single-income family. I just applied for [SNAP] and WIC for the first time in my life." Abby found it difficult to ask for help by applying for food assistance, even though she believes it is worthwhile. She said she loves that Library Lunches to Go is "just offered," no questions asked. The improvements to the Mobile Pantry program, planned as part of the food bank's program expansion through the Kentwood facility, would help clients like Emily, a mom of five, who attended a Mobile Pantry at Sibley Elementary in Grand Rapids. This specific distribution was part of a pilot initiative in which the food bank partnered with the Kent County Medical Society Alliance to provide three partner schools with activity kits that included vegetable erasers and stickers, a kid-friendly recipe book called "I Heart Vegetables" (available in both English and Spanish), and activity sheets such as grocery store bingo. "I liked those recipes. They're very simple, but you can see they're wholesome," Emily said. "Money has been tight. It had always been tight before, and then my husband was laid off for four months. We're just trying to play catch up from that. This is one way we can save money for other things."

The food bank conducted a similar pilot with support from the Kent Medical Foundation. Through this pilot, schools distributed 350 activity kits — each filled with a jump rope, activity sheets and book about vegetables — at their Mobile Pantries. The kits showed kids fun ways to stay active and eat healthily. Jackee, a community school coordinator who runs Godfrey-Lee Public Schools' Mobile Pantries, said: "Many of our younger students were excited to receive them because they came with a jump rope. I believe the activity kits will help kids stay active and do something other than be on an electronic. The books will allow them to learn about being healthy and using their energy in a healthy way." These programs also build connections within the local community and set a positive example for the youth participating in them. "It's just giving back to the people who helped raise me," said Memo, a school staff member who recalls getting food from Mobile Pantries when he was a student at Godfrey-Lee. "The biggest thing is showing the kids that just because you come from this small community doesn't mean you can't make it big. It's not always about being a doctor or lawyer but about giving back. I think it's had a positive effect on the kids." By moving into the Kentwood facility, the food bank will gain the capacity to offer programs like these pilots on a more consistent and enduring basis, throughout its entire service area. As stated previously, the charitable food needs in West Michigan and the Upper Peninsula have grown and changed; to meet those needs, Feeding America West Michigan requires a larger space with room for designated areas to house programs that target specific populations, including expanded programs for seniors, children, nutrition education, and food-as-medicine. In the new warehouse's first five years, the food bank plans to achieve a 30% increase over the number of meals it distributed in 2020 (over 30.3 million meals' worth of food per year). This spike would substantially increase the food bank's equitability of service throughout its 40-county service area, as those gains are projected to occur in the areas most in need of charitable food services, especially in Kent County.

The Nourish Tomorrow Advancement Campaign's eventual impact extends beyond those who are currently in need of food assistance. The campaign is an opportunity for the food bank to introduce specialized programs that address the root causes of hunger and provide personalized support for households whose precarious financial situations could put them at risk of experiencing food insecurity in the future, namely the 88,358 (36%) Kent County households that, according to the ALICE study, cannot afford basic necessities.

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(Page 8)

Intended Beneficiary (continued, part 4)

By adopting this more proactive approach to hunger relief, the food bank can position itself to alleviate food insecurity before it can manifest and ultimately “shorten the line” for its own programs. Decreasing the prevalence of hunger in Kent County will have myriad impacts on the community’s overall health and wellbeing. As a social determinant of health, food security is also a key aspect of economic stability. Eliminating very low food security among children is an economic stability objective of the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, as is reducing household food insecurity and hunger. According to a 2019 study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, food insecurity in Kent County costs over \$80.3 million (\$128 per capita) in additional associated healthcare costs every year. As evidenced by the PPA study, these costs are often imposed on those with the least capacity to bear them. By expanding the food bank’s capacity to increase neighbors’ access to nutritious food, the Nourish Tomorrow Advancement Campaign will help drive reductions in these costs for individuals and families in Kent County. According to the Feeding America national organization, an individual facing hunger in Kent County faces a weekly food budget shortfall of \$17.79. Because an estimated 68,860 of the county’s residents face hunger and households susceptible to food insecurity typically experience it during seven months of the year, the community’s estimated annual food budget shortfall is over \$37.1 million. In 2020, the food bank delivered 5.8 million meals with a retail value of \$17.6 million to the county, which it projects lifted approximately 33,801 of the county’s residents out of food insecurity.

The Kentwood facility will position the food bank to further close the budgetary gap for neighbors in need. A 30% increase in the amount of food delivered to the community (feasible within the first five years of the food bank’s use of the new warehouse, as noted earlier) would equate to the delivery of 7.5 million meals with an estimated retail value of \$22.9 million, thereby lifting approximately 43,942 individuals out of hunger. An eventual 50% increase in distribution would equate to the delivery of 8.7 million meals with an estimated retail value of \$26.4 million and approximately 50,702 individuals lifted out of hunger. That means that this \$5 million grant projects to lift an additional 16,901 Kent County residents out of hunger each year, beyond the food bank’s current capacity. In short, this campaign will benefit an incredible number of people in Kent County for years to come, especially the 36% of those who cannot afford basic necessities. The food bank is not proposing a one-time fix but rather a fundamental change to the structure of the charitable food system in Kent County and beyond. The move to the Kentwood facility will similarly reverberate throughout the entirety of the food bank’s service area. A 30% increase in the amount of food delivered to West Michigan and the Upper Peninsula as a whole would equate to the delivery of 24.3 million meals with an estimated retail value of \$74.1 million, thereby lifting a projected 142,145 individuals out of hunger. An eventual 50% increase in distribution would equate to the delivery of 28 million meals with an estimated retail value of \$85.4 million and approximately 164,014 individuals lifted out of hunger. Ultimately, this campaign aims to lift an additional 54,672 individuals in West Michigan and the Upper Peninsula out of hunger each year.

*Partnership

The impact of the food bank’s move into the new Kentwood facility will reverberate throughout Kent County and beyond. The food bank serves its clients in 40 counties in West Michigan and the Upper Peninsula through over 700 agency partners, including emergency pantries, soup kitchens, emergency shelters, residential facilities, senior homes, rehab centers, and youth programs. These partners rely on the food bank as not only their source of food but also the coordinator of a holistic strategy to hunger relief throughout the community.

(continued on next page)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$18,700,000

Maximum Cost: \$18,700,000

ARPA Request: \$5,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Jake Sabourin

Organization:

Feeding America West Michigan

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Food and Nutrition

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)



(Page 9)

*Partnership (continued, part 2)

All of these programs, and thereby all of the clients served through them, will be positively impacted by the food bank's move to the Kentwood facility. Feeding America West Michigan is the backbone behind organizations like Marcy's Pantry in Curtis. "I knew our pantry could not keep up with just donations," Ethel, a volunteer there, said. "The food bank has been a godsend to us because we would not be able to supply the number of families we are supplying now if we did not have it." Michelle, Director of Social Concerns at St. Alphonsus Food & Clothing Center in Grand Rapids, likewise recognizes the food bank's role in what her organization does. "At least 80% of our food comes from the food bank," she said, "so it is very valuable for us to have that resource. It helps us serve so many people, rather than us having to pay full price at a grocery store." When the food bank cannot provide enough food to partners, they often need to purchase additional food at retail value to fully meet their communities' needs. This initiative aims to significantly decrease the frequency at which partners rely upon that alternative. In renovating the new Kentwood facility, the food bank aims to dramatically transform the programmatic capacity of its agency partners. "Feeding America West Michigan is a huge resource for us," Joni, Executive Director of Angels of Action – a nonprofit that provides kids in need with snacks and after-school meals – said. "There's a lot of things we can get in large quantities so we can provide the schools with snacks. And when we talk about snacks, it's things that are healthy and will last them throughout the day."

This campaign aims to increase the nutritional value of the food that organizations like Angels of Action provide as well as expand the number of organizations through which it provides children's programs. The food bank plays a critical role in coordinating charitable food activity in the county, bringing together multiple organizations to collaborate on programs like Mobile Pantries. The Kentwood facility is essential to the continuation of the food bank's leadership role in charitable food in the county. Sue, a priest at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Grand Rapids, emphasized the importance of working alongside others in the community towards the same goals – "It's not a time for us to be 'silo-ing' and doing our own thing," she said at a Mobile Pantry at which her parishioners joined volunteers from East Leonard Elementary School and Third Reformed Church, while simultaneously serving the church's outdoor breakfast, which serves many local community members struggling with homelessness. Many charitable food organizations active in Kent County have already endorsed this campaign. As stated previously, all of the food bank's agency partners in the region and their clients will directly benefit from the food bank's move to the Kentwood facility. A list of the food bank's more than 200 agency partners in Kent County, through which it conducts its programs and distributes food to neighbors in need, is available at the end of this section. The move into the Kentwood facility will coincide with a reduction in the food bank's number of active agency partnerships, as the aforementioned collaborations will make its operations more efficient. The food bank's current target number of agency partners is 650. A reduced number of agency partners will enable the food bank to more easily ensure its partners are trustworthy and provide adequate services. This project's impacts on the food bank's capacity to collaborate with other organizations (and, in turn, serve its clients) will become evident as it queries Primarius, its enterprise resource planning software, to see lists of its agency partners, determine trends, and generate reports. The food bank monitors its distribution numbers by regularly querying Primarius. It will track its new partnerships with complementary service organizations, healthcare providers, and major funders throughout the grant period to gauge one aspect of its progress with regard to collaborations. The frequency at which agency partners rely on retailers can be indicated by meals, pounds, individuals, and families served. The food bank will track the expansion of its agency partners' capacity through annual surveys, Service Insights tracking, and the implementation of the Feeding America national organization's nutrition standards.

(continued on next page)

Project Cost

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ARPA Request: \$5,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Jake Sabourin

Organization:

Feeding America West Michigan

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Food and Nutrition

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)



(Page 10)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$18,700,000

Maximum Cost: \$18,700,000

ARPA Request: \$5,000,000

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Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

*Partnership (continued, part 3)

Upon moving into the Kentwood facility, the food bank plans to form regional client advisory committees to amplify underrepresented voices, speak to the client experience, and contribute to planning programs. Committee members would be compensated for their partnership and expertise as the food bank seeks to increase its investment in communities disproportionately affected by poverty and hunger. The food bank takes feedback from its clients seriously. Through the PPA study, clients critiqued the food bank's ability to provide diverse and culturally appropriate food through the Mobile Pantry program, requested more nutrition-education materials, and emphasized the convenience of drive-through Mobile Pantries. The food bank is consequently working on several remedies for these issues. First, it is working to refine menus to reflect local community and family needs through diverse and culturally-appropriate products. Second, the food bank has rapidly expanded its efforts through its Fresh Start programming to facilitate nutrition-education programming at food distributions, provide a library of recipes and online cooking demonstrations to pantries and their guests, produce live cooking demonstrations, and distribute cooking tools. Third, the food bank has made drive-through Mobile Pantries a permanent option for agency partners. All of these efforts can be improved upon as the food bank moves into the Kentwood facility. Finally, the food bank has recently embarked upon a Service Insights initiative, a universal system to electronically collect data from all of the people it serves via agencies, enabling it to report unduplicated clients served and track demographic information. Moving forward, the food bank's new Service Insights initiative will allow it to gather data on the individual community scale via its partners, identify service gaps, improve outcome tracking, and provide a new perspective on the trustworthiness and accessibility of existing partners. Data gathered through Service Insights will drive decisions about future programs and initiatives and ensure communities receive services tailored to their needs. Finally, the food bank is employing Fishbeck to perform the architectural/engineering design services for the Kentwood facility. Fishbeck is a full-service architecture and engineering firm that has served Grand Rapids and West Michigan since 1956. They are well known for their work providing design services for other non-profit entities such as the Special Olympics of Michigan, Network 180 Health Systems, and Goodwill Industries International. The Christman Company has been hired to perform the construction management services. Founded in 1894, Christman has served West Michigan for 30 years and helped to build the local economy with more than \$1.5 billion in recent successful projects in the region, including Steelcase's office construction program, Brembo's new foundry and warehouse addition, and many others.

The food bank's partners in Kent County include: Grand Rapids Community College Foundation; Members of Kent School Services Network: Cedar Springs Schools, Godfrey-Lee Public Schools, Godwin Heights Public Schools, Grand Rapids Public Schools, Sparta Area Schools, and Wyoming Public Schools Kent District Library, including the Alpine Township, Byron Center, Comstock Park, Englehardt/Lowell, Gaines Township, Grandville, Kelloggsville, Kentwood, Plainfield Township, Nelson township, Spencer Township, Krause Memorial, Tyrone Township, Walker Township, and Wyoming branches, as well as several Bookmobile sites; East Leonard Elem/St. Mark's Episcopal Church; GRPS Westside Schools/KSSN; Innovation Central High/GRPS; Southwest Elementary GRPS; Acts Gospel Outreach Ministries; Adams Park/Boston Square CRC; Alternative Directions; American Red Cross - Kent County; Arbor Circle; Attic After School; Backpack; Buddies / Fellowship CRC; Baxter Community Center; Berean Baptist Church; Bethany Christian Services Bibleway Empowerment Center ; Boys & Girls Club of Grand Rapids Youth Commonwealth, including Camp O'Malley; Bread of the World Church; Brookside CRC; Brown Hutcherson Ministries Food Pantry; Buist Community Assistance Center; Calvary CRC; Calvary Undenominational Church; Calvin Theological Seminary; Camp Blodgett/Kids Camp & After School Program; Cascade Fellowship CRC;

(continued on next page)



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***Partnership (continued, part 4)**

Catholic Charities West Michigan; Sissell Adult Foster Care Home; Cedar Springs UMC Community Food Pantry; Central Reformed Church-Addie's Pantry; Children's Advocacy Center of Kent Co/Children's Assessment; Christ Temple Apostolic Faith/Greater Christ Temple ; Church of the Servant CRC; CIM - CMC Patient Pantry /Spectrum Health System; City Impact Cedar Springs; Coit Community Church; Community CRC; Community Food Club; Community Needs Council / HWMUW; Community Rebuilders; Community Services of Dutton/The Community Basket; Comprehensive Therapy Center; Cornerstone Church; DA Blodgett/St. John's Home; David's House Ministries; Degage Ministries; Discovery CRC; Dwelling Place - Herkimer Apartments; Dwelling Place - Weston Apartments; Dwelling Place- Verne Barry Place; East Congregational U.C.C.; East Paris Comm Food Pantry/Islamic Mosque & Religious Inst.; Eastern Ave. CRC Saturday Program; Eastown Community Association; Enriched Living; Exodus Place; Faith Reformed Church Food Pantry; Family Network; Family Outreach Center - FET & SS Program; Family Promise of Grand Rapids; FGF/Brown Hutcherson Ministries; FGF/Lifequest Urban Outreach/Alpha League; First Community AME Church; Food Pantry; First CRC Friends & Neighbors Network; First Cutlerville CRC; Park Congregational Church; Flat River Outreach Ministries; Fuller Avenue CRC; Gerald R. Ford Academic Center/Madison Square CRC; Grace Bible Church/ IFCA; Grace CRC; Grand Rapids Red Project; Grandville Senior Neighbors Food Pantry; Guiding Light Mission; Hand2Hand backpack program sites, including Calvary Christian Reformed Church (CRC), Coopersville CRC, Corinth Reformed Church, Cornerstone United Methodist Church (UMC), Covenant CRC, Sparta Church of the Nazarene, Frontline Community Church, Gaines Church, Harbor Life Church, High Pointe Community Church, Hillside Community Church, Ivanrest CRC, Journey Church, Kentwood Community Church, Lee St. CRC, New Hope Community Church, Plainfield Christian Church, Plymouth United Church of Christ, Providence CRC, Bella Vista Church, Second Byron CRC, South Harbor Church, Sparta Baptist Church, Sparta UMC, The Story Church, Frontline Community Church, Fair Haven Church, and Zion Reformed Church; Hands In Mission/Feeding Walker Kids; Helping Important People Succeed; Heritage Reformed Church; Hispanic Center of Western MI; Holy Spirit Episcopal Church/DFMSPEC; Hope Network -; BHS - Pivot; HOPELink of West Michigan ; ICCF-Family Haven; Ideal Park CRC; Iglesia de Dios Manantial de Vida; Iglesia; Pentecostal El Alferero; Iglesia Sanandos las Naciones/MSLN; Indian Trails Camp; Ingenium Coach; Inter Tribal Council - HP Head Start; Islamic Center & Mosque of GR; KEC Beltline/GR Student Advancement Foundation; Kentwood Christian Church; Kentwood Community Church/Open Table; Kids Food Basket; LINC Up; Lincoln Schools Campus/King's Table Ministries; M.L.K.Jr.L. Academy/First UMC; Macedonia Baptist Church; Mamrelund Evangelical Lutheran Church; Matthew's House Ministry; Meals on Wheels Western Michigan; Mel Trotter Ministries; Head Start for Kent County; Michele's Rescue; Mision De Fe; Missionary Church of Christ Inc.; Mount Mercy Housing Corporation; Multitude Ministries, Inc.; North End Community Ministry; New Faith Temple CDC; New Hope Missionary Baptist Church Food Pantry; New Life Food Pantry COGIC; Nonprofit Innovations Inc.; Noor's Heaven of West MI Services; North Kent Connect; NW Food Pantry Coalition at Trinity Reformed Church; Oakdale Park CRC; Other Way Ministries; Our Hope Association; Peace Lutheran Church; People In Need; Pilgrim Rest Missionary Baptist Church; Pleasant Hearts Pet Food Pantry; Pleasant View Manor; Plymouth Arms Apartments/Central Christian Church; Positive Options, Inc.; Region 1 Transition Services programs in Cedar Springs and Rockford; Ransom Towers Apts./Central Reformed Church- RCA; Red Pine Bible Church; Resolute ALF - Eastern; Revive and Thrive Project; Rockford High School Spec Ed / NKCS; Rogers Heights Spanish SDA Church; Safe Haven Ministries; Salvation Army Adult Rehabilitation Center; Salvation Army Disaster Services; Fulton Heights Salvation Army; Salvation Army Turning Point; Spectrum Community Services residential programs, including the 22 Mile, Algoma, Blythefield, Clyde Park, Forest Hills, Iris, Kingdom, Lake Gerald, Madison, Parkview, Shiawassee, Skyway, Springmont, and Stauffer homes;

(continued on next page)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$18,700,000

Maximum Cost: \$18,700,000

ARPA Request: \$5,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Jake Sabourin

Organization:

Feeding America West Michigan

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Food and Nutrition

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)



(Page 12)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$18,700,000

Maximum Cost: \$18,700,000

ARPA Request: \$5,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Jake Sabourin

Organization:

Feeding America West Michigan

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Food and Nutrition

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

*Partnership (continued, part 5)

SECOM South End Community Outreach Ministry; Shawnee Park Christian Reformed; Sheldon Food Pantry/Hope Community Housing Corp.; Shepherds of Independence; Sherman Street CRC; Southeast Church of Christ; Sparta Area Migrant Resource Co; St. Alphonsus Parish Community; St. Isidore Catholic Church Food Pantry; St. John's U.C.C.; St. Mark's Episcopal Church; St. Mary Magdalen Church; St. Mary Roman Catholic Church Food Fund; St. Paul Lutheran Church; St. Paul's Anglican Church; Steepletown Neighborhood Services; Streams of Hope Food Center; Street Light Outreach Church; Streetlight Outreach Ministries; Strong Beginnings - Spectrum Health System; Strong Tower Ministries/Trinity CRC; Temple Emanuel Food Pantry /Congregation Emanuel; The Green Apple/John Knox Community Food Pantry-The Pantry; The Lighthouse for Teen Mothers; Thresholds residential programs, including the 56th Street, Eastern Avenue, Mayfield South, Plainfield, Villa East, Porter, and Westchester Homes; Together In Faith Ministries; True Light Baptist Church; UCOM ; United Methodist Community House-Seniors; Unleashed Love Pet Rescue, Inc.; Unlimited Alternatives; UofM Health West Comm Health Center/ Metro Foundation; Vineyard North Church; Wedgwood Christian Services ; Wellspring Lutheran Services; West MI Center For Arts & Tech; West MI Community Advancement; West MI Veterans Assistance Program; Westend CRC; Westminster Food Pantry; Woodlawn Christian Reformed Church; Woodview Christian Church; YWCA -Domestic Crisis Center/Sojourner House; Zion Lutheran Church

Estimated Cost

Feeding America West Michigan estimates the costs for the Kentwood facility purchase, renovation, and program expansion to total approximately \$18.7 million. The food bank has already invested \$6,650,000 in organizational resources to purchase the building outright. It has already raised \$5.3 million and projects it will raise approximately \$7 million through grants and donations as part of the Nourish Tomorrow Advancement Campaign by July 2023, which will cover most of the renovation and program expansion costs. Consequently, the food bank requests \$5 million through Kent County ARPA to cover the remainder of the renovation and program expansion costs. Without this funding, the new food bank's ability to dramatically impact the 36% of households in Kent County that cannot afford basic necessities will be significantly hindered.

*Source of Funding

Once the building modifications are completed, the food bank will sustain itself through ongoing fundraising, donor cultivation, and grant support. The food bank relies on funding partners throughout its entire service area to stay operational and keep its programs running. The food bank is approaching large foundations, businesses, and major donors throughout its 40-county service area for contributions. The food bank has secured a lead gift of \$2 million from Meijer, which was announced in Spring 2022. The following organizations have endorsed this advancement campaign already: Amway, BISSELL, City Impacts, Community Food Club, Community Action House, Community Foundation for Delta County, Discovery Church, Exodus Place, Family Network of Wyoming, Jandernoa Foundation, Kids Food Basket, M.E. Davenport Foundation, Mel Trotter Ministries, Peter C. and Emajean Cook Foundation, Senior Meals Program, Streams of Hope Food Center, The Green Apple Pantry, and United Church Outreach Ministry. The food bank anticipates that many more organizations that currently procure food from the food bank or are integral in fighting hunger in West Michigan and the Upper Peninsula will join this list.

(continued on next page)



(Page 13)

*Source of Funding (continued)

As the food bank expands its capacity to act as the foremost leader in fighting hunger throughout its service area, its enhanced programmatic capabilities will enable it to forge partnerships with a far greater variety of organizations, including complementary social service organizations and healthcare providers. As stated previously, many of the food bank's over 700 agency partners have also begun to merge their resources. The food bank intends to play a pivotal role as they consolidate services to create economies of scale. By helping to coordinate regional collaborations, it can build the entire network's capacity to adopt best practices, collect data in an unprecedentedly effective manner, shorten the line, and fight hunger more efficiently. The collaborative spaces afforded by the new facility will make this transition even more feasible. In order to maximize its sustainability, the food bank has begun to invest in communication resources for its agency partners. It recently developed a communication toolkit and will use it to train its agency partners on communicating with neighbors in need as well as other partners and resources in their communities. This is the beginning of a long-term effort to encourage and train these partners to fundraise in their local communities. While the food bank serves all of West Michigan and the Upper Peninsula and is building partnerships with a broad base of large foundations and major donors, agency partners have a greater opportunity to build deep connections to their local communities, knocking on doors in nearby neighborhoods or holding local fundraising events. The food bank believes that by investing in its partners and helping them coordinate their fundraising efforts, hunger relief infrastructure can be built far more sustainably than it could if all of these organizations were to continue operating in silos. This campaign represents a paradigm shift in the charitable food landscape of West Michigan and the Upper Peninsula. The new facility is not only a key piece of the food bank's plan to improve its efficiency of service throughout the region but also a major step in its pursuit of new, long-term partnerships with major funding partners. As the campaign continues and the food bank moves into the Kentwood facility, such partners will have an unprecedented opportunity to effect change in the lives of the 38% of households in West Michigan and the Upper Peninsula that are either experiencing poverty or fall below the ALICE threshold. With enough support, the food bank can turn this new space into the facility that Kent County, West Michigan, and the Upper Peninsula need.

Project Management Experience

Feeding America West Michigan gathers and distributes food to relieve hunger and increase food security in 40 counties in West Michigan and the Upper Peninsula. It is a clearinghouse for resources, research, and advocacy; its data supports evidencebased programs across over 700 agency partners—forming a cohesive hunger-relief infrastructure across the region. The food bank provides 21 million meals' worth of food to neighbors across Michigan each year. Mobile Food Pantries—the food bank's flagship program—deliver fresh produce, dairy, and protein to neighbors in need. Golden Groceries delivers pre-packed boxes of food to foodinsecure seniors. Gather 2 Grow partners with 16 Kent County libraries to provide meals to children facing hunger during the summer and has recently expanded to four additional counties. Fresh Start provides neighbors in need a social and community context to access nutrition-education resources at food distributions. Finally, the food bank's most crucial function is as the most costefficient means of gathering and distributing food through its hundreds of agency partners and their own programs, many of which rely on the food bank as their primary source of food. The food bank coordinates with other basic needs organizations to identify circumstances on the ground and informs policymakers of food security conditions. As a partner to the Feeding America national organization, the food bank accesses unmatched data to identify communities at risk of hunger. The food bank also annually surveys agencies to help them overcome challenges. It conducts studies, surveys, and focus groups on its programs. With over 70 active grant agreements and uncountable partnerships, it must generate quantitative data demonstrating its programs' efficacy while simultaneously turning outward to acquire public knowledge to gain qualitative insight into its clients' needs. Interviewing its clients is one way the food bank gains insight into their perspectives, but it is rapidly expanding the avenues by which it connects with the communities it serves and includes them in the program-planning process.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$18,700,000

Maximum Cost: \$18,700,000

ARPA Request: \$5,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Jake Sabourin

Organization:

Feeding America West Michigan

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Food and Nutrition

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)



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Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$18,700,000

Maximum Cost: \$18,700,000

ARPA Request: \$5,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Jake Sabourin

Organization:

Feeding America West Michigan

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Food and Nutrition

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Federal Funds Experience

The food bank is the local leader in charitable food in managing federal funds, and increasingly so. In 2020, the food bank received \$3.2 million in revenue via The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), \$4,361 in SFSP funding, \$143,920 through the Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP, a FEMA-funded program), and \$647,500 through other federal funds. These numbers have continued to increase since then. The food bank expects its 2022 TEFAP distribution figures to be much higher than in previous years. Additionally, the food bank is now starting to take on primary responsibility for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) throughout its service area and anticipates it to be a significant element in its Golden Groceries program going forward. As an example of the food bank's crucial role in managing federal funds on behalf of charitable food organizations in Kent County, it received \$248,871 in EFSP funding through Phase 39 and ARPA-R, which it allocated among 103 agency partners this year. It is the one organization responsible for determining how EFSP charitable food funds are allocated among these many organizations due to its central role, high-level view, and access to significant data to make decisions that best serve neighbors facing hunger in the County. Other counties in the food bank's service area have begun to adopt a similar practice, utilizing the food bank's capacity to allocate federal funds in a responsible way. No other charitable food organization in West Michigan has this capacity or its in-depth knowledge of the needs of the charitable food system. However, due to the field's increasing reliance on the food bank as the central hub around which West Michigan charitable food operates, it needs to significantly increase its capacity (by relocating to a more appropriate facility) to accommodate its increasingly critical role in the process.

Studies on Impact

The Governor's Food Security Council (FSC) Final Report (2022), the Duke Sanford World Food Policy Center's April 2022 study, "The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on U.S. Hunger Relief Organizations," the PPA study, as well as a variety of other research conducted by the Feeding America National Organization including Map the Meal Gap, and other data collected by the food bank, have all been discussed in depth throughout this application.

Supporting Documentation

- [1. Campaign Donors](#)
- [2. Shaffer Design Packet](#)
- [3. Annual Report](#)
- [4. Letter of Support #1](#)
- [5. Letter of Support #2](#)
- [6. Letter of Support #3](#)
- [7. Letter of Support #4](#)
- [8. Nourish Tomorrow Brochure](#)

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

Programs that address food insecurity are eligible.

PROJECT #294

Good Food Systems Initiative



Identify the need for the proposed project

We have partnered with local universities, community resource centers, and clinics to administer surveys and hold focus groups asking about community health and what needs are in the different geographical areas we serve. Food has been a top priority because of the high food insecurity population in Kent County. We also administer surveys quarterly for our Fresh Markets asking if fresh, green, fair, and affordable food is something needed to be sure we stay on track with addressing root cause issues to poverty. Our Refresh Now program administers a baseline survey and a post program survey allowing us to see feedback and what is and what is not working while focusing on food as medicine.

Brief Description

Refresh Now is a food prescription program housed at two local Kent County health clinics. This program improves health for those working to address a major chronic disease or risk factors for a major chronic disease (examples: Type 2 Diabetes, cardiovascular disease, chronic renal disease, cancer, major mental health disorder). Refresh Now helps participants increase consumption of fruits and vegetables by offering fresh food vouchers to purchase fresh, locally grown produce, and helps increase knowledge through healthy living classes/community engagement opportunities. Fresh Markets are Access' healthy food retail sites. The Markets offer affordable access to healthy, local produce in an equitable, noncharity setting while supporting the Michigan agricultural economy. The Markets are a hybrid of a corner store and a farmer's market; open year-round, shoppers purchase produce and value-added items at their convenience and can use SNAP, Double Up Food Bucks, and veggie vouchers as well as cash or credit. As a resource for grocery shopping, the Fresh Markets increase access to healthy and local food in low-income neighborhoods and are housed within non-profit community centers. Produce is sold at 50% of the retail value, ensuring affordability and the revenue generated goes toward the purchase of additional food. Through both program initiatives we have been able to collaborate with other organizations whose values align with ours.

Long-Term Benefit

The long-term goal of the Fresh Markets is to create and support thriving local agriculture and economic systems, increase affordable access to healthy food, and encourage authentic community-led initiatives to food access. The long-term goal of Refresh Now is to improve the health of the community, create support for the local healthy food economy, connect clinics to healthy food retail sites, and promote the wisdom of using food as medicine.

Intended Beneficiary

To participate in both programs there are different ways to qualify as a participant but overall both programs serve low income Kent County residents. Specific to Refresh Now, participants are established patients at one of the two clinic sites and must be diagnosed or at high risk for a major chronic illness, be a resident of Kent County, have the ability to commit to the three-month program, and be at least 18 years of age (although the participant's entire family benefits from the fresh food vouchers). Specific to the Fresh Markets, shoppers are low-income residents that are under 300% of the federal poverty guidelines. To ensure that the markets are highly accessible for this population, there is no referral or intake process for acceptance as a market shopper, nor do we collect demographic information from shoppers. The only form of verification is that a shopper will sign a declaration form stating they are below 300% of the poverty line. Shoppers can visit the Market as frequently as they choose and purchase whatever amount they desire, just as in a traditional grocery store. The Fresh Market model prioritizes low barrier to participation because of the foundational belief that the most equitable food access model is a socially normative shopping experience with affordability as the priority. This is supported by the Community Food Survey 2018 (CFS), conducted by the Calvin Center for Social Research which found that "People with a higher income ate more fruits and vegetables than those with a lower income. However, the majority of respondents from all income brackets indicated enjoyment of and desire to eat fresh fruits and vegetables." This finding evidences the inequity in accessibility of healthy food based on income.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$250,000

Maximum Cost: \$750,000

ARPA Request: \$250,000

Submitter Info

Name: McKenzie VanPatten

Organization:

Access of West Michigan

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Food and Nutrition

Project Status: Existing Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

Current funded organizations are United Methodist Community House, Exalta, and Catherine's Health Center. We also collaborate with the community resource centers across Kent County, Spectrum Health Healthier Communities, and other nonprofit entities.



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Estimated Cost

250,000-750,000

*Source of Funding

Not specifically through the county, our organizational long-term funding strategy is multi-pronged. Each of our major programs (Good Food Systems, Poverty Education, and Congregation Connections) has a different funding stream. Good Food Systems is supported by collaborative grants, Poverty Education is revenue earning, and Congregations Connections is supported by congregation donations. We also utilize general individual and corporate donations across our programs, as well as have other small income earning opportunities such as providing trainings, workshops, and speaking engagements. Our three Good Food Systems partners are currently completing their third year of engagement with us and we have guaranteed them three years of pilot funding. We are committed to procuring funding for the sites from mid-2020 to mid-2023. After the three year engagement, each site will be prepared to sustain the programming on their own with diverse financial investment and ability to adapt programming based on their unique assets and lessons learned. Our Good Food Systems funding stream engages a variety of funders, and we have some committed long-term support.

Project Management Experience

We have housed the pantry network for over 40 years which is a collaborative of all Kent County food pantries. As our work has shifted into equitable solutions we work with many of those individual sites to create institutional change through our Good Food partner collaborative. We are confident in leading and collaborating with many different organizations to carry out the values of our work.

Federal Funds Experience

We have experience working with federal funds through COVID relief funding and other collaborative funding that we have had to report back on federal dollars.

Studies on Impact

As mentioned above, we partner with universities and our healthcare system to support our work with evidence based research around food as medicine and health equity.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$250,000

Maximum Cost: \$750,000

ARPA Request: \$250,000

Submitter Info

Name: McKenzie VanPatten

Organization:

Access of West Michigan

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Food and Nutrition

Project Status: Existing Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

Current funded organizations are United Methodist Community House, Exalta, and Catherine's Health Center. We also collaborate with the community resource centers across Kent County, Spectrum Health Healthier Communities, and other nonprofit entities.

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Food insecurity programs are eligible



Sustainability

On surface, this appears sustainable inasmuch as it is ongoing (and already exists). Question about what specifically funding will be used for.



Feasibility



PROJECT #311

Healthy Food Education

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$180,000

Maximum Cost: \$210,000

Submitter Info

Name: Nancy Cromley

Organization: John Knox
Community Food Pantry (D.B.A.)
The Green Apple Pantry)

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Food and Nutrition

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

Other sources of funding would come from our supporting church community, individuals and community grants.

Partnership

Steepletown Neighborhood
Services

Identify the need for the proposed project

We are a small food pantry serving SE Kent Co., including Grand Rapids, Kentwood, Caledonia and Wyoming. In the past few years, we have developed many new partnership creating opportunities for food that needs to be gleaned and sorted. Unfortunately, our kitchen is small making this process very difficult. As we move beyond Covid we are looking for was to once again connect with our neighbors and develop programs that support healthy living through nutritious food education. We recognize a need in our community to create opportunities to support youth training through work force development as it pertains to the food industry. A larger commercial kitchen will streamline our ability to sort and glean food, create space for education and make it possible to provide a revenue stream through kitchen rentals.

Brief Description

This project will address our need for additional space to support our ability to glean and prepare food for our neighbors. It is our intention to offer education and workforce development classes and youth camps to this community. We have worked in partnership with other non-profits to provide youth workforce development in the food industry and would like to expand these relationships. This past year we developed a community garden and would love to expand our education opportunities relating to gardening, canning and healthy cooking classes. A large commercial kitchen would provide a space to address this need. We are also looking at ways to create revenue that supports our pantry. This commercial kitchen could be rented to community members creating opportunities that supports the community needs as well as our fiscal obligations

Long-Term Benefit

The long-term benefit of this project is to continue to support the nutritional needs of our neighbors. We provide a service to low income and underserved families of this community. With the increase in food and gas prices we are seeing an increase in need for our services, and we know this trend will continue. During these past few years new partnerships have been created requiring additional space for gleaning and preparing food. A commercial kitchen will create a space for education.

Intended Beneficiary

The intended beneficiary of this project are the neighbors that we serve. Our service area includes SE Grand Rapids, Kentwood, Caledonia and Wyoming. We provide a service to the most vulnerable of our community, those families falling below the federal poverty guidelines, including those facing ALICE obstacles. Kentwood is one of the most diverse communities in the nation, so many of our neighbors are immigrants seeking help to get established. This project will also focus on youth by developing education opportunities that help with workforce development.

Estimated Cost

\$180,000 - \$210,000



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$180,000

Maximum Cost: \$210,000

Submitter Info

Name: Nancy Cromley

Organization: John Knox
Community Food Pantry (D.B.A.)
The Green Apple Pantry)

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Food and Nutrition

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

Other sources of funding would come from our supporting church community, individuals and community grants.

Partnership

Steepletown Neighborhood
Services

Project Management Experience

We have not had experiences with managing or leading large county-wide projects. We are a small food pantry that started 35 years ago in a church, and expanded as a stand alone non-profit 3 years ago. We are not a county-wide organization.

Federal Funds Experience

n/a

Studies on Impact

n/a

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

*Eligible as it would
address food insecurity*



PROJECT #136

Kent County Food Policy Council Food Systems Assessment and Plan

Identify the need for the proposed project

With the mission to advocate for and promote a local good food system, Kent County Food Policy Council (KCFPC) has identified the need for backbone data needed as baseline for understanding the Kent County food system, as well as form a proactive plan with goal setting to address how Kent County will move toward achieving an equitable local good food system. Having the tools of an Assessment and Plan is critical to the KCFPC's strategic priorities of connecting food system sectors, promoting aligned data and food system understanding, promoting community learning, advocacy, and propelling action.

The need for systemic change in our food system is all too evident in Kent County: a collaborative community food survey, conducted in 2019 by Calvin University Center for Social Research indicated that people desired to eat fresh fruits and vegetables regardless of their income yet were not able to consume fresh produce at the same rate with cost being the primary deterrent for low-income households. Voice Kent data from 2017, gathered by Grand Valley State University's Johnson Center, shows that while the majority of people (78%) can meet their basic needs (water, food, housing, etc.), there are disparities (66% Latinx and 70% Black). According to County Health Rankings and Roadmaps of 2018, only 8% of White children in Kent County live in poverty, yet 34% of Black and Latinx children live in poverty. Finally, a 2016 map of geographic proximity to produce retailers across the county shows that 38% of households in Kent County cannot access to fresh produce retailers within reasonable travel time (thresholds for one-way trip set at 15 minutes walking, 5 minutes driving, 45 minutes by public transportation).

Our food system includes growing and harvesting happening here yet the farmland in our county is in jeopardy: according to the USDA, there were 1010 farms in Kent County in 2017, a 13% decrease from 2012. Further, those farms are overwhelmingly owned by white farmers, with a little under 2% identifying in other racial categories. When it comes to food waste, the Kent County Department of Public Works shares that 35% of what we throw away locally is organic. When food waste goes into a landfill, it breaks down through an oxygen-less process and in turn releases methane gas, a potent greenhouse gas. To address issues in our food systems, food policy councils are widely established in communities in Michigan and around the country. In fact, there are 27 councils in Michigan alone – from Detroit to Saginaw to Traverse City and the UP – the Kent County Food Policy Council joined this cohort in the summer of 2021. The Michigan Good Food Charter provides a framework for KCFPC and for exploring what a good food system would be; one that is accessible, equitable, fair, healthy, diverse, and sustainable.

Until the KCFPC came into formal existence in 2021 there was no one entity taking initiative to inform local policy related to food systems, including health equity and food access strategies. Although there exist many organizations focused on food access and health, there has not been a body of representative citizens that proactively receive resident feedback and devise strategy to ensure that goals related to food system areas are implemented and accounted for across Kent County.

In 2018, the Formation Team of the Kent County Food Policy Council implemented a plan for inclusive and equitable community engagement and gathered data to develop policy priorities that represent a wide reach of Kent County residents and food sector stakeholders. This process allowed us to pinpoint food policy priorities as defined by a wide variety of stakeholders: in every session and across surveys, food justice, equity and sovereignty was identified as the highest priority. The council will be able to use this community-driven feedback to develop a policy agenda and initiate efforts that move the county toward a place of sustainable, equitable production, consumption and access to healthy food.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$125,000

Maximum Cost: \$150,000

ARPA Request: \$99,995

Submitter Info

Name: Janelle Vandergrift

Organization: Kent County Food Policy Council, a subcommittee of the Essential Needs Task Force

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Food and Nutrition

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

\$50,000 from the Michigan Health Endowment Fund

Partnership

(Listed in main description)



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$125,000

Maximum Cost: \$150,000

ARPA Request: \$99,995

Submitter Info

Name: Janelle Vandergrift

Organization: Kent County Food Policy Council, a subcommittee of the Essential Needs Task Force

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Food and Nutrition

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

\$50,000 from the Michigan Health Endowment Fund

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Brief Description

The Kent County Food Policy Council (KCFPC) is requesting funds to hire a consultant to assist in creating a Food Systems Assessment and a Food Systems Plan. The Assessment will include secondary research cataloging the current landscape of food system policy and activity in Kent County, whereas the Plan will represent resident and community voice in expressing their goals for the county's food system. In utilizing a Food Assessment, the Council will have a tool that represents all current food system, health, and access opportunities. The Assessment will review the Community Health Improvement Plan, the action plans of the Food and Nutrition Coalition, and the work plan of the Healthy Eating, Active Living work group convened by Kent County, in addition to other available resources. Once the Council is equipped with an Assessment containing this information, it will be able to use the research therein to engage with community members to form a relevant Food Systems Plan. The Assessment and resultant Plan will give the Council the research and resident-informed data needed to strategically address current health and food system issues identified by the community and to engage municipalities, institutions, and residents in aligning actions to the goals of the Plan.

Long-Term Benefit

Kent County needs a clear or unified policy process related to the food system. Positive policies within food system sectors vary widely by municipality, creating confusion and lack of clarity for residents. There are currently no proactive attempts by the city of Grand Rapids or other Kent County municipalities to address targeted food system goals, and the current Master Plan, formed in 2002, noticeably lacks an emphasis on food system objectives for food system transformation.

Intended Beneficiary

Kent County residents, businesses, agencies, and health systems. Because food is essential for survival and we all eat everyday, the impact of food systems change could affect all of the 650,000 residents of Kent County. While not everyone in the county will feel the direct benefits of this project, the assessment and plan will be particularly focused on 25% of residents who fall into the ALICE population category (Asset-Limited, Income-Constrained, Employed) and the 10% of households who fall below the federal poverty guideline. The ALICE population faces unique challenges with access to food and opportunity in our county.

*Partnership

To accomplish this project we would work with a consult agency called New Ventures Advisors. We chose this consultant group based on their experience in conducting a food systems Assessment and Plan at the intersection of food policy with the values of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and equipping/coaching community leadership. As we sought out proposals from consultants we found an immense lack of expertise at this intersection; New Venture Advisors stood out as they provided examples that are structured both in process and in product with the value-set that the KCFPC holds. We are thrilled to consider working with them on a toolkit that will serve Kent County and the City of Grand Rapids for years to come. In addition to our consultant collaboration, the process of creating the Assessment and Plan is collaboration-based. The Assessment will reach out to existing groups, institutions, and individuals to compile research and data related to the current status of food system activity in Kent County. The Assessment will rely on the work that has been done by other groups and the expertise of those involved in the food system. The Food Systems Plan will be created based on input provided by residents via surveying and feedback sessions. KCFPC will establish these groups and connections by utilizing partnerships with the institutional affiliates of Council members, as well as with community organizations. The Council membership has representatives from the sectors of government, health, education, business, non-profit, agriculture, and community members at large, thus the collaborative network and outreach of this group spans the entire county. Council members come from organizations, agencies and businesses including: Spectrum Health, Lindo Mexico, Migrant Legal Aid, H.O.P.E Gardens, Grand Valley State University, Kent County Department of Public Works, HealthNet and Michigan Fitness Foundation.



(Page 3)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$125,000

Maximum Cost: \$150,000

ARPA Request: \$99,995

Submitter Info

Name: Janelle Vandergrift

Organization: Kent County Food Policy Council, a subcommittee of the Essential Needs Task Force

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Food and Nutrition

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

\$50,000 from the Michigan Health Endowment Fund

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Estimated Cost

\$125,000-150,000

Project Management Experience

The Heart of West Michigan United Way (HWMUW) acts as the fiduciary for the Essential Needs Task Force & Kent County Food Policy Council. HWMUW provided grant support for the Covid CARES act funding in 202 and 2021. The Essential Needs Task Force has significant experience convening community organizations, agencies and residents and facilitating systems level conversations.

Federal Funds Experience

As mentioned, HWMUW provided grand support for the Covid CARES act funding in 2020 and 2021. HWMUW is also fiduciary for the local Continuum of Care and manages multiple US Department of Housing and Urban Development issued grants annually.

Studies on Impact

Beyond the impetus to achieve a Kent County food system assessment and plan as expressed by Council members, there exists great amount of support for the development and usage of such tools from food system experts: "Just as a long journey is made easier and clearer by using a road map, a community food coalition or policy council's work is greatly enhanced through the guidance of a community food assessment" (Community-Based Food System Assessment and Planning Facilitators Guidebook, 2018, page 1). Other municipalities and regions have also developed food systems plans or policy plans. The San Diego Food System Alliance is currently in a two-year process called Food Vision 2030 that is an inclusive process which engages the full community in research and engagement to develop a vision for their food system. New York City recently released a 10-year policy plan called Food Forward NYC which solicited feedback from the community in developing goals to transform their food system. Douglas County, Kansas, also developed a food systems plan with the support of New Ventures advisors. The plan's goals include action on food waste, equity, support for food workers and entrepreneurs, conservation and improving soil health.

Supporting Documentation

1. [Letter of Support #1](#)

2. [Letter of Support #2](#)

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Eligible as it would address food insecurity



Sustainability

Once the plan is created, additional funding should not be necessary



Feasibility



PROJECT #310

Lamoreaux Community Garden

Identify the need for the proposed project

Nearby apartments and strawberry-box style houses with very little yard space made gardening difficult in the area.

Brief Description

We have a small garden with several members that work to grow food to provide to local mutual aid projects. We also provide and supply boxes, soil, tray and seeds to folks who cannot travel to the Community Garden.

Long-Term Benefit

We have a small garden with several members that work to grow food to provide to local mutual aid projects. We also provide and supply boxes, soil, tray and seeds to folks who cannot travel to the Community Garden.

Intended Beneficiary

The community members that learn more or receive nutritional produce from our mutual aid project.

Estimated Cost

\$500-\$2000

Project Management Experience

I have worked in agriculture since 2005, at that time I worked for an organic farm and did so seasonally for 7 seasons on and off. We worked with several surrounding farms from 3 separate counties to coordinate shared cropland/projects.

Federal Funds Experience

None whatsoever.

Studies on Impact

There are many! Some that show they reduce crime. Some that show they provide a sense of belonging. And of course there are environmental benefits!

<https://nccommunitygardens.ces.ncsu.edu/resources-3/nccommunitygardens-research/#:~:text=Results%20suggest%20that%20community%20gardens,social%20health%20and%20community%20cohesion.>

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$500

Maximum Cost: \$2,000

Submitter Info

Name: Mallory McKenzie

Organization:
Lamoreaux Community Garden

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life
Project Theme: Food and Nutrition
Project Status: Existing Project
Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

n/a

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

Eligible as it would address food insecurity

Unsure how the money is actually being spent.

PROJECT #112

Providing an incubator/community/demonstration kitchen



Identify the need for the proposed project

United Church Outreach Ministry (UCOM) recognizes a need for an incubator/community/demonstration kitchen space that can accommodate the needs of our neighbors. In 2019, Strategic Growth Group did extensive research for a number of nonprofits, including a heavy focus on UCOM. This research showed that our neighbors had a strong interest in an incubator/community/demonstration kitchen but face unique barriers that restrict them from utilizing other types of kitchens like PreP Space and the Grand Rapids Downtown Market, such as prohibitive costs to use these spaces as well as distance and lack of perceived access. Incubator/community/demonstration kitchens offer well-equipped commercial kitchen facilities for people seeking to grow food businesses. Many of our neighbors have or would like to start small cooking and catering businesses (like making tamales) that would benefit from having a larger kitchen space to create their goods to sell. UCOM empowers our neighbors by supporting them with tools that can help provide a better income revenue stream for their families. These kitchens have proven to be especially powerful solutions for communities whose predominant language is not English, which is a core-segment of individuals that UCOM serves. An area that would allow for transitional work experience in the food and restaurant industry would provide tremendous educational opportunities in the realm of workforce development. Hands-on education in the field of culinary practices and procedures means that neighbors would have opportunities in the food industry with ready to work experience.

Workforce development is a core focus at UCOM. There is a major need for education in industries like food service to provide potential workers with hands-on experience. These educational opportunities help workers gain job skills and training to make them more employable. Neighbors are then able to secure and sustain a job to earn money. An earned income means that neighbors are better able to take care of their families. Job skills that provide ongoing income also benefit individuals mentally and emotionally since they have a reliable and steady means of supporting themselves through acquired skills. Through generous donations from supportive local grocery stores, UCOM is often given large quantities of food that is not always usable for our neighbors due to the amount of the product. UCOM is committed to the concept of food waste recovery and has a goal of utilizing all of the products we receive. An incubator/community/demonstration kitchen will provide the commercial space needed to produce different types of products like soups, breads, salsas and more with leftover fresh food ingredients thereby preventing thousands of pounds of food waste annually. The resultant foods could be sold or distributed to our neighbors. Participants in our classes or individuals using the kitchen as start-up business incubation space would be able to utilize the recovered food items, benefitting their production capabilities and adding potential earned income streams.

A large incubator/community/demonstration kitchen would give UCOM the capacity to expand its nutrition and cooking classes. Adequate kitchen space will allow more neighbors to utilize these programs with the goal of developing entrepreneurship in the food sector. Kitchen upgrades including video camera and projection system, new appliances for varied cooking methods, and other essentials will allow UCOM's cooking classes to expand and flourish. Communal meals provide our neighbors with the opportunity to connect and get to know each other better. The incubator/community/demonstration kitchen would create a space for families and individuals to come together at UCOM, cooking together, utilizing different skill sets, and enjoying a meal together. Not only does this bring community members together, but it also enhances physical, emotional, and mental health by reducing social isolation.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$2,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$2,000,000

ARPA Request: \$2,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Dr. Bruce Roller

Organization: United Church Outreach Ministry (UCOM)

Project Overview

Funding Group:

Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Food and Nutrition

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)



Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$2,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$2,000,000

ARPA Request: \$2,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Dr. Bruce Roller

Organization: United Church
Outreach Ministry (UCOM)

Project Overview

Funding Group:

Economic Innovation and
Workforce Development

Project Theme: Food and Nutrition

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Brief Description

UCOM proposes to build an incubator/community/demonstration kitchen that would be accessible to our neighbors. A specific focus will be upgrading our appliances to commercial quality that will allow our entrepreneurial neighbors to scale up their food production for business growth. Kitchen upgrades including video camera and projection system, new appliances for varied cooking methods, and other essentials that will allow UCOM's focus on food system workforce development to expand and flourish. The kitchen will include a large space to cook as well as to demonstrate cooking methods. The demonstration area will have seating near a prep table to showcase different healthful, fresh recipes. These cooking classes are an expansion of UCOM's already popular programming. Utilizing this larger space UCOM will, with excess produce and other fresh items, create food products to sell helping to reduce food waste. A ServSafe certified individual will be hired to oversee the kitchen, ensuring safe cooking and sanitation practices. We are currently exploring different partners who would be a good fit for our proposed project. As a social enterprise, the kitchen will be a space both for social impact in workforce development in the food sector, as well as provide streams of earned income for UCOM and the entrepreneurs that utilize the space.

Long-Term Benefit

This project will provide an area for transitional work experience, offer a next step in the journey of small-scale, food processing infrastructure for entry-level food entrepreneurs, give our neighbors hands-on experience in preparing healthy meals, reduce social isolation, improve mental health, and increase community vibrancy, and minimize food waste by turning excess fresh ingredients into other forms of food that can be sold or given away to our neighbors.

Intended Beneficiary

Minority, low-income, and immigrant neighbors in our community are the primary intended beneficiaries. Our neighbors will be able to use this kitchen to not only create and sell products for small businesses, but it will allow UCOM to expand our cooking classes to engage the expertise of the community. Facilitating peer-to-peer education as well as formal culinary education for neighbors enhances self-confidence and grows individual-level understanding of the importance of nutritious foods. This in turn supports growth in community health and mitigates illness caused by poor nutrition. Providing a space where neighbors can work together preparing communal meals promotes improved physical, mental, emotional, and social wellbeing. This incubator/community/demonstration kitchen will also allow our neighbors to connect to other resources like MSU extension courses, since there would now be a space to host those classes. Utilizing their skills, neighbors will teach each other furthering community and a sense of friendship. This education will build good will and promote social wellness which increases community vibrancy.

*Partnership

We are currently in the process of identifying community partners that would work with us on this project. This type of kitchen project has been identified by entities throughout Kent County as a viable and important addition to any neighborhood and therefore the opportunities for partnership are numerous. The number of accessible kitchens in Kent County is limited not only to food business entrepreneurs but also to non-profit organizations and other programs looking to rent kitchen space. Partnership ideas include: providing opportunity to Grand Rapids Community College Culinary Program for student placement in community, partnering with StartGarden or SpringGR for placement of graduated business entrepreneurs, hosting a non-profit such as Revive and Thrive for youth-oriented job training, and hosting educational partners such as Spectrum's Culinary Medicine program and MSU Extension educators. UCOM already possesses a vast number of partnerships with local grocers and farms for food sourcing and donations. We are in the process of facilitating neighborhood listening sessions and evaluation of opportunities to ensure that we move forward with the most strategic partnerships while also fulfilling the goals of the ARPA funding. Additionally, we will forge connections with other non-profit commercial kitchens such as the South East Market/WMEAC pilot, New City Neighbors, Amplify GR, and the Center for Community Transformation.



(Page 3)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$2,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$2,000,000

ARPA Request: \$2,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Dr. Bruce Roller

Organization: United Church Outreach Ministry (UCOM)

Project Overview

Funding Group:

Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Food and Nutrition

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Estimated Cost

Our estimated costs for the program fall into two categories: start-up costs and ongoing costs including funding for potential partner organizations. Our start-up costs for the program are \$750,000. This will include the reconfiguration and expansion of the space in our building to accommodate a commercial kitchen. This will include new energy efficient appliances, kitchen items, video camera and projection system to showcase demonstrations. The ongoing costs and funding for our partner organizations will be \$1,250,000 over a four-year period. This funding includes administrative costs, costs for an employee, licensing, training, inspections, and maintenance for the equipment. Our partnering organization(s) will receive funding through our ongoing costs. We are currently actively searching for partners in this collaboration. The start-up costs and ongoing costs including funding for partner organizations will be a total of \$2 million dollars.

*Source of Funding

We have strong relationships with other funding sources and would be able to connect with them about matched funding. The Grand Rapids Community Foundation and Wege Foundation have shown interest in the addition of a community kitchen that would be usable for entrepreneurs as well as educational space. We have also had multiple financial institutions excited about the prospect of a community kitchen which would provide education and job skills training to empower neighbors in their financial journey. Additionally, the kitchen will provide an earned income stream for UCOM as we allocate a portion of kitchen usage time as affordable rental space for entrepreneurs or other non-profits, as well as potentially sell goods created by class participants as a social enterprise. In the development stage, UCOM will determine a goal for earned income over the first 3 years of operations. UCOM plans to ask for funds from The Wege Foundation and the Grand Rapids Community Foundation in the amount of \$200,000 to support operations

Project Management Experience

UCOM receives funding from the City of Wyoming for our position of Pantry Resource Assistant. Our Pantry Resource Assistant engages with the neighborhood and the community surrounding UCOM with an emphasis on reaching our Spanish speaking neighbors and volunteers. This 4-year grant allows for the Pantry Resource Assistant to manage, recruit, and train volunteers with a particular focus on neighbors impacted by COVID-19 and bilingual neighbors to meet the needs of the community. In addition, this position builds strong relationships with neighborhood groups to create a trusted and safe space. Moreover, they recruit members and plan monthly meetings for an advisory committee where neighbors will be heard and plans will be put in place to meet those identified needs. They also focus on promoting UCOM programming at community forums where more families and individuals can learn about the mission and how UCOM hopes to support the community. Finally, our Pantry Resource Assistant develops, administers, and records results of community satisfaction surveys where we can see what needs UCOM is meeting and where more support is needed. UCOM also partners with several county wide organizations like the Essential Needs Task Force (ENTF), the Employment Services Collaborative (ESC), and the County Wide Pantry Network.

Federal Funds Experience

UCOM has some experience working with federal funding. We received \$200,000 from a competitive federal grant through ACSET. ACSET works with faith-based organizations like UCOM. Our funding allowed us to work with justice-involved individuals. UCOM's role in the ACSET partnership was to support participants in increasing their employability by providing workshops and tutoring sessions in basic life skills as well as workforce development. The program assisted individuals in putting together resumes and job applications to help secure and retain employment. The Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP) has provided funding annually for many years. These funds have been routed via Feeding America and UCOM has successfully allocated these monies for pantry support.



Studies on Impact

In a 2019 study of UCOM done by the Strategic Growth Group (SGG), there was an identified need for an incubator kitchen that would serve minority and immigrant neighbors. A case study of La Cocina California validates the effectiveness of this type of project. La Cocina works to cultivate low-income food entrepreneurs, especially immigrants and minorities. It provides affordable, commercial kitchen space, industry-specific technical assistance, and access to market opportunities and strives to help communities build economic security while leveraging individual skills and passions. The program has successfully helped to launch over 120 businesses. Hot Bread Kitchen of New York is another incubator kitchen that shows the effectiveness of this type of project. Hot Bread Kitchen is a non-profit bakery offering paid, on-the-job culinary training to hard-to-employ immigrants and minorities. Participants are prepared to launch food industry careers through production of breads and baked goods. It also offers an incubator program for food enterprises that includes business. A 4-week culinary training program that provides job skills and work readiness training to Hot Bread Kitchen participants contributes to 100% success rate in hiring.

Supporting Documentation

[UCOM Pantry Farms Final Report](#)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$2,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$2,000,000

ARPA Request: \$2,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Dr. Bruce Roller

Organization: United Church
Outreach Ministry (UCOM)

Project Overview

Funding Group:

Economic Innovation and
Workforce Development

Project Theme: Food and Nutrition

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Arguably workforce development or community health. This would partially depend on impacted community.



Sustainability

Organization has a plan for sustainability.



Feasibility



PROJECT #15

Grand Rapids Food Co-op Staffing Support

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$3,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$3,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Linda Jones

Organization:

Grand Rapids Food Co-op

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Food and Nutrition

Project Status: Existing Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

Our owners will be loaning the co-op around \$1 million dollars. We will also be applying for commercial loans through SBA, other grants will also be applied for from the Michigan Good Food Fund.

Partnership

n/a

Identify the need for the proposed project

Research into the need for food access in central Grand Rapids, study of the cooperative business model and movement, experience with other food co-ops around the country.

Brief Description

The Grand Rapids Food Co-op is bringing the community together to build a full-service grocery store in the limited food access area of central Grand Rapids. We incorporated in 2016 and currently have almost 400 owner households. We need funding to hire two paid staff positions. An Outreach Coordinator to build our ownership to 800 owners and a Project Manager once we have the store site selected to oversee the buildout. Each owner contributes \$250 as their share, our low income owners contribute \$25 as their share. The rest of the money will come from owner loans, commercial loans, and other grants. The coop will be open to all shoppers. The co-op will support local farmers and producers with an outlet to sell their products. The co-op will empower the community to own their grocery store and have a voice in what it stocks and how it is designed and run.

Long-Term Benefit

Better food access in central Grand Rapids, an empowered community, a stronger local food web, a sustainable business model of cooperation rather than extraction.

Intended Beneficiary

The whole county will benefit from this project because it will improve food access and local food sustainability.

Estimated Cost

Total build out costs will be around \$3 million for a 5,000 SF store.

Project Management Experience

We are community volunteers backed by expert consultants from the Food Co-op Initiative, Seven Roots, and Columinate. We have been working on this project since 2016, attending yearly conferences, webinars, and doing research. Many of us are professionals in different fields and have had previous business experience in project management, government, marketing, and community building.

Federal Funds Experience

We have applied for grants previously and are familiar with the process and the reporting.



Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$3,000,000
Maximum Cost: \$3,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Linda Jones
Organization:
Grand Rapids Food Co-op

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health
Project Theme: Food and Nutrition
Project Status: Existing Project
Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

Our owners will be loaning the co-op around \$1 million dollars. We will also be applying for commercial loans through SBA, other grants will also be applied for from the Michigan Good Food Fund.




Partnership

n/a

Studies on Impact

This recent study from the National Co-op Grocers:
<https://www.ica.coop/en/media/news/food-co-ops-make-big-difference-us-communities#:~:tex=economic%20impact%20of%20food%20co-ops%20in%20the%20US>.

Guidehouse Ranking Notes

 Eligibility	 Sustainability	 Feasibility
Location of the store is key - if within a food desert - would be eligible.	Lacking guaranteed funding after 2026 though partners were identified	

PROJECT #188

Grounding Communities in Local Food: Supporting Farmers and Intergenerational Education



Identify the need for the proposed project

Food redlining has had detrimental effects on long-term health, social and economic outcomes in Kent County. Collaborative community-based efforts have been successful in reducing barriers to food access and improving economic stability around social determinants of health. Many of the low-income residents on the SE and SW side are afflicted with food access issues that culminate in chronic health problems such as diabetes, obesity and hypertension that only worsened during the pandemic. These chronic health concerns are symptoms of the generational wealth gap experienced by Black, Indigenous and other people of color (BIPOC) in these areas, beginning with land theft from these groups over generations. The COVID-19 pandemic widened this wealth gap, as it disproportionately affected BIPOC residents, who had higher rates of mortality. Many BIPOC growers in GR have the knowledge, experience, and culture to create an effective solution to food access and health issues that plague their communities. Food accessibility in the southeast area of Grand Rapids is scattered, consisting mainly of convenience stores, small grocers and occasional farmers markets. Fresh foods are not regularly available in quantities that are required for adequate nutrition. South East Market was birthed in the pandemic in response to these alarming social disparities and vision to create a more equitable and sustainable local food system in West Michigan. They source first from priority growers (Black, brown, Indigenous, local and women led businesses and farms). Through their grassroots model, they have identified the economic and financial barriers BIPOC farmers face. Urban agriculture is one of the best ways for us to transform our soil, empower neighbors and increase access to healthy food with transparency in frontline communities. Due to rising land costs during the pandemic, it has become increasingly difficult for beginning farmers to find stable land to build infrastructure for their businesses. The average cost per acre in Kent county is \$6,000, which is ~\$1,000/acre higher than the national average. This project is needed in our county This project is needed in our county in order to support the career development of these beginning farmers, and ensure a stable local food system for generations to come.

Brief Description

This project aims to increase the number of priority growers (female, queer and people of color) within the workforce of West Michigan, through access to land, education and funding. This is a collaboration between GR Parks and Rec, Freedom School, Southeast Market, the West Michigan Farmers of Color Land Fund, WORMIES Vermicompost, and the West Michigan Environmental Action Council. We aim to activate more green spaces with education-centered community gardens, with children's enrichment programs through Freedom School that liberate minds through urban agriculture, movement, mindfulness, and ethnic studies. Through partnership with Wormies Vermicomposting, we would offer not only education about composting, but space for food waste to be processed. One of these gardens benefits an estimated 200 community members each summer from education and food produced there, while beautifying the neighborhood. In addition, we hope to increase the number of priority growers by creating a tool library for shared use among beginning food producers, providing financial support to at least 10 farmers to have secure land for growing, creating jobs in this field for farmers and farmworkers, and mobilizing food grown through urban agriculture.

Long-Term Benefit

We strive to strengthen West Michigan's local food system by securing land for beginning farmers, doing soil remediation, and creating career opportunities in farming. These projects will engage diverse communities with the land, provide employment and cultural education. These opportunities will improve quality of life by creating safer, more vibrant neighborhoods, and a space for food waste through the vermicomposting program, while providing intergenerational education opportunities.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$2,500,000

Maximum Cost: \$5,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Alita Kelly

Organization: South East Market

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Food and Nutrition

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

Grand Rapids Parks and Recreation Dept; Power to the People 616; Wormies Vermicompost; West Michigan Environmental Action Council; South East Market; West Michigan Chapter of National Young Farmers Coalition



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$2,500,000

Maximum Cost: \$5,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Alita Kelly

Organization: South East Market

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Food and Nutrition

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

Grand Rapids Parks and Recreation Dept; Power to the People 616; Wormies Vermicompost; West Michigan Environmental Action Council; South East Market; West Michigan Chapter of National Young Farmers Coalition

Intended Beneficiary

People across generations who want to improve their health, wellness and education, especially for people of color and those with an interest in producing food for their community. This will benefit all residents of West Michigan in the long run by increasing the number of food producers, therefore making fresh, local food sourcing more reliably available.

Estimated Cost

\$2.5 - 5 million (increases with the number of parks we can build on, and the number of farmers we can support).

Project Management Experience

The West Michigan Environmental Action Council (WMEAC) has completed several regional environmental reports and projects, including Climate Change Resilience Report for the City of Grand Rapids, the Lower Grand River Water Trail Report. Our partners from WMEAC are currently overseeing projects funded by Michigan Dept. of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EPA NPS 319 federal pass-through). Other projects and initiatives include regional voter education, low-impact development projects, primary and secondary education programs, and sustainable homeowner education.

Federal Funds Experience

USDA Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production funding FY 2021 EGLE 319 (Non-point Source Pollution) Coastal Management Program [State passthrough] Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

Studies on Impact

In 2016, USDA's Economic Research Service published a comprehensive study of farmland ownership, tenure, and transfer in U.S. agriculture. While the US loses 2,000 acres of farmland to development daily, and 40% of farmland is leased and insecure, we hope to keep our corner of Michigan an equitable food and farming center. The USDA Food Access Research Atlas shows that as a result of historic planning, the neighborhoods in Southeast Grand Rapids now consists of 60% Black, 14% Hispanic (total population of 4,842 per 2020 est.). More than 40% of the area population fall below the poverty line, and have been identified as having low access to fresh foods. A study published in the National Library of Medicine evaluates the impact of urban gardens on nutrition and healthy food beliefs. It found that urban gardening has been proven to positively influence stress reduction outcomes, foster social cohesion while providing participants the opportunity to build social networks and connect to their community. In a study published by Cambridge University, a systematic review of urban gardens found that they create increased fruit and vegetable consumption and overall community health.

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Greenspace and action against food insecurity are eligible, pending location and program design



Sustainability

Does not include a funding plan or fund availability after expending all the ARPA dollars.



Feasibility



PROJECT #231

No-till drill rental program for Kent County to support a sustainable agriculture industry transition

Identify the need for the proposed project

Kent Conservation District works to support farmers in addressing natural resource concerns caused by their farming operation such as soil erosion, water pollution, plant disease and pest pressure, and air pollution—while helping them meet their bottom line. The recent near doubling of fuel and fertilizer prices has been economically catastrophic for farmers, in some cases forcing selling of land, liquidation of equipment, or laying off staff. At the same time, soil erosion, soil degradation, and unstable precipitation from climate change threaten the long-term sustainability of many farms. Our 5-year county-wide Conservation Needs Assessment (2022), which had responses from 73 farmers and farm technicians, identified soil erosion, soil health, and water quality as the three most urgent resource concerns in Kent County's agricultural sector. The no-till seed drill is an essential tool for landowners looking to keep soil from blowing or washing away, and operating their farms using best management practices that reduce non-point source pollution. Using a no-till drill to plant crops can benefit farmer's bottom line and the environment, as it can cut fuel costs by more than 5 times, reduce erosion, and build soil health and productivity long-term, especially when paired with cover crops and good soil management practices. Despite these benefits, we estimate that less than 30% of farmers use this technology in Kent County. Barriers to using no-till technology include upfront equipment cost—which can range from (\$40,000 to >\$100,000), lack of understanding of how to operate the drill or its benefits, resistance to new technologies, and soil/weather conditions on some farms. For farmers and their farmland to benefit from this technology, these barriers are often too large to overcome. We can help remove these barriers by providing an affordable no-till drill rental program and the technical assistance to help farmers use and understand it. We receive several inquiries each year regarding no-till drill availability.

Brief Description

KCD intends to purchase a no-till seed drill and start a no-till rental and training program for Kent County farmers. This grant would fund the purchase of a no-till drill and make it available to producers throughout the county. The program will emulate other successful conservation district programs which require a small rental fee for equipment maintenance. This year, KCD, through the Rogue River Watershed Partners received a 1-year \$40,000 watershed support grant from EGLE to create a Buffer and No-till Campaign in the Rogue River watershed. \$25,300 of this grant is earmarked to purchase a no-till drill and promote its use. Unfortunately, that amount is insufficient as the cheapest adequate seed drill we have been able to find is \$45,000. Equipment also requires an operator, maintenance, storage, and insurance. Promotion and training can also be expensive, as it requires knowledgeable technical staff, events, and marketing. Our staff is up for these tasks, and we have already identified experienced no-till farmers who are willing to support with training, operation, and maintenance. Cost is the only barrier to creating this much-needed program. ARPA funds, paired with EGLE funds, would allow us to purchase an adequate no-till drill, cover costs to market the program, and ultimately set up a self-sustaining service to the farming community that will enable innovative and skilled farmers, while addressing environmental challenges that the industry faces in the long-term.

Long-Term Benefit

Local agriculture is essential for the long-term resilience of Kent County's economy and public health. Rising prices combined with degradation of land from soil erosion and climate change threaten the sustainability of local farms. No-till farming integrates soil, water, and fuel conservation. Surpassing current cost and knowledge barriers is necessary for farmers to transition to this more sustainable and cost-effective practice, for the longevity of Kent County's agricultural industry.

Intended Beneficiary

Farmers in Kent County (training, new equipment, improved soils), County Drain Commission (reduced sediment loads), county residents (cleaner air and water)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$40,000

Maximum Cost: \$70,000

Submitter Info

Name: Joel Betts

Organization:

Kent Conservation District

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Food and Nutrition

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 76% or greater

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

Rogue River Watershed Partners, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Trout Unlimited, Lower Grand River Organization of Watersheds



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Estimated Cost

\$40,000-\$70,000

*Source of Funding

We have an EGLE 319 grant for \$40,000 which has \$25,300 earmarked for the no-till drill and related outreach. We also have grants from the MAEAP program and conservation district operational grants that cover our staff's time devoted to this as match, valuing between \$10,000 and \$40,000, depending on time devoted to the program. We estimate that the drill would cost \$45,000, and together with cost of maintenance, insurance, storage, marketing, and farmer operator/trainer fees the total cost could be between \$65,000 and \$95,000 for 2022-2026.

Project Management Experience

Kent Conservation District was established in 1947 to protect the county's natural resources. We have decades of experience in successfully implementing county wide grants (such as our Michigan Agricultural Environmental Assurance Program, MAEAP) and administering USDA NRCS Farm Bill Program dollars across the county. Our invasive species strike team is recognized as a county leader in the treatment of invasive species, as the district has been part of a regional effort to control invasive species since 2006. We have hosted numerous grants and projects, and currently have more programs than ever before as priority and demand for conservation work continues to grow. We have 6 full time staff and additional parttime staff, and are supervised by a board of directors, giving us the capacity to manage and lead large county-wide projects.

Federal Funds Experience

Kent Conservation District has been awarded and successfully managed two EE EPA grants and a National Fish and Wildlife funded agricultural engineer (SOGL). We currently administer two National Association of Conservation District grants (USDA funded). Our District's Conservation Technical Assistance grant administers USDA NRCS Farm Bill Program dollars across the county

Studies on Impact

No-till farming saves money and improves productivity in the long term (Cusser et al, 2020), improves soil health (Blanco-Canqui 2020), reduces emissions (Hollinger et al. 2005), and captures carbon (Bernacchi et al. 2005) when compared to conventional tillage. It is a commonly used planting practice, especially for grains and cover crops in Kent County, and is increasingly being adopted on US farms (Horowitz 2010). Dozens of conservation districts have hosted successful no-till drill rental programs, with several in Michigan. Individual program reporting has shown that these programs help with no-till adoption (Forster & Rausch 2002), but no summative research has been done to evaluate the effectiveness of these programs at scale. References: Blanco-Canqui (2020). In Notill Farming Systems for Sustainable Agriculture (pp. 233-249 Bernacchi et al. (2005). Global Change Biology, 11(11), 1867-1872. Cusser et al. (2020). Global Change Biology, 26(6), 3715-3725. Forster et al. (2002). Journal of environmental quality, 31(1), 24-31. Hollinger et al. (2005). Agricultural and Forest Meteorology, 130(1-2), 59-69. Horowitz et al. (2010). (No. 1476-2016-120976).

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$40,000

Maximum Cost: \$70,000

Submitter Info

Name: Joel Betts

Organization:
Kent Conservation District

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Food and Nutrition

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 76% or greater

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

Rogue River Watershed Partners, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Trout Unlimited, Lower Grand River Organization of Watersheds



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Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

*Not a government service
- not eligible under
revenue replacement.
Individuals or
communities served is
not clear or does not
align with Treasury
guidelines' definition of
'impacted' or
'disproportionately
impacted'.*



Sustainability

*Kent Conservation
District has the staff to
handle this project*



Feasibility

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$40,000

Maximum Cost: \$70,000

Submitter Info

Name: Joel Betts

Organization:

Kent Conservation District

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation
and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Food and Nutrition

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 76% or greater

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

Rogue River Watershed
Partners, USDA Natural
Resources Conservation
Service, Trout Unlimited, Lower
Grand River Organization of
Watersheds



PROJECT #279

Purchase of Development Rights Funding

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$2,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$2,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Denny Heffron

Organization: Agricultural
Preservation Board

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Food and Nutrition

Project Status: Existing Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Identify the need for the proposed project

The rate of farmland loss and the sprawling development pattern it encourages is well documented. As the price of farmland increases, more farmers will find continuing this tradition financially impossible, exiting the business and creating a cascading effect on the agriculture industry as well as its aligned business such as food and hospitality. Relatedly, this will encourage other, non-farm developments, on existing farmland that will contribute to sprawling development, increased traffic, burdening schools and other public services.

Brief Description

Allocate \$2 million to the GRCF PDR fund for purchasing preservation easements on prime and unique farmland in Kent County to be matched by other groups. Use these funds to purchase an estimated 2000 acres by leveraging state and federal funds. Further, these funds can be combined with area foundations who can match by giving to the Grand Rapids Community Foundation and grow the Purchase of Development Rights Endowment.

Long-Term Benefit

The long-term benefits are a thriving and protected agriculture vertical supply chain, stormwater capture, carbon capture, and protect natural habitats. As well as a continuing legacy of the agricultural heritage of Kent County, a readily accessible and local food supply that can be found at local stores, restaurants, and farmers markets.

Intended Beneficiary

Local farmers are the primary beneficiaries.

Estimated Cost

\$2,000,000.00

Project Management Experience

The County already secures and monitors conservation easements as well as connects with area foundations.

Federal Funds Experience

The County already applies, processes, and maintains federal grants for Purchase of Development Rights conservation easements

Studies on Impact

Yes, a Texas A&M report shows economic contribution, water and biodiversity protection, and the ability to curb suburban sprawl when land is protected.

Source of Funding

Community foundations who have looked to Kent County PDR investment previously but withdrew funding when the County was no longer funding PDR from the General Fund.

Partnership

Frey Foundation, Steel Case,
Kent County Farm Bureau



(Page 2)

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

*Not an eligible use of
ARPA funds.*

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$2,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$2,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Denny Heffron

Organization: Agricultural
Preservation Board

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Food and Nutrition

Project Status: Existing Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

Community foundations who have looked to Kent County PDR investment previously but withdrew funding when the County was no longer funding PDR from the General Fund.

Partnership

Frey Foundation, Steel Case,
Kent County Farm Bureau

11

GOVERNMENT SERVICES





PROJECT #23

COVID Pay for Essential Kent County Civilian Workers

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$20,000

Maximum Cost: \$20,000

ARPA Request: \$18,199

Submitter Info

Name: Lanette Yonkers

Organization: Kent County Jail

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Government Services

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

n/a

Identify the need for the proposed project

The essential civilian staff at the Kent County jail worked throughout the Covid pandemic without the same Covid pay initiatives that were given to deputized staff members.

Brief Description

The civilian staff deserves the same considerations as the deputized staff since the civilian staff also worked through the highly stressful Covid pandemic. The civilian staff put themselves at risk by coming into the facility also. The civilian staff continued to do their jobs to the best of their abilities with all the changes and unique challenges that the Covid pandemic brought to the workplace. Please consider giving Covid pay to the civilian staff for their hard work and dedication during that very trying time period.

Long-Term Benefit

The dissemination of Covid Pay to Civilian staff will help to foster a better relationship by showing that the civilian staff's hard work is recognized as it is with the deputized staff.

Intended Beneficiary

Civilian Staff at the Kent County Jail - Specifically the Processing Office staff, but also including other civilian staff.

Estimated Cost

n/a

Project Management Experience

n/a

Federal Funds Experience

n/a

Studies on Impact

n/a

Supporting Documentation

[Letter of Support](#)

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Eligible under premium pay



Sustainability

Limited payment for past work



Feasibility

PROJECT #83

Pay increases for Kent County employees who worked during COVID pandemic



Identify the need for the proposed project

Pay raises for Kent County Employees during COVID

Brief Description

There are employees who have been presented during the very beginning of the pandemic who have showed up to make sure their department or agency would be open/available to the community during this unpredictable time. These employees should not only get a pay raise but a bonus as well for putting their lives on the line to service others.

Long-Term Benefit

There are employees who have been presented during the very beginning of the pandemic who have showed up to make sure their department or agency would be open/available to the community during this unpredictable time. These employees should not only get a pay raise but a bonus as well for putting their lives on the line to service others.

Intended Beneficiary

This would show employees that they are valued and that they did make a difference while helping others during this very difficult time.

Estimated Cost

The remaining funding of the ARPA or a large portion of it

Project Management Experience

Very experience

Federal Funds Experience

Very experience

Studies on Impact

Not for sure if any research studies have been taken but other counties have already submitted this proposal and have been approved

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: n/a

Maximum Cost: n/a

Submitter Info

Name: n/a

Organization: n/a

Project Overview

Funding Group: Improving Government Operations

Project Theme: Government Services

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

n/a

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

Eligible under premium pay

Not a continuous project

PROJECT #95

Premium payments to Retain Direct Support Professionals



Identify the need for the proposed project

Our service industry supporting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) in the community has been in a staffing crisis for decades, primarily due to low Medicaid reimbursement rates resulting in low wages. The pandemic pushed the crisis into a staffing emergency with our organizations experiencing 20-30% position vacancy rates. Local restaurants and stores have responded to staffing crises by limiting hours of operation. Unlike these businesses, as providers of round-the-clock care, we are not able to even decrease the time we provide services. As a result, many of our employees work very long hours (overtime rates of 15-25%) while caring for our most vulnerable citizens. According to United States Bureau of Labor statistics projection of needs through 2028, the direct support professional workforce demand will be over 1.3 million, eclipsing the much-publicized shortages in other workforces such as food preparation (640,000) and registered nurses (371,000). This systemic failure of Medicaid rates to keep pace to support living wages for direct support professionals has resulted in Kent County specialized residential providers needing to make some very difficult decisions these past few years: Closing homes Discharging individuals who require more staff support than is available Limiting who is served to those requiring less staff support, and Implementing other measures to continue serving people in need with 20-30% fewer employees. In turn, these measures have created their own set of untenable choices for family caregivers: struggling to provide 24/7 care to their adult family member, or watching their loved one idle for days in an emergency room while waiting for a placement, or losing touch with their loved one because the only available placement is hours away, or knowing their loved one is homeless.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$4,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$4,000,000

ARPA Request: \$4,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Jacquelyn Johnson

Organization: Thresholds Inc

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: New theme?

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Brief Description

This project would provide premium pay for our Essential Workers (Direct Care Professionals) to attract, recruit and retain them.

Long-Term Benefit

As Medicaid rates for services fall below costs, providers cannot pay competitive wages. This systemic failure has created a Direct Care staffing crisis. Premium pay could delay the resulting closure of services by helping retain and recruit Direct Care employees while efforts for higher reimbursement continue at the state level. Buying time also creates a window of opportunity for longer-term program adaptation and innovation.

Intended Beneficiary

Current and new Direct Support Professionals working in Adult Foster Care homes in Kent County and the People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities living in specialized licensed residential homes in Kent County. By supporting the frontline workers with premium pay incentives, we are more apt to keep existing staff and hire new staff due to the financial rewards they would receive. Persons served will experience a better quality of life with consistency and longevity of staff.

Estimated Cost

\$3,456,000- \$4,000,000 total for all three agencies combined

Other Funding Source

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

MOKA, Spectrum Community Services, and Thresholds Inc



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$4,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$4,000,000

ARPA Request: \$4,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Jacquelyn Johnson

Organization: Thresholds Inc

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: New theme?

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Other Funding Source

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

MOKA, Spectrum Community Services, and Thresholds Inc

*Source of Funding

Currently the State legislature provides premium pay via appropriation, and this is built into next year's state budget. Network180 is also providing additional retention and recruitment payments this fiscal year (through 9/30/2022), but there are no guarantees of it continuing. Despite the premium pay, our industry continues to be underfunded due to low Medicaid reimbursement rates. As a result, we are not competitive in wages with other entry level industries that require significantly less skill.

Project Management Experience

Currently the State legislature provides premium pay via appropriation, and this is built into next year's state budget. Network180 is also providing additional retention and recruitment payments this fiscal year (through 9/30/2022), but there are no guarantees of it continuing. Despite the premium pay, our industry continues to be underfunded due to low Medicaid reimbursement rates. As a result, we are not competitive in wages with other entry level industries that require significantly less skill.

Federal Funds Experience

All three nonprofits are contracted service providers for Network180, serving a Medicaid population. We also receive Social Security and Medicare funding. We are familiar with billing codes for all services we provide and are able to provide the services according to the guidelines set by the federal government. We have experience billing electronically to the payor and have a compliance system in place to monitor billings for accuracy. Each of our organizations has over 40 years of experience managing federal funds.

Studies on Impact

Yes. https://leadingage.org/sites/default/files/Workforce%20Vision%20Paper_FINAL.pdf

Workforce Vision Paper_FINAL.pdf (leadingage.org)

Supporting Documentation

1. [Making Care Work Pay Report](#)
2. [Workforce Survey Report](#)
3. [Direct Support Workforce Crisis Report](#)

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

Premium pay is eligible



PROJECT #101

Cannon Township - Resident Engagement & Technology Upgrade

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$300,000

Maximum Cost: \$300,000

ARPA Request: \$150,000

Submitter Info

Name: Joe Gavan

Organization: Cannon Township

Project Overview

Funding Group: Improving Government Operations

Project Theme: Government Services

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

The Township will provide matching or supplemental funds to complete the project.

Partnership

n/a

Identify the need for the proposed project

As a result of the pandemic, it became abundantly clear that Cannon Township needed to significantly improve the ways in which it engages resident. Virtual meetings were nearly impossible to conduct given our antiquated equipment. Additionally, Cannon's boardroom and technology are woefully out of date. Residents who attend meetings struggle to hear board members (current acoustics are horrendous), and the boardroom suffers with ancient audio-visual equipment. Finally, as a strategy for engaging more resident participation, the Township intends to stream all of its meetings. Our goal is to provide easy access to everyone who has an interest in monitoring the business of the Township. Transparency is the name of the game and technology is the key to achieving this objective.

Brief Description

This project entails upgrading boardroom functionality, technology, audio-visual equipment and streaming capabilities. The primary purpose is to provide an enhanced and expanded experience for residents. Secondly, as the space is made available for community use, these upgrades are intended to improve the overall customer experience.

Long-Term Benefit

These improvements will enable the Township to engage a much larger audience in the democratic process of local government. Viewing meetings virtually will become an option for every meeting. The upgrades are expected to be immediately impactful and long lasting.

Intended Beneficiary

The residents of Cannon Township will be the primarily beneficiaries. Governance of the Township will benefit from greater input from those served by their elected officials.

Estimated Cost

\$300,000.00

Project Management Experience

Cannon Township is a governmental unit within Kent County and has significant experience managing township-wide projects and collaborating with other regional units of government, included the county (e.g., partnering in the purchase of additional land to expand Townsend Park)

Federal Funds Experience

As a local unit of government, any federal funding we would manage would come through the state or county.



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$300,000

Maximum Cost: \$300,000

ARPA Request: \$150,000

Submitter Info

Name: Joe Gavan

Organization: Cannon Township

Project Overview

Funding Group: Improving Government Operations

Project Theme:

Government Services

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

The Township will provide matching or supplemental funds to complete the project.

Partnership

n/a

Studies on Impact

It's assumed that, based on the unprecedented challenges presented by the pandemic, research has or will confirm the need for safe alternatives to in-person meetings. Based on anecdotal observation, Cannon Township feels it is imperative to offer opportunities for public engagement that extend beyond in-person meetings. The proposed improvements in technology and streaming capabilities will enable residents to engage on their own terms, in an environment they deem most appropriate for their health and wellbeing.

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

Technology infrastructure is eligible for governments to increase public access (reference Final Rule p. 188-189)



PROJECT #125

Improvements to City/County Building HVAC Phase 2

Identify the need for the proposed project

This project has been in the City's five year capital plan.

Brief Description

The existing HVAC is original to the facility from 1968 and typically this type of HVAC system has an expectancy of 25-30 years. Due to a detailed preventative maintenance program this system has operated well beyond industry standards. Engineers recommend phased replacement of the City / County centralized HVAC system prior to failure. This project will provide long term operation for the complex while increasing energy efficiency and tenant comfort within the facility. Existing asset is beyond its useful life. Equipment failure could result in loss of facility operations.

Long-Term Benefit

Extend the useful life of the current Government Center complex including increasing energy efficiency and tenant comfort within the facility.

Intended Beneficiary

The City of Grand Rapids and Kent County operations

Estimated Cost

\$10,500,000.00

Project Management Experience

The City of Grand Rapids has had a lot of experience running large scale facilities projects. The most recent was the Phase I of the HVAC improvements.

Federal Funds Experience

The City receives federal funds for programs like CDBG and ESG. Over the last two years the City also received CARES and ARPA grants as well.

Studies on Impact

No

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$10,500,000

Maximum Cost: \$10,500,000

Submitter Info

Name: Steve Prins

Organization: City of Grand Rapids

Project Overview

Funding Group: Improving Government Operations

Project Theme: Government Services

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

Kent County

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

Eligible under public health and under revenue replacement. Additional information is needed.

PROJECT #143

Fiber Optic Communications to Critical City Infrastructure



Identify the need for the proposed project

The City of Grand Rapids has several of its facilities and critical infrastructure interconnected via a fiber optic network. However, we still have multiple critical operations that could benefit with fiber optic connectivity. These facilities include both water and wastewater station that are part of our regional utilities serving the communities of Ada Township, Caledonia Township, Cascade, East Grand Rapids, Gaines Township, Grand Rapids, Grand Rapids – Wyoming, Grand Rapids Township, Kentwood, Ottawa County, Tallmadge Township, Walker and Wright Township. Improving the communications to these community assets will improve the overall workings of this regional utility. Other facilities that are included as part of this project include three Fire Stations, traffic control communications and some of our park facilities to provide hot spot location in some of our disadvantaged neighborhoods.

Brief Description

Install overhead and underground fiber optic communications to critical water towers/tanks, wastewater lift stations, fire stations, traffic signals and parks. The estimated cost for this fiber optic buildout project is \$4,000,000.

Long-Term Benefit

multiple critical operations that could benefit with fiber optic connectivity. These facilities include both water and wastewater station that are part of our regional utilities serving the communities of Ada Township, Caledonia Township, Cascade, East Grand Rapids, Gaines Township, Grand Rapids, Grand Rapids – Wyoming, Grand Rapids Township, Kentwood, Ottawa County, Tallmadge Township, Walker and Wright Township. Improving the communications to these community assets will improve the overall work

Intended Beneficiary

Utility system users, GR Fire, Traffic Signals and Parks users.

Estimated Cost

\$4,000,000.00

Project Management Experience

The City of Grand Rapids has deep experience managing large projects.

Federal Funds Experience

The City of Grand Rapids has deep experience working with federal funds.

Studies on Impact

This is an expansion of existing technology.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$4,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$4,000,000

ARPA Request: \$4,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Mike Grenier

Organization: City of Grand Rapids

Project Overview

Funding Group: Infrastructure

Project Theme:

Government Services

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

n/a

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

Broadband expansion is eligible.



PROJECT #277

Sparta Township Fire Department Expansion

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$1,900,000

Maximum Cost: \$2,200,000

ARPA Request: \$1,500,000

Submitter Info

Name: Dale Bergman

Organization: Sparta Township

Project Overview

Funding Group: Improving Government Operations

Project Theme: Government Services

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

Other committed sources of funding is through Sparta Township and Sparta Fire Authority cash reserves.

Partnership

n/a

Identify the need for the proposed project

The expansion project for the Sparta Fire Department was identified two to three years ago as our community continued to grow. The need for services within the Sparta Fire Department has tracked fairly closely to the community and regional growth we have experienced over the last ten plus years with an approximately population growth of 8%. The Sparta Fire Department is very integrated into the community and region as a whole. Sparta Fire Department enjoys mutual aid with many neighboring communities. The mutual aid provided to and by the Sparta Fire Department ensure the safety of not only Sparta Township residents, but residents of neighboring communities. Currently, the Sparta Fire Department is operating out of two facilities on one campus. The expansion, as proposed, would allow all facets of the department to be housed under one roof. This would improve operations, training, and response times. Further, this expansion would consolidate operations and allow for future growth. Currently the department's garage houses six fire apparatuses, the proposed expansion would allow for the department to grow and house up to eight pieces of fire fighting equipment.

Brief Description

The Sparta Township Fire Department proposed expansion would increase the department's footprint from 5,400 sq. ft. to 13,045 sq. ft. This expansion would add an additional two bays to increase equipment storage capacity, department efficiency, and facility future growth within the department. The expansion would also bring all facets of the department under one roof and consolidate operations into one facility.

Long-Term Benefit

As the village, township, county and region continue to grow, our emergency services will continue to be relied on at an ever-greater rate. The proposed expansion takes into account not only the department's current needs, but it also takes into account future needs. This expansion will allow for more effective use of community resources and more efficient responses to our community and to our mutual aid partners within the region.

Intended Beneficiary

This project not only seeks to meet current needs, it is also intended to improve services to the residents of Sparta Township and those we assist in mutual aid. The consolidation of fire department operation to one facility will increase Sparta Fire Department's effective delivery of services. The Kent County region's population, according to data provided by Housing Next, has increased 8.6% between 2010 and 2020. This has added approximately 6,318 households to the region. The Sparta Fire Department is acutely aware of the growth in our region. Between now and 2025, it is expected the Kent County area, outside of Grand Rapids, will add need to add approximately 7,500 housing units. Our department is working to strategically grow the department to meet that need.

Estimated Cost

\$1,900,000 to \$2,200,000



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$1,900,000

Maximum Cost: \$2,200,000

ARPA Request: \$1,500,000

Submitter Info

Name: Dale Bergman

Organization: Sparta Township

Project Overview

Funding Group: Improving Government Operations

Project Theme:

Government Services

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

Other committed sources of funding is through Sparta Township and Sparta Fire Authority cash reserves.

Partnership

n/a

Project Management Experience

Sparta Township has limited experience with county-wide projects, however, staff is committed to bringing on experienced project manager(s) to facilitate this project.

Federal Funds Experience

Sparta Township has limited experience with federal funds, outside of Township ARPA funds, however, staff is committed to bringing on experienced project manager(s) to facilitate this project.

Studies on Impact

n/a

Supporting Documentation

[Sparta Fire Department Drawings](#)

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

This is eligible under government services



PROJECT #50

David's House Expansion

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$4,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$4,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Casey Kuperus

Organization:

David's House Ministries

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme:

Government Services

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

David's House has a strong donor base which consistently contributes over \$1 million annually. We have additional foundations that would be interested in assisting if we are able to obtain this ARPA funding. Ongoing care needs would be funding through our existing contracts with Network180.

Partnership

Network180 - funding of care services

Identify the need for the proposed project

It is well known, that within our county (and state-wide) the need is great for additional licensed Adult Foster Care homes for adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities. David's House Ministries has served in this space for 35 years, and currently maintains a waiting list of over 100 families who are looking for a licensed and quality home for their adult child. Over the past 4 years, we have expanded from 4 homes serving 37 residents, to 8 homes now serving 61 residents in Kent County.

Brief Description

David's House Ministries currently owns 7 acres of land in Wyoming, MI with 6 licensed Adult Foster Care (AFC) with Specialized Residential Certifications on this property. We also own two additional 6 bed AFC homes in two neighborhoods in Grandville. Currently, David's House has room to add two additional 6-bed homes and 1 3-bed home on our Wyoming property. The two 6 bed homes would be new construction and the 3 bed home would be a conversion of an existing 3-bedroom apartment that is vacant. We also have a need to add a community event building for our residents. As we have expanded over the years, we have a growing need for additional event space for resident activities. This space would also be made available for other community non-profits as well that we have partnered with in the past. This project would be estimated to cost \$4 million. We are requesting \$3 million for this project and are on track to quickly raise the additional \$1 million through our current foundation and donor relationships.

Long-Term Benefit

This project would provide a home for an additional 15 adults with developmental/intellectual disabilities. As a Medicaid funded provider, there is no cost to these individuals to live in these homes. It would also provide an estimated 25-30 new direct care positions as well, bringing more employment opportunities to Wyoming. The new community center would directly impact the 76 residents of David's House, as well bring partnership opportunities with other area nonprofits.

Intended Beneficiary

Kent County adults with developmental/intellectual disabilities in need of 24 hour care and a home

Estimated Cost

\$4 million

Project Management Experience

David's House currently contracts with 6 county CMH's throughout the state, managing over \$2 million in annual funding from these entities. We have also recently completed an \$800,000 build of a new home here on our Wyoming property.

Federal Funds Experience

We received approximately \$200,000 in CARES act funding in the last two years, as well as \$650,000 in Paycheck Protection Plan money that was successfully utilized without repayment. The CARES act funding was successfully utilized and passed the audit with no need to return any of the funding.



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Studies on Impact

Not specifically, though the last US Census date for our county indicates 8% of the population falls into a disability category. Also, the KISD serves at a minimum of 15,000 individuals with disabilities from kindergarten through age 26.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$4,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$4,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Casey Kuperus

Organization:

David's House Ministries

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme:

Government Services

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

David's House has a strong donor base which consistently contributes over \$1 million annually. We have additional foundations that would be interested in assisting if we are able to obtain this ARPA funding. Ongoing care needs would be funding through our existing contracts with Network180.

Partnership

Network180 - funding of care services

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Behavioral health services are eligible



Sustainability

One time expense for construction. Also have a foundation and donor relationships



Feasibility



PROJECT #127

Government Center Electric Substation Replacement

Identify the need for the proposed project

Life cycle replacement of the existing equipment at this building is required to maintain building operations.

Brief Description

This project will replace the entire electrical system feeding the city / county complex. (Kent County is responsible for additional funding)

Long-Term Benefit

Extend the life of the City and County assets

Intended Beneficiary

City of Grand Rapids and Kent County

Estimated Cost

\$3,125,000.00

Project Management Experience

Yes the City has done large project including the phase I of the HVAC system and the Government Center complex. The City also has other county wide projects in the regional water and sewer system including the biodigester project and many improvements to the transmission mains from the filtration plant as well as large scale projects at the filtration plant.

Federal Funds Experience

Yes, the City receives annual funds for programs like ESG and CDBG. The City also has received CARES and ARPA allocations over the last two years.

Studies on Impact

No

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$3,125,000

Maximum Cost: \$3,125,000

Submitter Info

Name: Steve Prins

Organization: City of Grand Rapids

Project Overview

Funding Group: Improving Government Operations

Project Theme: Government Services

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

Kent County

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

Eligible under revenue replacement as a government service. Additional information is needed.



PROJECT #48

From Foster Care to Safe, Stable, Permanent Homes

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$300,000

Maximum Cost: \$1,800,000

ARPA Request: \$300,000

Submitter Info

Name: Stephanie L Sheler

Organization: CASA of Kent County

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme:

Government Services

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

\$185,000 yearly in court funding,
50,00-100,000 yearly in
grant/foundation funding, \$350,000
from donors

Partnership

We partner with the five private foster care agencies in Kent County: Wellspring Lutheran, Samaritas, Bethany, Catholic Charities and D.A. Blodgett - St. John's.

Identify the need for the proposed project

In the most recent fiscal year, there were 934 Kent County children in foster care. CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) of Kent County was able to serve 172, or 18%, of those children by providing them with a volunteer advocate. CASA's goal is to serve 25-35% or more of the children in foster care each year, but to do so requires additional funding.

Brief Description

Over the next three years, CASA of Kent County would like to hire additional staff to raise awareness in the community, recruit additional volunteers, and raise additional sustaining funds all with the goal of serving a greater percentage of children in foster care. With the overwhelming turnover in foster care caseworkers (some children have 6 workers over the lifetime of their court case), the CASA volunteer is often the one person on the child's case from start to finish. Having one supportive, consistent adult makes it more likely that a child will receive necessary services, do well in school, feel hopeful, and ultimately find a safe and stable permanent home. In fact, children with a CASA volunteer are more likely to be reunified with a parent than those who do not have a CASA. Preserving families is truly what is best for children. If reunification with parents does not happen, CASA advocates for the best interest of the child, whether that is adoption, guardianship or some other arrangement. Regardless, the CASA does not leave the child until the court closes the child's case and the child has found a home.

Long-Term Benefit

Caring well for the most vulnerable children in our community, providing services for their parents, and breaking the cycle of generational abuse will transform the lives of not only these families but the entire community for years to come.

Intended Beneficiary

Children who have experienced abuse and neglect and their families.

Estimated Cost

100,000 a year for three years

Project Management Experience

Our organization has 30 years experience carrying out our mission.

Federal Funds Experience

The organization has received federal funds before, but I as the new Executive Director have no experience with the extensive documentation that was required by the previous funds we had through the Victim's of Crime Act. Before accepting this funding, I would want to know what the reporting requirements are to make sure that we can meet them.



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Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$300,000

Maximum Cost: \$1,800,000

ARPA Request: \$300,000

Submitter Info

Name: Stephanie L Sheler

Organization: CASA of Kent County

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme:

Government Services

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Studies on Impact

Yes, National CASA compiles extensive research regarding the effectiveness of the CASA program. That evidence can be found here: <https://nationalcasagal.org/our-impact/research-and-effectiveness/>. The research demonstrates that children with a CASA have fewer out of home placements, receive more services, have higher psychological wellbeing, are more likely to achieve permanency, perform better academically and behaviorally in school, and have significantly higher levels of hope.

Supporting Documentation

[Letter of Support](#)

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Services for foster youth is eligible



Sustainability

Lacking guaranteed funding after 2026 though partners were identified



Feasibility

Source of Funding

\$185,000 yearly in court funding,
50,00-100,000 yearly in
grant/foundation funding, \$350,000
from donors

Partnership

We partner with the five private foster care agencies in Kent County: Wellspring Lutheran, Samaritas, Bethany, Catholic Charities and D.A. Blodgett - St. John's.



PROJECT #87

Properly fund and staff the the Kent County Correctional Facility

Identify the need for the proposed project

The need was identified by the chronic short staffing within the correctional facility and the constant mandated (forced) overtime of the deputies working within the facility

Brief Description

Use ARP funds to hire more deputies. Use ARP funds to incentivize retention of current deputies. Use ARP funds to incentivize voluntary overtime staffing (offer double time to those willing to work). Use ARP funds to eliminate the current two tiered pay scale system which discriminates among employees and does not treat deputies with equity. Use ARP funds to create a contract with the KCSDA that will attract desirable candidates for hire and draw talented, motivated individuals to apply for positions within the correctional facility. Use ARP funds to distribute retention bonuses to deputies to thank them for their hard work, working weekends and holidays and being mandated constantly.

Long-Term Benefit

The long term benefit would be a safer and more secure correctional facility, which would not only benefit the deputies who work there but also the inmates from our community who are lodged there.

Intended Beneficiary

The deputies and staff of the KCCF

Estimated Cost

2000000

Project Management Experience

The sheriffs department is very familiar with large projects.

Federal Funds Experience

The department is also well acquainted with federal funding.

Studies on Impact

The NIJ (National institute of Justice) did an analysis in 2019 of the methods and costs associated with maintaining staffing and training in correctional facilities throughout the country given the current challenges and presented their findings. In their findings, both recruitment and retention were instrumental in retaining and hiring quality employees.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$2,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$2,000,000

ARPA Request: \$2,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Nathan Kauffman

Organization: KCDSA

Project Overview

Funding Group: Improving Government Operations

Project Theme:

Government Services

Project Status: Existing Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact:     

Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

n/a

Guidehouse Ranking Notes

 **Eligibility**

Current staff retention eligible through premium pay. New staff hiring eligible through revenue replacement.

 **Sustainability**

One time staff retention bonuses have long term retention risks.

 **Feasibility**



PROJECT #309

Provide More Benefits to Kent County Employees

Identify the need for the proposed project

Employees are not receiving any additional compensation for their work despite the additional stressor and minimized the economical cost such as the increased cost of living.

Brief Description

There is an increase of cost of living anywhere from 10 - 50%. This includes housing, utilities transportation expenses, and every day means. At minimum the county should provide a 10% increase in wages to all employees and/or a dollar amount increase across the board.

Long-Term Benefit

With compensating your employees you are incentivizing quality work, better customer service, and dedicated workforce. This will help the county and the community.

Intended Beneficiary

County of Kent Employees

Estimated Cost

10 % more on what the county is paying for wages and / or exemplified by a specific dollar amount.

Project Management Experience

This is a suggestion to benefit employees of County of Kent.

Federal Funds Experience

This is a suggestion to benefit employees of County of Kent.

Studies on Impact

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/forbesbooksauthors/2019/09/12/the-impact-of-wages-on-employee-productivity/?sh=20e7e98260cf>

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: -

Maximum Cost: -

Submitter Info

Name: Jennifer Smith

Organization: n/a

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme:

Government Services

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

n/a

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Eligible under premium pay. If it was a permanent raise, under revenue replacement.



Sustainability

Unclear if this is a permanent raise or a time limited bonus.



Feasibility



PROJECT #4

Adult Foster Care Provider Funding

Identify the need for the proposed project

We have been providing care in Kent County for 40 years

Brief Description

The Government pays rent to licensed facilities to care for, provide room and board for, care for, and 24 hour staff on property, etc to the indigent mentally ill, developmentally disabled, and physically disabled. Between the state and the federal government they pay \$956.50 per month for an indigent person's rent. That is \$1.29 per hour on a 31 day month. Homes are closing left and right and no one will take a client that is indigent anymore without extra services that pay extra funding so they can pay staff. There are too many homes not running properly. The fact that the State of Michigan has forced the Background checks to be paid by the provider, of potential staffers, at a rate of \$64.25 is outrageous, especially after these people apply and then quit a week within or the day after their background checks. We are getting run underground, we have not had anytime off even before covid. We have been overtaxed with so much more burden of work since covid that this industry is failing it's providers. There are people in this state who have nothing, and can't afford anything - even the damage they do to a provider's home from the complications of their diagnosis. Help the providers help the people by reducing the costs.

Long-Term Benefit

Maybe make the provider directly connected with the state and remove all of the middle men. Nursing homes charge medicaid \$440 per day. Why do we only get \$30.79? Helping to support these people will give better quality jobs to those serving these people, and better quality homes. Getting rid of the middle men will save billions. Give it to the provider who hasn't given up, but are now.

Intended Beneficiary

The Providers who serve the MI, DD, and physically handicapped of this community, and the clients that the provider serves, and the homes the provider owns and pays for and repairs that houses these folks.

Estimated Cost

\$8,704,800 per year for \$15/hour for 24 hour period for 65 residents

Project Management Experience

None.

Federal Funds Experience

We get funding from the federal government and state government to care for the indigent.

Studies on Impact

Yes, ask every provider in the state who gets together continually to complain about their suffering. Honestly, no. No one has ever cared. Please do the study, anonymously so they are not afraid to answer.

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Eligible under non-profit support



Sustainability

Does not include a funding plan or fund availability after expending all the ARPA dollars.



Feasibility

Risk to 2026 completion

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$8,704,800

Maximum Cost: \$8,704,800

Submitter Info

Name: Jessica Adams

Organization: n/a

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme:

Government Services

Project Status: Existing Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

We would like you to help us contact the state and change our industry. Please. Everyone, provider and client, are suffering. This is a travesty.

Partnership

n/a

PROJECT #135

UV System Energy Savings Improvements



Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$5,500,000

Maximum Cost: \$5,500,000

ARPA Request: \$5,500,000

Submitter Info

Name: Mike Grenier

Organization: City of Grand Rapids

Project Overview

Funding Group: Improving Government Operations

Project Theme: Government Services

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

n/a

Identify the need for the proposed project

The Ultraviolet Light Disinfection System (UV) is past its useful life and will need to be replaced. Upgrading this system to new technology will result in an estimated 53% decrease in electrical use resulting in approximately \$175,000 in cost reduction annually. UV is a chemical free method of disinfecting the final effluent from the City of Grand Rapids, Water Resource Recovery Facility before its released back into the Grand River.

Brief Description

The Ultraviolet Light Disinfection System (UV) is past its useful life and will need to be replaced. Upgrading this system to new technology will result in an estimated 53% decrease in electrical use resulting in approximately \$175,000 in cost reduction annually. UV is a chemical free method of disinfecting the final effluent from the City of Grand Rapids, Water Resource Recovery Facility before its released back into the Grand River. Replace the UV Disinfection System with the latest technology (low pressure/high output bulbs). The estimated costs for the UV Disinfection Improvements are \$5.5M. This project would be run through the normal City bidding process for design and construction. It is estimated that design and construction would take a year and a half.

Long-Term Benefit

Upgrading this system to new technology will result in an estimated 53% decrease in electrical use resulting in approximately \$175,000 in cost reduction annually. UV is a chemical free method of disinfecting the final effluent from the City of Grand Rapids, Water Resource Recovery Facility before its released back into the Grand River.

Intended Beneficiary

The City of Grand Rapids Resource Recovery Facility serves nearly 300,000 people in the communities of Ada Township, Caledonia Township, Cascade, East Grand Rapids, Gaines Township, Grand Rapids, Grand Rapids – Wyoming, Grand Rapids Township, Kentwood, Ottawa County, Tallmadge Township, Walker, Wright Township

Estimated Cost

\$5,500,000.00

Project Management Experience

The City of Grand Rapids has deep experience managing large projects.

Federal Funds Experience

The City of Grand Rapids has deep experience working with federal funds.

Studies on Impact

This is a conventional approach to disinfection just upgrading to the latest technology.



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Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

Reuse of effluent is an eligible use, however, disinfection of effluent is not listed but may be considered eligible

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$5,500,000

Maximum Cost: \$5,500,000

ARPA Request: \$5,500,000

Submitter Info

Name: Mike Grenier

Organization: City of Grand Rapids

Project Overview

Funding Group: Improving Government Operations

Project Theme: Government Services

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

n/a



PROJECT #126

Calder Plaza Maintenance, Inspection and Construction

Identify the need for the proposed project

The existing concrete deck requires frequent maintenance and repairs to maintain its structural integrity as the concrete has reached the end of its life expectancy. Failure to perform preventative maintenance will result in premature failure of asset.

Brief Description

This project would replace any failed sealant and repair any deteriorated concrete. Also, in FY 25 full replacement of the Calder Plaza deck (Kent County is responsible for additional project funding)

Long-Term Benefit

Extend useful life of the asset.

Intended Beneficiary

County-wide as many events are held on this space.

Estimated Cost

\$10,282,550.00

Project Management Experience

The City routinely has large capital projects it manages including phase one of the HVAC system, the ESD biodigester project, among others.

Federal Funds Experience

The City receives annual federal funds for CDBG and ESG. In the last two years the City received CARES and ARPA funds as well.

Studies on Impact

No

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$10,282,550

Maximum Cost: \$10,282,550

Submitter Info

Name: Steve Prins

Organization: City of Grand Rapids

Project Overview

Funding Group: Improving Government Operations

Project Theme: Government Services

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

Kent County

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

Individuals or communities served is not clear or does not align with Treasury guidelines' definition of 'impacted' or 'disproportionately impacted'. Eligible under revenue replacement as a government service. Additional information will be needed if the proposal moves forward in the process.

PROJECT #109

Preventative Animal Control by Increasing Pet Owner Access to Veterinary Care



Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$2,500,000

Maximum Cost: \$3,500,000

ARPA Request: \$1,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Sharon Caldwell-Newton

Organization: Community Spay Neuter Initiative Partnership (C-SNIP)

Project Overview

Funding Group: Improving Government Operations

Project Theme: Government Services

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

Community partners include Michigan State University College of Veterinary Medicine as well as the Kent County Animal Shelter-Animal Control, plus other animal welfare organizations and human service organizations that serve our targeted clientele

Identify the need for the proposed project

The Community Spay Neuter Initiative Partnership (CSNIP) was founded in 2001 to address the chronic overpopulation of dogs and cats in Kent County. This overpopulation was, and continues to be, the root cause of many stray animals roaming neighborhoods. Stray animals lead to phone calls to Kent County Animal Control, local shelter overcrowding, and unacceptable rates of healthy animal euthanasia. CSNIP provides high-quality and high volume, reduced cost spay/neuter services to Kent County residents and the regional population. CSNIP has significantly impacted our community by helping to humanely control the companion animal population by preventing the unwanted births of hundreds of thousands "accidental litters". The problem of pet overpopulation persists, particularly with cats, and it will quickly become unmanageable if veterinary care is not readily accessible and affordable to dog and cat owners as well as feral cat colony caretakers in Kent County.

In December 2018, the national group Access to Veterinary Care Coalition released its report, "Access to Veterinary Care-Barriers, Current Practices, and Public Policy". This report cites, "Simply stated, millions of pets do not receive adequate veterinary care because the costs are beyond the family's ability to pay. This may be the most significant animal welfare crisis affecting owned pets in the United States." This report also asserts that when veterinary care is not accessible, a pet may face prolonged illness, pain, and premature death, which causes emotional distress for their human family. Many of these families may believe their only option is to relinquish the pet to an animal shelter, taxing those government operated and/or funded systems. And when families can't afford spay/neuter veterinary care, the cycle of reproduction and overpopulation continues unabated. Over the past two decades, CSNIP staff have witnessed these circumstances firsthand. Our clients have repeatedly asked CSNIP to provide ongoing and expanded veterinary services at reduced fees. With this backdrop, CSNIP was compelled to respond to the community needs. The board of directors and executive staff conducted strategic planning throughout 2019 and 2020. CSNIP subsequently and formally broadened its mission to increase access to veterinary care and prevent pet overpopulation. Spay/neuter surgery remains as our core service, but we strategized to add companion animal wellness and prevention, dental services, and primary care on a full-time and high volume basis. CSNIP began to pilot these services in 2021 and test our service delivery. We knew we needed a larger building to house this expanded veterinary care footprint. In response, CSNIP launched a capital campaign. To implement our capital plan, we need a 12,000-15,000 square foot building that we can build or renovate and equip for highly efficient and effective service delivery. This project will increase the community's access to veterinary care while partnering with Kent County administration on a transformative, prevention-based animal control and sheltering strategy.

Brief Description

CSNIP is plans to expand our surgical capacity and range of veterinary services to transform access to veterinary care for local pet owners who can't afford or obtain this care at the time their pet is in need. CSNIP veterinary care services for dogs and cats will include spay/neuter surgery, wellness/preventative care including vaccinations and disease testing, dental care, primary care with treatment for basic illnesses and injuries, and soft tissue surgery to prevent serious/life-threatening conditions. A larger facility will allow CSNIP to increase its patient capacities to serve 30,000 dogs and cats annually. This is a 50% increase over our 2021 service capacity and allow for additional future expansion. An larger and better equipped clinic allow expansion of CSNIP's long-standing partnership with MSU-College of Vet Medicine as a field rotation site for its veterinary students. CSNIP's project will assist the Kent County Sheriff Dept. with its animal control function by preventing many of the conditions that require the dispatch of an Animal Control Officer while providing them a resource to help pet owners needing veterinary care. CSNIP can also be a location for dog licensing, capturing revenue and data for the county. CSNIP's increased spay/neuter capacity and veterinary care is a transformational prevention investment for Kent County, reducing shelter intakes due to overpopulation and/or pet surrenders because of pet illness or otherwise expensive veterinary care.



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$2,500,000

Maximum Cost: \$3,500,000

ARPA Request: \$1,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Sharon Caldwell-Newton

Organization: Community Spay
Neuter Initiative Partnership
(C-SNIP)

Project Overview

Funding Group: Improving
Government Operations

Project Theme:
Government Services

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

Community partners include Michigan State University College of Veterinary Medicine as well as the Kent County Animal Shelter-Animal Control, plus other animal welfare organizations and human service organizations that serve our targeted clientele

Long-Term Benefit

Pet ownership and access to veterinary care impacts 2/3 of Kent County households. CSNIP's project will increase access to needed veterinary care at a price Kent County residents can afford, improving the quality of life for both the pets and the people who care for them. Our project reduces emotional and financial distress. Pet companionship reduces loneliness and isolation, improving mental health. This project will also improve Kent County's animal control and sheltering operations.

Intended Beneficiary

Primary beneficiary will be citizens of Kent County. People and their pets will benefit the most, especially those that can't afford or access veterinary care from traditional for-profit providers, many of whom have been purchased by regional or national consortiums, with subsequent and sometimes staggering price increases. We will partner with Kent County to target our services to the population that United Way refers to as "ALICE" or Asset Limited, Income Constrained but Employed". A report by United Way of Michigan documents that 37% of all Kent County households were struggling financially, and this was prior to the COVID pandemic. Nine percent (9%) met the Federal Poverty Guidelines and an additional 28% met the ALICE criteria. Pet owners from Kent County's ALICE population and others living on fixed incomes like retired seniors, will significantly benefit the most from a Kent County-CSNIP partnership.

Estimated Cost

CSNIP estimates the total cost to acquire, build/renovate, and equip its expanded veterinary clinic is \$2.5-3.5 million. Current inflationary pressures make a more accurate estimate problematic. CSNIP is requesting \$1,000,000 from Kent County ARPA funding towards the total project cost.

*Source of Funding

CSNIP has a capital campaign cabinet, a board of directors, and a consulting group that is helping to raise the funds needed for this capital expansion project. Currently we have \$565,000 committed from donors and we are continuing to actively seek financial investment from additional individuals, corporations, and foundations such as PetSmart Charities, Petco Love Foundation, and other regional and local foundations. CSNIP has been pursuing other governmental funds from both federal and state sources. We have met with or been in communications with State of Michigan Senator Mark Huizenga and Representatives Tommy Brann, Carol Glanville, and David LaGrand. We have also been in communication with US Senator Debbie Stabenow's office. We have discussed this proposal with Kent County Commissioners Stan Stek and Michelle McCloud, Kent County Administrator Al Vanderberg, and Kentwood Mayor Stephen Kepley.

Project Management Experience

Our CSNIP 501 (c)(3) organization operates on a regional basis, but our capital project's goal is to greatly improve preventative animal population control in Kent County while providing access to veterinary care for pet owners residing in Kent county. CSNIP served over 20,000 pets and their human families in 2021 alone. We have an Executive Director with over 35 years of executive leadership and a Medical Director with over 16 years in nonprofit leadership and nearly 30 years of private veterinary practice ownership. We have a board of directors' member who serves as Assistant City Manager for the City of Walker with experience with managing large and complex grant-driven projects.



(Page 3)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$2,500,000

Maximum Cost: \$3,500,000

ARPA Request: \$1,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Sharon Caldwell-Newton

Organization: Community Spay
Neuter Initiative Partnership
(C-SNIP)

Project Overview

Funding Group: Improving
Government Operations

Project Theme:
Government Services

Project Status: Expanded Project
Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

Community partners include Michigan State University College of Veterinary Medicine as well as the Kent County Animal Shelter-Animal Control, plus other animal welfare organizations and human service organizations that serve our targeted clientele

Federal Funds Experience

CSNIP secured two federally funded Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans in 2020 and 2021 and met all reporting requirements to get these loans fully forgiven. While CSNIP has not pursued or received Federal funding other than the PPP loans, its current Executive Director was responsible for managing both direct federal grants from the U.S. Department of Labor and pass-through Federal funds through contracts with the local Workforce Development organization in a previous nonprofit leadership role. We also can utilize the expertise of the CSNIP board of directors' member who works for the City of Walker and has significant experience managing federally funded projects.

Intended Beneficiary

CSNIP's high volume spay/neuter surgery model is an evidence-based practice introduced by The Humane Alliance, now operated by the national ASPCA. A 2019 Journal of American Veterinary Medical Association article documents this model and its impact of reducing shelter impoundment and euthanasia of cats and dogs. (<https://www.avma.org/javma-news/2019-05-01/we-do-one-thing-and-one-thing-only>) Academic and scientific research show the correlation between companion animal spay/neuter surgery and reduced animal shelter admissions. A study, "Replacing Myth with Math: Using Evidence-based programs to eradicate shelter overpopulation" was published in 2010. (http://www.shelteroverpopulation.org/Books/Replacing_Myth_with_Math.pdf) The Veterinary Journal-June 2017 edition published "Perioperative mortality in cats and dogs undergoing spay or castration at a high-volume clinic" documents that mortality rates for high volume spay/neuter clinics are not higher than full service clinics (<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tvjl.2017.05.013>). The 2019 publication, "Access to Care: Barriers, Current Practices and Public Policy" documents the need for increased vet care access. (<https://pphe.utk.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/avcc-report.pdf>).

Guidehouse Ranking Notes

 **Eligibility**

Potentially eligible under support for non-profits.

 **Sustainability**

Does not include a funding plan or fund availability after expending all the ARPA dollars.

 **Feasibility**



PROJECT #130

Rockford City Hall solar panel energy system

Identify the need for the proposed project

The City' explored the need of such a project while examining ways to enhance sustainability within the City of Rockford.

Brief Description

This project will involve two main steps. The first, is to repair/replace the existing roof of the Rockford City Hall building to allow for the installation of solar panels on the roof. Once the roof is repaired, the second step is to purchase and install the roof mounted solar energy system. The City extensively researched what it would take to install solar on its roof, and determined a full roof repair is necessary. This was determined by a study completed by the Garland Company (a commercial, industrial, and institutional roofing company). This study looked at several locations in the City for the possibility of adding a solar panel system. This is a step in our Climate Action plan.

Long-Term Benefit

The long-term benefits include, energy costs savings, a reduced carbon footprint, and setting an important example for the community that the City is focused on promoting and enhancing sustainability and working towards our Climate Action Plan.

Intended Beneficiary

This project will benefit the City, it's residents, and the surrounding communities.

Estimated Cost

\$250,000.00

Project Management Experience

The City of Rockford recently received a \$500,000 Community Development Block Grant for the construction of new sidewalks to link Low to moderate income homes to City amenities.

Federal Funds Experience

The City also has experience working with federal funds. The most recent example of this is a \$5,000,000 grant the City received for the extension of a watermain.

Studies on Impact

There is an extensive amount of research that supports the effectiveness, and importance of solar energy at the local government level. At the Federal level both the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy have resources available that support these sorts of projects.

<https://www.energy.gov/eere/solar/local-government-guide-solar-deployment>

https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2015-08/documents/ee_municipal_operations.pdf

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$250,000

Maximum Cost: \$250,000

Submitter Info

Name: Noah Greco

Organization: City of Rockford

Project Overview

Funding Group: Infrastructure

Project Theme: Government Services

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

City of Rockford ARPA funds.
The City will match 10%
(\$25,000)

Partnership

n/a



(Page 2)

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$250,000

Maximum Cost: \$250,000

Submitter Info

Name: Noah Greco

Organization: City of Rockford

Project Overview

Funding Group: Infrastructure

Project Theme: Government Services

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Individuals or communities served is not clear or does not align with Treasury guidelines' definition of 'impacted' or 'disproportionately impacted'.

Source of Funding

City of Rockford ARPA funds.
The City will match 10%
(\$25,000)

Partnership

n/a

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HOMELESS SUPPORT





PROJECT #174

HVAC and Family Apartment Expansion

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$2,500,000

Maximum Cost: \$4,451,000

ARPA Request: \$2,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Michele McIsaac

Organization: Mel Trotter Ministries

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Homeless Support

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

David and Carol Van Andel Family Foundation \$500,000, Jerry and Marcia Tubergen Foundation \$500,000, DeVos Family Foundations \$500,000, James and Nancy Engen \$250,000, Meijer Foundation \$250,000

Partnership

Rockford Construction, Andy J Egan Co, Family Promise of Grand Rapids

Identify the need for the proposed project

Kent County has limited capacity to provide temporary housing to families experiencing homelessness—roughly 50 family shelter spaces are available in Kent County, and 33 are provided at Mel Trotter. COVID-19 drove the number of families seeking shelter up and created the need for Mel Trotter to expand shelter options while improving systems to combat the spread of COVID-19. In addition to regular sanitation and PPE efforts in the building that houses families, meals, and offices, HVAC improvements are being sought to address COVID-19 and future pandemics, cold, and flu seasons.

Brief Description

This project is designed to renovate the old HVAC system for the north building at 225 Commerce, enhancing energy efficiency and adding bi-polar ionization to the system to bring greater safety to the air being pushed throughout the busy facility. The new, cutting-edge HVAC air purifiers further expand our mitigation efforts in providing a safe and sanitized place for those who shelter and work in our main building at 225 Commerce SW, Grand Rapids. Bi-polar ionization has been proven to be a key safety measure in the fight against COVID-19 nationally and serves a particularly important role in keeping individuals and families accessing Mel Trotter Ministries safe both as the fight against COVID-19 continues and for annual cold and flu seasons and especially for the over 4,000 clients, vendors, volunteers, staff, and first responders accessing the building annually. In addition to renovating HVAC, this project will include the addition of 11 new family spaces for unsheltered families experiencing homelessness. It will re-design the existing open gym taking up two floors of space to become family spaces on the second and third floors of the building.

Long-Term Benefit

HVAC improvements creates a healthier physical environment. The 11 additional family spaces increases the county's capacity by 20% to temporarily house families experiencing homelessness. With a typical stay of 60 nights, 66 families with children, up to 250 individuals per year, can live safely while finding permanent housing alongside the 33 other family spaces receiving HVAC benefit.

Intended Beneficiary

Individuals and families experiencing homelessness as well as staff and volunteers working at Mel Trotter

Estimated Cost

\$2.5 to \$3 million

Project Management Experience

Mel Trotter has 122 years' experience operating the largest shelter in West Michigan, serving individuals experiencing homelessness who come from all over Kent County and beyond. In addition, Mel Trotter leads diversion efforts throughout Kent County working with Kent ISD. Next Step of West Michigan, a subsidiary of Mel Trotter, has a contract with Kent County for park beautification and cleanup.



(Page 2)

Federal Funds Experience

Grand Rapids Emergency Solutions Grant
Grand Rapids Community Development Block Grant
MDHHS Emergency Shelter Program Grant
DHHS Community Economic Development Grant
Numerous CARES and ARPA Grants

Studies on Impact

Homeless numbers - <https://endhomelessnesskent.org/about/data/>
Bi Polar ionization research - <https://energyprofessionals.com/what-is-bi-polar-ionization/> and <https://ces.works/downloads/BPI%20on%20various%20pathogens.pdf>

Supporting Documentation

1. [Conceptual Budget](#)
2. [Letter of Support #1](#)
3. [Letter of Support #2](#)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$2,500,000
Maximum Cost: \$4,451,000
ARPA Request: \$2,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Michele McIsaac
Organization: Mel Trotter Ministries

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health
Project Theme: Homeless Support
Project Status: New Project
Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

David and Carol Van Andel Family Foundation \$500,000, Jerry and Marcia Tubergen Foundation \$500,000, DeVos Family Foundations \$500,000, James and Nancy Engen \$250,000, Meijer Foundation \$250,000

Partnership

Rockford Construction, Andy J Egan Co, Family Promise of Grand Rapids

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Ventilation improvements in congregate settings and housing for homeless are eligible



Sustainability

One time capital expenses



Feasibility

PROJECT #176

Permanent Supportive Housing

Identify the need for the proposed project

In Kent County, 20% of homeless individuals report chronic disabling conditions. Additionally, housing shortages in Kent County make it nearly impossible for these individuals to secure affordable housing options. Existing mental and physical illness, in conjunction with the pandemic, has only increased the number of chronically homeless. Permanent supportive housing has proven to be a transformative resource to move individuals from chronic homelessness to long-term housing.

Brief Description

Mel Trotter Ministries will acquire and renovate 214 Commerce Ave SW, a 20,000 square foot building. The building will include three floors of permanent supportive housing apartments for individuals experiencing homelessness who require additional wrap-around services to live independently. The first floor will be mixed use to meet the wrap-around needs of the residents in the building. Renovations will create 18-24 permanent supportive housing apartments, providing independence and dignity to individuals experiencing homelessness. Unlike transitional housing, this project will supply individuals who may have addictions, mental health issues, or physical disabilities a permanent, affordable, safe place to call home. Mel Trotter will oversee the apartments and provide support services to ensure each resident pays rent and utilities, maintains their apartment, and has the resources and skills necessary to live in community. This project provides a long-term transformative housing solution while creating a pathway of independence for its participants. Once open, the project will be self-sustaining and positively impact downtown Grand Rapids for many years to come.

Long-Term Benefit

18-24 chronically homeless individuals who access Mel Trotter emergency shelter services daily will no longer be homeless. They will be permanently housed and given support by Mel Trotter staff. Mental, emotional, and physical health issues will be addressed on a consistent basis decreasing the incidences of public nuisance and will save dollars for local municipalities. The downtown corridor will have a decrepit building renovated and put to good use.

Intended Beneficiary

Chronically homeless individuals

Estimated Cost

\$3,000,000.00

Project Management Experience

Mel Trotter has 122 years' experience operating the largest shelter in West Michigan, serving individuals experiencing homelessness who come from all over Kent County and beyond. In addition, Mel Trotter leads diversion efforts throughout Kent County working with Kent ISD. Next Step of West Michigan, a subsidiary of Mel Trotter, has a contract with Kent County for park beautification and cleanup.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$3,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$3,480,000

ARPA Request: \$2,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Michele Mclsaac

Organization: Mel Trotter Ministries

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Homeless Support

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

Greg Herbruck \$500,000, Sid

Jansma Jr \$500,000, Mick

McGraw \$250,000, Rockford

Construction \$250,000

Partnership

Next Step of West Michigan,
Network 180, Disability
Advocates of West Michigan,
Salvation Army, Dwelling Place,
Shepherds of Independence

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$3,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$3,480,000

ARPA Request: \$2,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Michele McIsaac

Organization: Mel Trotter Ministries

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Homeless Support

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Federal Funds Experience

Grand Rapids Emergency Solutions Grant
Grand Rapids Community Development Block Grant
MDHHS Emergency Shelter Program Grant
DHHS Community Economic Development Grant
Numerous CARES and ARPA Grants

Studies on Impact

Housing first to end chronic homelessness <https://www.urban.org/urban-wire/addressing-chronic-homelessness-through-policing-isnt-working-housing-first-strategies-are-better-way>

Supporting Documentation

1. [Real Estate Valuation](#)
2. [Valuation Adjustment](#)

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Providing affordable housing/housing services for the homeless is eligible



Sustainability

Capital expenses are a one time expense with a self-sustaining capital campaign beyond 2026



Feasibility

Source of Funding

Greg Herbruck \$500,000, Sid Jansma Jr \$500,000, Mick McGraw \$250,000, Rockford Construction \$250,000

Partnership

Next Step of West Michigan,
Network 180, Disability Advocates of West Michigan,
Salvation Army, Dwelling Place, Shepherds of Independence



PROJECT #187

Back-To-Work

Identify the need for the proposed project

Before 2020, Guiding Light's Back-to-Work program served between 150 and 190 men each year who were homeless and unemployed/underemployed. Two of the clients' top struggles were livable wages and stable housing at exit. The Back-to-Work program had to be shut down due COVID-19 and larger community needs. Guiding Light's other service, a drug and alcohol recovery program, has grown and taken over the facility. Back-to-Work has been unable to restart in any meaningful way since. Guiding Light's active Recovery Program has been extremely successful because it is not just focused on work or on shelter. Instead, it combines mental health, physical health, workforce training programs and affordable housing—creating a 81% success rate. 81% of the men who complete the recovery program and move to Iron House (Guiding Light's apartment housing units) reach a minimum of a year of abstinence-based sobriety, while holding full-time jobs, paying rent, and participating in the community. Our Back-to-Work program is built off this success and expertise, and gives our team the ability to leverage many of the community partnerships that we already have established. Like the rest of Kent County, we have seen firsthand the need for mental and physical health services, the need for workforce training, and the need for stable, affordable housing for hardest-hit community members. Being able to resurrect this dynamic and proven program that holistically combines those four serious areas of need, Back-to-Work will create an opportunity for comprehensive care resulting in renewed hope, personal growth, and economic stability.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$2,089,975

Maximum Cost: \$2,089,975

ARPA Request: \$2,089,975

Submitter Info

Name: Brian Elve

Organization: Guiding Light

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Homeless Support

Project Status: Existing Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Brief Description

Guiding Light will combine workforce development, financial empowerment, mental and physical health, and affordable housing in one holistic program that walks alongside individuals in becoming fully employed, securely housed, and contributing members of our community. This is a program that demands engagement and can result in transformation. The Back-to-Work program will provide an initial short-term stay (up to 5 months) for men who are homeless and are seeking full-time employment, allowing them to live on-site and save money. This supports immediate economic stabilization for individuals. Programming will include individualized case management, access to licensed therapists for mental health services, access to exercise and fitness resources, job-readiness training, financial empowerment education, soft skills education, targeted job placement, budgeting and savings requirements. All participants will be provided with their own bed, three full meals including bag lunches for work, laundry, and assistance with uniforms or job-related equipment. Each month of programming is focused on 'next steps': Month One focuses on the basics of stabilizing body, mind, and routine, as well as participating in job-readiness training.

Long-Term Benefit

-Economic stability for previously unemployed/temporarily employed men -Access to affordable housing for men with felonies, bad credit and/or evictions -Reduced expenses for employers in employee absenteeism/turnover -Reduced reliance on community/government resources -Increased access to health insurance and benefits while employed -Cycle-breaking of poverty, homelessness, and temporary work -Renewed self-sufficiency, financial independence, and secure housing offers hope to others

Intended Beneficiary

Clients from the Heartside area, unemployed homeless men, underemployed and housing insecure men, and recent releases from jail or prison are the specific intended beneficiaries of this project and grant money. The family systems of each of the men, as well as their community at large, will experience indirect yet crucial benefits from their program engagement and long-term transformation.



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$2,089,975

Maximum Cost: \$2,089,975

ARPA Request: \$2,089,975

Submitter Info

Name: Brian Elve

Organization: Guiding Light

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Homeless Support

Project Status: Existing Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

*Partnership

Goodwill Achieve Program: A current and long-standing partner with Guiding Light's Recovery Program. Memorandum of Understanding regarding Back-to-Work is in discussion. Network180 & Arbor Circle: Current partner of Guiding Light. Provides licensed clinical services for Recovery clients. Memorandum of Understanding for Back-to-Work is in discussion. Gordon Food Services: Current supporter of Recovery Programming through food provision. Work partnership for Back-to-Work is in discussion. YMCA: Current partner with Guiding Light Recovery clients. Memorandum of Understanding for Back-to-Work is in discussion. Alano Club of Kent County: Current and long-standing partner with Guiding Light. Memorandum of Understanding for Back-to-Work is in discussion. Exalta Health: Partnership is in discussion to provide streamlined access to medical professionals. Old Kent National Bank: Previous financial empowerment partner before Back-to-Work shut down and willing future partner for Back-to-Work. The Job Post: Guiding Light's social enterprise and partner for long-term sustainable job placement.

Estimated Cost

Budget Narrative Guiding Light is requesting \$2,089,975.00 from Kent County American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) a.) FACILITY (Back-To-Work will share space with the Recovery Program at Guiding Light during FY2023. During FY2024 Back to Work will take over the Guiding Light building on Division Avenue and the Recovery Program will relocate.) Request- FY2023 \$541,000.00: FY2024 \$92,000.00: FY2025 \$92,000.00: During FY2023 Bed/Mattresses/Dressers: will cost \$15,000.00. Twin size Bed/Mattresses/Dressers will be purchased for men to sleep and properly organize their clothes and belongings. During FY2023 Space Upkeep/Renovation (roof, flooring): will cost \$80,000.00. Guiding Light common area needs a need roof that will cost \$75,000.00 and new flooring will cost \$5000.00. During FY2023 Utilities will be split in half with the Recovery Program which will cost \$15,000.00. During FY2024 and FY2025 Utilities will cost \$30,000.00 yearly due to Back-To-Work taking over the Guiding Light Division location. During FY2023 Building Maintenance will be split in half with the Recovery Program which will cost \$21,000.00 During FY2024 and FY2025 Building Maintenance will cost \$42,000.00 yearly due to Back-To-Work taking over the Guiding Light Division location. FY2023 Property Tax will be split with the Recovery Program which will cost \$2500.00. FY2024 and FY2025 Back-To-Work will pay the property tax \$5000 yearly. During FY2023 Kitchen Supplies & Food Purchases will be cost will be split between the Recovery Program which will cost \$7,500.00. FY2024 and FY2025 Kitchen Supplies and Food Purchases will cost \$15,000.00 yearly due to Back-To-Work taking over Guiding Light Division location. During FY2023 Back-To-Work will buy a Long-term Transitional Housing Property for \$400,000.00 to help with the affordable housing crisis. The subtotal request for FACILITY is \$725,200.00. b.) VEHICLES (Back-To-Work will support with transportation for work, appointments, and activities.) Request- FY2023 \$45,500: FY2024 \$15,500.00: FY2025 \$15,000.00: During FY2023 Back-To-Work will buy a Ford Transit Passenger Van for \$30,000.00. FY2023, FY2024, and FY2025 the Operating Expenses will cost \$6000.00 yearly. FY2023, FY2024, and FY2025 the Insurance will cost \$6500.00 yearly. FY2023, FY2024, and FY2025 the Repairs will cost \$3000.00 yearly. The subtotal request for VEHICLES is \$76,500.00. c.) PERSONNEL (Back-To-Work staff will be full-time salaried employees. Each year Guiding Light will be providing raises for every position.) Request- FY2023 \$257,685.00: FY2024 \$347,280.00: FY2025 \$361,710.00: During FY2023 Back-To-Work will hire a Program Manager who will earn \$50,000.00 annually. The Program Manager will oversee 1 part-time Intake & Scheduling Coordinator who will earn \$20,000 annually; and two full-time Case Managers who will earn \$40,000.00 annually. During FY2023 Back-To-Work will hire two part-time Overnight Security positions. Overnight Security 1 will earn \$16,500.00 annually and Overnight/Weekend Security will earn \$17,000 annually. During FY2023 the total Fringe Benefits amount for all employees will cost \$74,185.00. FY2024 Program Manager salary will increase to 52,000.00.

(continued on next page)



(Page 3)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$2,089,975

Maximum Cost: \$2,089,975

ARPA Request: \$2,089,975

Submitter Info

Name: Brian Elve

Organization: Guiding Light

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Homeless Support

Project Status: Existing Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Estimated Cost (continued)

FY2024 Case Managers salary will increase to \$42,000.00. FY2024 Intake & Scheduling Coordinator will turn into a full-time position with an annual salary of \$40,000.00. During FY2024 both Overnight Security positions will be full-time with an annual salary of \$35,000.00 for the Overnight Security 1 and \$37,000.00 annually for the Overnight/Weekend Security 2. During FY2024 the total Fringe Benefits amount for all employees will cost \$99,280.00. FY2025 Program Manager salary will increase to 55,000.00. FY2025 Case Managers salary will increase to \$44,000.00. FY2025 Intake & Scheduling Coordinator salary will increase to 42,000.00. During FY2025 both Overnight Security positions will increase to \$37,000.00 for the Overnight Security 1 and \$39,000.00 annually for the Overnight/Weekend Security 2. During FY2024 the total Fringe Benefits amount for all employees will cost \$100,710. The subtotal request for PERSONNEL is \$966,675.00. d.) PROGRAMMING (Back-To-Work workforce development, mental health services, and recreation services.) Request- FY2023 \$113,200.00: FY2024 \$118,200.00: FY2025 \$118,200.00: During FY2023, FY2024, and FY2025 Materials/Books will cost \$10,000.00 annually. FY2023, FY2024, and FY2025 Staff Training cost will be \$10,000.00 annually. FY2023, FY2024, and FY2025 Spiritual Direction cost will be \$9600.00 annually. FY2023, FY2024, and FY2025 Mental Health Therapist cost will be \$60,000.00 annually. FY2023, FY2024, and FY2025 YMCA organizational membership cost will be \$3,600.00 annually. FY2023 Janitorial cost will be split in half with the Recovery Program which will cost \$5000.00. During FY2024 and FY2025 Janitorial cost will be \$10,000.00 annually. FY2023, FY2024, and FY2025 Laundry & Linen will cost will be \$5000.00 annually. FY2023, FY2024, and FY2025 Professional/Legal will cost \$10,000.00 annually. The subtotal request for PROGRAMMING is \$349,600.00

*Source of Funding

Guiding Light is 100-percent private donor funded. Without the assistance of this grant, we'd struggle to raise the (re)start-up expenses for a program this encompassing in a timely manner. In the next three years, Guiding Light would be able to completely fund Back-to-Work by private donors and social enterprises.

Project Management Experience

None as of yet.

Federal Funds Experience

Guiding Light uses a sophisticated integrated accounting software (Sage Intacct) that allows precise tracking of funds down to the dollar, and would be very capable of producing Interim, Quarterly, and Recovery Plan Performance Reports to whatever granularity is required. We have no experience with federal funds as of yet.

Studies on Impact

Yes, there are a significant number of studies that validate the overall effectiveness of workforce development services, homelessness services, and affordable housing opportunities. According to Schnur (2018) studies have shown that workforce development and homeless services create a long-term impact on both beneficiaries and the economy by addressing root causes and teaching skills that will keep the individual employed. According to Sloomaker (2022) from Rapid Growth Media he reported, to decrease homelessness in Kent County, organizations must follow Housing Kent's common agenda and roadmap (Workforce development, higher wages, affordable housing, and mental health support) to address systemic issues in housing stability.



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Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Combination of housing support for homeless and job training for unemployed is eligible



Sustainability

Asking for funds to restart the program. In the next three years, the program would be fully funded by private donors and social enterprises.



Feasibility

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$2,089,975

Maximum Cost: \$2,089,975

ARPA Request: \$2,089,975

Submitter Info

Name: Brian Elve

Organization: Guiding Light

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Homeless Support

Project Status: Existing Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)



PROJECT #208

Family Shelter

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$2,500,000

Maximum Cost: \$2,500,000

Submitter Info

Name: Caity Young

Organization:

Family Promise of Grand Rapids

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Homeless Support

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

We will be using both private and philanthropic dollars to help sustain and maintain the case management and programing costs on an annual basis.

Partnership

Family Promise leads the emergency service system for the CoC and will continue to coordinate with more than a dozen agencies on a daily basis with these proposed units.

Identify the need for the proposed project

Family Promise of Grand Rapids is the leading source of emergency housing for families with children in need throughout West Michigan. Since September 2021 we have turned away over 200+ families in need of shelter due to a lack of capacity. In 2019 we had 90 units of shelter, but due to the CARES Act funds ending, we dropped to 45 units online and continue to function at half of the needed capacity. As the leading shelter provider in West Michigan, we recognize the vulnerability that families with children face as we rely on community partners to provide housing units for us to manage. Nationally, emergency shelter space is demanded to increase in 2022 due to a lack of affordable housing. This means it is imperative for Family Promise to own a percentage of the shelter we operate, so that no families are unsheltered.

Brief Description

To meet the growing need for family shelter in Kent County, we would have to provide emergency or temporary housing to families who are in crisis. Having turned away more than 200+ families in 2022, we recognize the urgency to bring more shelter units online as soon as possible. Family Promise will create 20 or more new shelter units in Kent County. We will accomplish this by purchasing one or more buildings or invest in dramatic expansion through strategic partnerships where shelter units already exist and where more shelter units are readily available.

Long-Term Benefit

Providing safe shelter for children/families is life-saving work. Housing insecurity causes toxic stress; severe, prolonged adversity with a lack of the necessary nurturance to prevent an abnormal stress response. It can lead to ADHD, heart disease and a loss of learning capacity. We also address Social Determinants of Health which are essential to mitigating disparities and improving health equity for families. Long term savings impact local criminal justice, educational, and health systems.

Intended Beneficiary

Families with children at or below 30% AMI who are in vulnerable situations.

Estimated Cost

2.5 million

Project Management Experience

Family Promise is well versed in managing large projects in the county. Over 4,000 families and more than 6,000 kids have been sheltered by Family Promise. We lead at a national level and have been recognized in best practices by the NAEH and USICH. Family Promise has managed and coordinated more than 100 noncongregant shelter units in partnership with Kent County and local organizations since 2019. Also, in 2022, Family Promise has already housed 156 families with children in emergency shelters who are "impacted" or "disproportionately impacted".



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$2,500,000

Maximum Cost: \$2,500,000

Submitter Info

Name: Caity Young

Organization:

Family Promise of Grand Rapids

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Homeless Support

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Federal Funds Experience

Family Promise has been utilizing federal funds for over 15 years with HUD, City of Wyoming, and City of Grand Rapids, ESG, CDBG and Kent County funds. We also run a single federal audit every year, that has not had any findings to report. Through the pandemic, we were awarded over 4.5 million of federal funds. With that we have upheld the monitoring and extensive regulations standards.

Studies on Impact

The housing alliance of CoC has identified gaps in housing at all levels of the “housing spectrum”. Shelter continues to be a need that Kent County cannot meet due to a lack of housing resources. We continue to operate with half of the shelter units needed to address vulnerable families with children in need.

Guidehouse Ranking Notes

 **Eligibility**

Emergency housing assistance is eligible

 **Sustainability**

Private and philanthropic dollars are identified to sustain the case management and programming costs

 **Feasibility**

Source of Funding

We will be using both private and philanthropic dollars to help sustain and maintain the case management and programming costs on an annual basis.

Partnership

Family Promise leads the emergency service system for the CoC and will continue to coordinate with more than a dozen agencies on a daily basis with these proposed units.



PROJECT #170

New Home Construction

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$2,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$2,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Michele McIsaac

Organization:

Next Step of West Michigan

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Homeless Support

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 0 - 25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

\$400,000 in funding support from the Federal Home Loan Bank, currently pending.

Partnership

Mel Trotter Ministries, Family Promise of Grand Rapids

Identify the need for the proposed project

Simultaneously, homelessness and a shortage of affordable homes grew in Kent County as a result of the pandemic. Kent County continues to experience an affordable housing shortage, which will be alleviated in-part by construction of new single-family homes. At the same time, due to the pandemic, the area has been a shortage of trained construction workers. This project addresses both issues.

Brief Description

Next Step of West Michigan looks to construct four recently purchased lots and four more homes on lots to be purchased from the city of Grand Rapids. Each home will benefit the quality of life of all residents in the neighborhood by replacing a vacant lot with a newly constructed home. The eight homes will increase the number of living spaces available to low-income families increasing its impact for many years. Each home will serve as a transitional home for individuals as their first step out of homelessness. These homes will provide additional resources, wrap-around services, and case management as they work secure independent permanent housing. These individuals are employed at a sustainable, livable wage. Adults living in transitional homes pay program fees and utilities. Participants learn independent living skills including financial literacy, home maintenance, and conflict resolution. As an a part of this project, Next Step will train low-income individuals in construction. Training will include carpentry, landscaping, painting, and other elements of construction.

Long-Term Benefit

The project transforms 8 vacant city lots into 8 new homes—a benefit to the neighborhood and to those who are homeless due to a shortage of affordable living spaces. Transitional housing alleviates the rising cost of homelessness in our community. The MI Coalition Against Homelessness reports, 29% of those who leave a shelter to enter housing will have a new homeless episode within two years, while only 15% of those who leave transitional housing will experience homelessness in the same period

Intended Beneficiary

Individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

Estimated Cost

\$2,000,000.00

Project Management Experience

Our parent company, Mel Trotter, leads diversion efforts throughout Kent County working with Kent ISD. In addition, we have a contract with Kent County for park beautification and cleanup.



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$2,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$2,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Michele McIsaac

Organization:

Next Step of West Michigan

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Homeless Support

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 0 - 25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Federal Funds Experience

We are responsible for implementation reporting on a DHHS Community Economic Development grant, awarded through our parent company Mel Trotter. Our parent company, who will administer grant funds and provide oversight has significant additional experience working with federal funds: • Grand Rapids Emergency Solutions Grant • Grand Rapids Community Development Block Grant • MDHHS Emergency Shelter Program Grant • DHHS Community Economic Development Grant • Numerous CARES and ARPA Grants

Studies on Impact

Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness 2019 report

https://mihomeless.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/2019_Annual-Report_final.pdf

Kent County Needs Assessment:

<https://www.grandrapids.org/advocacy-and-government-affairs/housing/> May 2020 Bowen National Research Study prepared for GR Chamber of Commerce

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Access to housing for homeless is eligible



Sustainability

Lacking guaranteed funding for staffing after 2026 though partners were identified



Feasibility

Source of Funding

\$400,000 in funding support from the Federal Home Loan Bank, currently pending.

Partnership

Mel Trotter Ministries, Family Promise of Grand Rapids



PROJECT #49

Housing Coordination and Assistance

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$4,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$5,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Kendrick Heinlein

Organization: Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Homeless Support

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

Kent County Senior Millage (KCSM) Funding.

Partnership

The Community Organizations are still being identified.

Identify the need for the proposed project

The Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan (AAAWM) employs and works with housing coordinators throughout Kent County. Their knowledge of Kent County's needs were relied on create this proposed project.

Brief Description

AAAWM is proposing to aid adults with housing by providing: Moving Education Rental Assistance Moving Assistance Community Collaboration Multiple partners will work to keep people in their homes and assist them in finding a place to live.

Long-Term Benefit

This project will create housing stability and resources to keep people in their homes and help them find homes. This will be accomplished through rental assistance. This assistance will not be a one-time expense, it will be aided by education will create sustainability and make the community aware of their housing options.

Intended Beneficiary

Older Adults

Estimated Cost

\$4,000,000.00 - \$5,000,000.00

Project Management Experience

The Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan has been managing and leading large county-wide projects since 1999. We have a history of collaborating with community partners and implementing change from these collaborations. Our focus is on older adults, persons with a disability and caregivers. Projects that have taken place, since 1999, include transportation, nutritional security and helping the community gain access to aging services.

Federal Funds Experience

AAAWM has been working with federal funds since 1974 through the Older Americans Act (OAA). Outside of OAA funds, we have experience working with federal and state grants, CARES Act funding and ARPA funding.

Studies on Impact

Yes, we are aware have worked extensively on Evidenced-Based Practices. One of those programs is EnanceFitness (EF). EF is a evidenced-based program that helps older adults stay active. It focuses on cardio, strength, balance, and flexibility to help older adults social wellness and aims to prevent falls.



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Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$4,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$5,000,000

Emergency housing assistance is eligible

Does not include a funding plan or fund availability after expending all the ARPA dollars.

Submitter Info

Name: Kendrick Heinlein

Organization: Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Homeless Support

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

Kent County Senior Millage (KCSM) Funding.

Partnership

The Community Organizations are still being identified.



PROJECT #118

Homeless Economic and Workforce Project

Identify the need for the proposed project

Local survey and data on the homeless population in Grand Rapids.

Brief Description

Employ homeless individuals, through workforce development strategies that provide local communities increased employment opportunities from the most underserved communities. The distinguishing factor in this proposal is that eligible candidates will agree to community living standards supported by local human service agencies and religious institutions.

Long-Term Benefit

The long term benefits include increased employment, reduced homelessness, and improved cleanliness. Long term fiscal benefits are improved through strategic community engagement strategies. People First, Result Always!

Intended Beneficiary

The intended beneficiaries will be the homeless and local businesses. Our entire community will benefit by improving the quality of life and esthetics throughout West Michigan.

Estimated Cost

100,000

Project Management Experience

Extensive experience partnering with government officials regarding economic elopement strategies.

Federal Funds Experience

Extensive experience working within nonprofits and managing federal grants.

Studies on Impact

Please see link. <https://ps.psychiatryonline.org/doi/full/10.1176/ps.2007.58.3.325>

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$100,000

Maximum Cost: \$100,000

Submitter Info

Name: Regenail Thomas

Organization: Seeds of Promise

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Homeless Support

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

Philanthropic and other donations

Partnership

Seeds of Promise

Guidehouse Ranking Notes

 **Eligibility**

Rehiring of unemployed workers is eligible

 **Sustainability**

Does not include a funding plan or fund availability after expending all the ARPA dollars.

 **Feasibility**

PROJECT #167

Workforce Development Program Training Center and Transitional Apartments



Identify the need for the proposed project

From 2018 to 2019, the population experiencing homelessness in Kent County rose by 39% (Kent County Continuum of Care). From 2020 and continuing into 2022, the number has only increased due to the impact of COVID-19. One major cause of homelessness is the cycle of obtaining and losing jobs. Through Next Step's workforce development individuals can obtain the necessary skills and support services to retain long-term employment. This project will also address labor shortages due to the pandemic.

Brief Description

Nearly anyone experiencing homelessness can get a job, but there are unique barriers to staying employed if you are homeless. Barriers include working at low paying jobs due to lack of training or education, substance abuse, lack of transportation, lack of housing, and lack of ongoing support services. This project assists returning citizens and those experiencing homelessness overcome such barriers. The program helps participants develop skills for livable-wage employment by providing resource navigation, emotional intelligence training, and post-graduation care through transitional housing, a job coach, and wrap-around support. Next Step looks to renovate the property at 101 Garden St to accommodate a more efficient and scaled workforce development, hands-on training center primarily in the manufacturing of wood products. Included in building will be 11 apartments designated for participants of the workforce development program. By scaling up its program, Next Step will create a pipeline of skilled labor for area furniture and wood manufacturing employers and assist a greater number of individuals to be transformed into reliable, skilled employees able to obtain and maintain independent housing.

Long-Term Benefit

This project benefits the community as it addresses barriers that lead to ongoing homelessness and creates a skilled workforce for area employers. Benefits include:

- Fulfill the ongoing labor shortage due to early retirement, relocation, and quitting the workforce due to the long term effects of the pandemic.
- Provide housing to individuals experiencing homelessness as they learn to live independently and save money for permanent housing.
- Transport to and from work.
- Reduce recidivism.

Intended Beneficiary

Low income individuals, returning citizens, and individuals experiencing homelessness. Revitalization of neighborhoods in the 49507 ZIP code.

Estimated Cost

\$3 to \$4 million

Project Management Experience

Our parent company, Mel Trotter, leads diversion efforts throughout Kent County working with Kent ISD. In addition, we have a contract with Kent County for park beautification and cleanup.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$3,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$4,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Michele McIsaac

Organization:
Next Step of West Michigan

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Homeless Support

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

\$800,000 has already been invested by Next Step in acquiring the 101 Garden property and securing the roof. Funding through a capital campaign set to begin in January 2023.

Partnership

Jeup, NuCraft



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Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$3,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$4,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Michele McIsaac

Organization:
Next Step of West Michigan

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Homeless Support

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

\$800,000 has already been invested by Next Step in acquiring the 101 Garden property and securing the roof. Funding through a capital campaign set to begin in January 2023.

Partnership

Jeup, NuCraft

Federal Funds Experience

We are responsible for implementation reporting on a DHHS Community Economic Development grant, awarded through our parent company Mel Trotter. Our parent company, who will administer grant funds and provide oversight has significant additional experience working with federal funds: • Grand Rapids Emergency Solutions Grant • Grand Rapids Community Development Block Grant • MDHHS Emergency Shelter Program Grant • DHHS Community Economic Development Grant • Numerous CARES and ARPA Grants

Studies on Impact

MIT Living Wage Calculation
<https://livingwage.mit.edu/metros/24340;>

Talent 2025
<https://livingwage.mit.edu/metros/24340;>

Johnson Center for Philanthropy Community Data and Research Lab
<https://johnsoncenter.org/blog/economic-inclusion-in-grand-rapids-mich/>

Guidehouse Ranking Notes

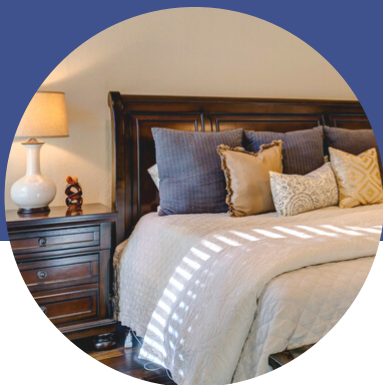
 **Eligibility**

Constructing a workforce training center and homeless support is eligible

 **Sustainability**

Does not include a funding plan or fund availability after expending all the ARPA dollars.

 **Feasibility**



PROJECT #195

Sleep to Dream

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$1,410,000

Maximum Cost: \$1,540,000

Submitter Info

Name: Steve Whitby

Organization:
Kaufman's Furniture Gallery

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Homeless Support

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

The Business Exchange

Identify the need for the proposed project

Sleep impacts nearly every aspect of our health and wellbeing. Studies have connected poor sleep to physical and mental health issues. As a furniture and mattress specialist and retailer, we provide a simple solution for a good night's sleep by offering a quality, comfortable, and affordable mattress. Unfortunately, many at risk individuals lack the means to obtain a comfortable mattress or live in facilities that lack quality mattresses.

Brief Description

The Sleep to Dream project is designed to boost the mental and physical abilities of the less fortunate, while creating employment opportunities for the disbursement of mattresses to children, young adults, and seniors throughout Kent county communities. Kaufman's Furniture Gallery of Grand Rapids has established relationships with several mattress manufacturers that is willing to offer even larger discounts off the wholesale prices, in order for our Sleep to Dream program to provide these mattresses to qualifying candidates completely FREE!

Long-Term Benefit

Healthy minds from a good nights sleep, each and every night will allow for any individual to focus much better, be more attentive, and to have an opportunity to learn so much more. The long-term benefit is that the entire community, including surrounding communities will thrive mentally and physically, and feel much safer simply because they received an opportunity to Sleep to Dream.

Intended Beneficiary

Children. Young Adults. The entire community will benefit.

Estimated Cost

\$1,410,000 to \$1,540,000

Project Management Experience

I have personally managed Big Box Retailers, opening and closing stores throughout the mid-west and parts of the south. I have managed teams greater than 100 hundred people as the organizer. Leading and implementing new programs is one of many of my strong points.

Federal Funds Experience

The partnering organization which we will be closely working with has experience working with federal funds.



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Studies on Impact

Absolutely! Current studies showed that approximately 35% of kids aren't receiving enough sleep at night. Race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, and health all contributed to higher rates of sleeplessness. The lack of sleep can/will hinder a child's ability to function well in school, as well as contribute to poor health. (CDC)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$1,410,000

Maximum Cost: \$1,540,000

Submitter Info

Name: Steve Whitby

Organization:
Kaufman's Furniture Gallery

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Homeless Support

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

The Business Exchange

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Not serving an eligible beneficiary. Eligible under revenue replacement as a government service.



Sustainability

Does not include a funding plan or fund availability after expending all the ARPA dollars.



Feasibility

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HOSPITALITY



PROJECT #84

Marketing Kent County Cooperatively with Pure Michigan



Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$1,800,000

Maximum Cost: \$3,600,000

ARPA Request: \$900,000

Submitter Info

Name: Doug Small

Organization:

Experience Grand Rapids

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Hospitality

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

The request for \$900,000 will be matched by Experience Grand Rapids for a total local investment of \$1.8M. The state of Michigan will then match that in full. The requested funds would provide 25% of the total and the match would be 75%.

Partnership

Michigan Pure MI, Kent County Hospitality Association, and benefit Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce and The Right Place

Identify the Need for the Proposed Project

The impact from the 2020 COVID pandemic, including stay-home orders and gathering-size restrictions, negatively impacted Experience Grand Rapids (EXGR) efforts to promote the destination for visitors and meetings as well as its ability to host visitors for booked conventions. The scope of EXGR's work was reduced to handling client cancellations, maintaining relationships for future booked business and encouraging local support of hospitality businesses. The abrupt stop of tourism required significant budget and staffing cuts due to reduced revenues from hotel stays and cancellations of all group meetings. The resources available to invest in 2020 were more than \$4M less than what was invested in 2019. To make matters worse, the state's Pure Michigan marketing efforts were not funded by the legislature and came to a halt. The momentum and record 10-year growth of tourism to Kent County abruptly slowed. This request is for funding to help accelerate the marketing efforts for the future. This funding will help reintroduce the destination (Kent County) to the nation and quickly reestablish the visitor economy, support business attraction, and encourage an influx of new residents.

Brief Description

Funds are requested to expand our partnership with the Pure Michigan cooperative marketing initiatives for the next two years. The Pure Michigan brand is being transformed by a new agency deploying a data-driven strategy with the goal of recapturing Michigan's momentum as a travel destination. This investment allows Kent County to leverage the Pure MI brand at the local level, grow the local economy and play a role in unifying the tourism industry statewide. A combination of cultural assets and expansive outdoor experiences makes Kent County the ideal Pure Michigan four-season destination - and an vital part of the Pure Michigan marketing. This marketing effort will create a new, locally focused TV commercial for national distribution, digital and social media ads with a focus on diversifying the tourism audience, digital tools to aid those with accessibility needs and destination content (written and online). The planned local investment is \$1.8M over the next two years and will be matched by the state for a total of \$3.6M to be spent promoting the Kent County area. Experience Grand Rapids intends to invest one-half (\$900,000) of the local contribution and requests a \$900,000 grant to cover the other half.

Long-Term Benefit

The annual impact of the tourism economy to Kent County totaled \$1.4B (visitor spending/Tourism Economics) in 2019. That decreased by 26.8% in 2020, to just \$1B. The goal of this project request is to restore the upward trajectory of economic impact, and grow both visitor spending and hotel revenue beyond 2019 levels. This will help accelerate the increase of Kent County Lodging tax collections.

Intended Beneficiary

All Kent County residents will benefit from a vibrant visitor economy. It brings jobs to the region, and accelerates local and state tax collections. Hotel revenue growth in turn grows the Kent County Lodging Tax collections and contributes to debt reduction at DeVos Place Convention Center.

Estimated Cost

Local investment of \$1.8M (two years) and matched by the state's Pure MI campaign for a total promotional budget of \$3.6M.



Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$1,800,000

Maximum Cost: \$3,600,000

ARPA Request: \$900,000

Submitter Info

Name: Doug Small

Organization:

Experience Grand Rapids

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Hospitality

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

The request for \$900,000 will be matched by Experience Grand Rapids for a total local investment of \$1.8M. The state of Michigan will then match that in full. The requested funds would provide 25% of the total and the match would be 75%.

Partnership

Michigan Pure MI, Kent County Hospitality Association, and benefit Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce and The Right Place

Project Management Experience

Experience Grand Rapids has experience managing a large cooperative marketing campaign with the Pure Michigan team and we look forward to doing so again.

Federal Funds Experience

In 2020, Experience Grand Rapids was the recipient of Federal Coronavirus Relief Funds passed from the U.S. Department of Treasury through Kent County in the amount of \$820,000. EXGR spent the funds as outlined in the grant agreement and underwent a Single Audit for the year ended 12/31/20 by the firm Hungerford Nichols. The audit opinion reads in part, "In our opinion, Experience Grand Rapids and Meet Grand Rapids complied, in all material respects, with the types of compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on its major federal program for the year ended December 31, 2020." In addition, the auditor's report on internal control reads in part, "...we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses."

Studies on Impact

The state of Michigan routinely measures the return on investment of the Pure Michigan marketing campaign. The most recent study measuring 2019 effectiveness reported an \$11.43 dollar return for every \$1 invested in the <https://medc.app.box.com/s/t1wiyahpgf3qepqxd818hh387gbhme8x>

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Eligible as a negative economic impact to tourism



Sustainability

2 year plan



Feasibility

PROJECT #85

Hospitality For All Ambassador Program

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$400,000

Maximum Cost: \$450,000

ARPA Request: \$360,000

Submitter Info

Name: Doug Small

Organization:

Experience Grand Rapids

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Hospitality

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

Experience Grand Rapids is prepared to invest in this project as well. This will include staff time and the development of program content. Planned investment is a minimum of 20% match over the two years.

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Identify the Need for the Proposed Project

The impact from the 2020 COVID pandemic stay-home order and gathering-size restrictions negatively impacted Experience Grand Rapids (EXGR) efforts to promote the destination for visitors and meetings as well as its ability to host visitors for booked conventions. The scope of EXGR's work was reduced to handling client cancellations, maintaining relationships for future booked business and encouraging local support of hospitality businesses. The abrupt stop of tourism required significant budget and staffing cuts due to reduced revenues from hotel stays and cancellations of all group meetings. The resources available to invest in 2020 were more than \$4M less than what was invested in 2019. The loss of revenue and the instability of the industry's future necessitated a pause in one of EXGR's key community outreach efforts: the Certified Tourism Ambassador (CTA) program, which educates and empowers local hospitality service providers to deliver a positive brand experience for Grand Rapids/Kent County visitors. The hospitality workforce has changed in the wake of COVID, and the way people gather information has changed. This provides a unique opportunity to innovate an all-new countywide initiative that enables anyone who lives and/or works in Kent County to become a community ambassador.

Brief Description

EXGR proposes to develop a new Hospitality for All ambassador program that encourages a passion for making all visitors, newcomers and residents feel welcome in the area. This innovative new program can be customized for our destination and developed with community input for the goal of expanding hospitality to visitors and those within the community. The project would utilize a new online learning format to increase access and offer content in different languages to broaden its appeal. This new ambassador program can be developed to meet our community's needs. Potentially, it can provide knowledge about the place, encourage expanded experiences, and offer opportunities for community members to meet and gain a new understanding of each other. The program's goal will be to enhance the experiences of those who visit the area and who live in the area.

Long-Term Benefit

A long-term benefit would be increased hospitality shown towards all visitors and those who are new to the area. Hospitality can be extended to all.

Intended Beneficiary

The primary beneficiary would be visitors to Kent County. Currently, there are 10,300 marketable hotel rooms in the county. That means if hotels were 70% full, there would be over 7,000 nightly visitors throughout the county. That translates to more than 2.5M visitors over the course of a year that could be touched by a Hospitality for All program.

*Partnership

Outreach for the project can extend well past the typical hospitality community and include local chambers, community groups, neighborhoods, local municipalities and other organizations. Both online survey collection and community input sessions could invite the community to assist with the development and deployment of a final program.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$400,000

Maximum Cost: \$450,000

ARPA Request: \$360,000

Submitter Info

Name: Doug Small

Organization:

Experience Grand Rapids

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Hospitality

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

Experience Grand Rapids is prepared to invest in this project as well. This will include staff time and the development of program content. Planned investment is a minimum of 20% match over the two years.

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Estimated Cost

Costs are estimated to be \$400,000 - 450,000 for the outreach, development and coordination of the project. This would include a project manager to coordinate community engagement, gather input, develop program content, film and record segments, and license the technology platform.

Depending on the project's scope, there might be administrative needs into the future. This request is to help get the project developed and created for launch in 2024.

Project Management Experience

Experience Grand Rapids has experience developing and launching the original Certified Tourism Ambassador (CTA) program and developing other successful marketing and sales efforts.

Federal Funds Experience

In 2020, Experience Grand Rapids was the recipient of Federal Coronavirus Relief Funds passed from the U.S. Department of Treasury through Kent County in the amount of \$820,000. Experience Grand Rapids spent the funds as outlined in the grant agreement and underwent a Single Audit for the year ended 12/31/20 by the firm Hungerford Nichols. The audit opinion reads in part, "In our opinion, Experience Grand Rapids and Meet Grand Rapids complied, in all material respects, with the types of compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on its major federal program for the year ended December 31, 2020." In addition, the auditor's report on internal control reads in part, "...we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses

Studies on Impact

There is not a specific study that illustrates the value of a program like this; however, a more accommodating and consistent welcome to all who visit will impact the perceptions of a place, and that will in turn impact the destination's reputation and lead to an enhanced quality of life for all.

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Eligible as a negative economic impact to hospitality



Sustainability

2 year project



Feasibility



PROJECT #172

Hospitality Industry Workforce Development Project

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$500,000

Maximum Cost: \$650,000

ARPA Request: \$500,000

Submitter Info

Name: Doug Small

Organization:

Experience Grand Rapids

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Hospitality

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

Experience Grand Rapids (EXGR) is planning to contribute \$150,000 to this effort.

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Identify the need for the proposed project

The impact from the 2020 COVID pandemic, including stay-home orders and gathering-size restrictions, negatively impacted Experience Grand Rapids (EXGR) efforts to promote the destination for visitors and meetings as well as its ability to host visitors for booked conventions. In turn, the loss of the visitor economy negatively impacted the hospitality workforce. Hospitality workers were furloughed, their hours reduced, and childcare options lost. As businesses tried to reopen, they faced challenges finding employees. This further strained the ability to recruit a more diverse workforce. According to figures provided by Tourism Economics, Kent County's total hospitality employment lost over 25% of its workers between 2020 and 2019, dropping from 27,096 in 2019 to 20,158 in 2020. Statistics are not available for 2021 yet. We know there continues to be challenges finding employees, affordable childcare, and the ability to recruit diversity into the workforce.

Brief Description

Funds requested will be used to continue to diversify the hospitality workforce by focusing on equity and diversity in recruitment, training, and retainment. The project's scope would assess the hospitality workforce needs, identify and collaborate with other workforce development programs, and develop meaningful connections to match the industry's needs. The plan of work will be developed in part by the outcomes and next steps outlined by the Experience Grand Rapids Board of Directors retreat in August. The workforce project will be a multi-year (2-3) and be measured against a set of key performance indicators (KPI) established to align with the plan of work. Tentative plans include the identification of solutions and methods to communicate and activate them within the industry. There could be the establishment of a second high school hospitality academy in Kentwood and additional support for the current program at Ottawa Hills High School.

Long-Term Benefit

The annual impact of the tourism economy to Kent County totaled \$1.4B (visitor spending/tourism economics) in 2019. That decreased by 26.8% in 2020, to just \$1B. The hospitality workforce was reduced by a similar percentage. The goal of this project request is to assist with adding diversity to and expanding the hospitality industry workforce to meet the current and future needs in Kent County.

Intended Beneficiary

All Kent County residents benefit from a vibrant visitor economy and healthy hospitality workforce. Adding diversity into the hospitality workforce will make Kent County a more inclusive place for visitors.

*Partnership

This project will work directly with the local hospitality industry including hotels, restaurants, meeting, and event venues. It will also partner with local education and job assistance programs. Outreach for the project can also extend well past the typical hospitality community and include local chambers, community groups, neighborhoods, local municipalities, and other organizations.



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$500,000

Maximum Cost: \$650,000

ARPA Request: \$500,000

Submitter Info

Name: Doug Small

Organization:

Experience Grand Rapids

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Hospitality

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

Experience Grand Rapids (EXGR) is planning to contribute \$150,000 to this effort.

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Estimated Cost

\$500,000 - \$650,000 This 2 – 3-year project requests \$500,000. This investment will be matched by 30% (\$150,000) from EXGR.

Project Management Experience

EXGR has experience managing countywide marketing, meeting sales and community engagement programs.

Federal Funds Experience

In 2020, Experience Grand Rapids was the recipient of Federal Coronavirus Relief Funds passed from the U.S. Department of Treasury through Kent County in the amount of \$820,000. EXGR spent the funds as outlined in the grant agreement and underwent a Single Audit for the year ended 12/31/20 by the firm Hungerford Nichols. The audit opinion reads in part, "In our opinion, Experience Grand Rapids and Meet Grand Rapids complied, in all material respects, with the types of compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on its major federal program for the year ended December 31, 2020." In addition, the auditor's report on internal control reads in part, "...we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses."

Studies on Impact

None currently.

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Aid to impacted industries, such as hospitality is eligible



Sustainability

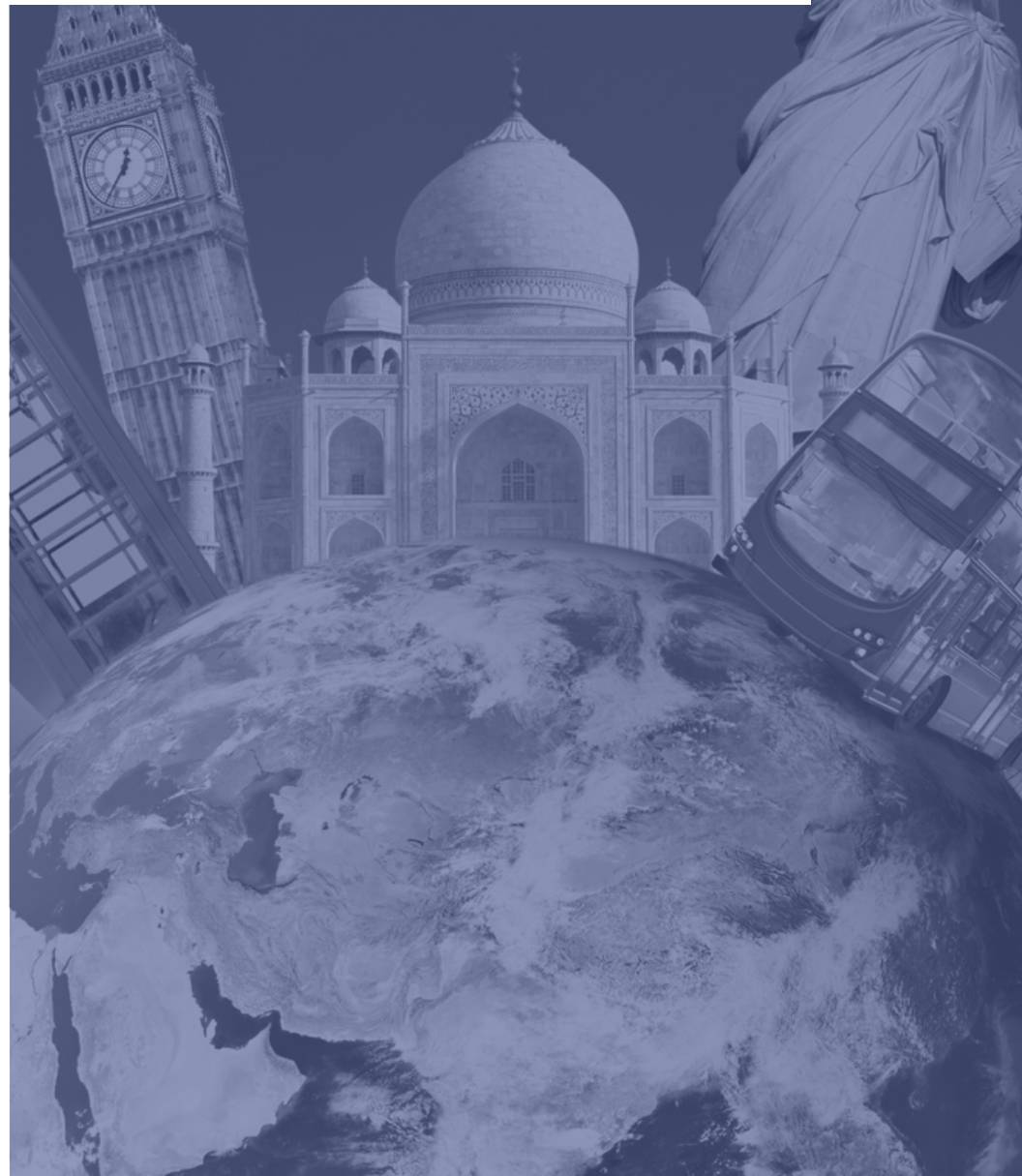
Lacking guaranteed funding after 2026 though partners were identified



Feasibility

14

IMMIGRANT SERVICES





PROJECT #233

New American Housing

Identify the need for the proposed project

Treetops Collective is deeply embedded in New American communities through our Concentric program. We continue to see the negative impact of the current housing crisis on New American families.

Brief Description

What would it look like to reimagine housing for those arriving as New Americans, to have a safe, connected place to develop roots? New arrivals are typically placed in homes that they will be unable to afford long-term, requiring an uprooting months after arriving. Additionally, newcomers are completely isolated, because of language barriers, the winter cold, and culture, they live disconnected to the people around them. This could be transformed through a more innovative, welcoming approach to housing. We are proposing an investment in a collective housing model focused on New Americans that leverages connections and resources known by local residents and creates efficiencies and connections through proximity. Additionally, in coordination with The Welcome Plan, we could create a development that includes a community kitchen, gathering space, a computer lab for continuing education and language learning. After 1-2 years in this first home, they could be given a portion of their rent back as a down payment for a house or secure a deposit for a rental. Because of this shared space, local organizations who want to create access to resources for refugees would better be able to co-locate services. Time and transportation, in addition to language, will always be the biggest barrier when serving New Americans. Through this model you can eliminate these barriers by creating efficiencies that allow services to come directly to them and create safe, welcoming environments.

Long-Term Benefit

Stable, holistic housing for new arrivals is a long-term investment, and ensures that those who have arrived feel safe, and have a spring board for establishing connections and opportunities that will enrich our social fabric and contribute to our local economy for generations. This innovation would establish Kent County as a leader nationwide and create an environment where families have the space and time to invest in their holistic development as they make this new place home.

Intended Beneficiary

Immigrant and refugee families and individuals

Estimated Cost

15 million

Project Management Experience

We have not yet led a county-wide project but we have extensive experience in collaborating with other organizations as evidenced by our over 20 letters of support for our cross-cultural community center.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$15,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$15,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Tarah Carnahan

Organization: Treetops Collective

Project Overview

Funding Group: Infrastructure

Project Theme: Immigrant Services

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

AYA Youth Housing, ICCF
Community Homes, Bethany
Christian Services, Samaritas



(Page 2)

Federal Funds Experience

Treetops Collective received over \$92,000 in CARES Act funds at the end of 2020 and successfully executed all funds in a limited amount of time.

Studies on Impact

n/a

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$15,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$15,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Tarah Carnahan

Organization: Treetops Collective

Project Overview

Funding Group: Infrastructure

Project Theme: Immigrant Services

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

AYA Youth Housing, ICCF
Community Homes, Bethany
Christian Services, Samaritas

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Affordable housing is eligible



Sustainability

This project likely has large operation costs but there are multiple partners



Feasibility



PROJECT #249

Kent County Refugee and Immigrant Health Center

Identify the need for the proposed project

Bethany Christian Services of Michigan (Bethany), along with our partners at Samaritas, have decades of experience working with newly arrived refugees and immigrants as they make their start in West Michigan, put down roots and achieve economic self-sufficiency. A universal and pervasive challenge is integrating into the U.S. health care system. We have encountered firsthand frustrations experienced by both medical providers and our clients— missed appointments, bills not paid, confusion over insurance, etc. The concept of a clinic designed to meet the unique health care needs of newly arrived refugees and immigrants has been talked about for years, but the pandemic has highlighted the need to make this matter a priority. Throughout the pandemic, Bethany has been strengthening our partnerships with ethnic-based community organizations to increase and diversify the pool of community health workers engaging the refugee and immigrant populations in our community. As we have worked closely with leaders from the various organizations as well as the community health workers, we have heard directly from the community a desire to have a clinic that understands the needs of the various immigrant populations in our community and one that is able to walk alongside the various communities as they learn to navigate the U.S. health care system. For those native to our community, the U.S. health care system can be difficult to navigate. For newly arrived refugees and other immigrant groups, the difficulty is increased by language barriers, previous lack of access to health care, and cultural differences to name a few. Although Kent County is home to many wonderful service providers who already serve this population and do so with great care and passion, it is clear that the current ecosystem is inefficient and can lead to poor health outcomes and loss of financial resources. (The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has several reports and articles around this topic that can be found here: <https://www.rwjf.org/en/library/research/2017/09/immigration-statusand-health.html>.) Along with the challenges in addressing general health care needs, refugees and immigrants also experience barriers to accessing dental care both acute and long-term. Due to extensive dental needs, limited insurance options, and a lower reimbursement rate for providers, services are difficult to come by and resettlement agencies are often patchworking providers together ad-hoc. 6 month wait lists are common for basic dental care. Integrating dental care with physical health care is an important contribution to positive longterm health outcomes. Beyond the large need for primary health and dental care, many refugees arrive with trauma due to the circumstances that led to their displacement requiring psychological support and treatment. Various cultural understandings and stigmas around mental health and well-being are often a barrier to accessing the necessary services. While Bethany has the Healing Center that provides intense counseling services to survivors of torture this highly specialized form of care is not accessible to the many refugees. Appropriate treatment for this level of trauma requires the co-location of therapists and physicians to work collaboratively, providing comprehensive and integrated care addressing both mental and physical well-being.

Brief Description

The proposed project creates a Refugee Health Center on the former St Joseph Seminary campus at 2080 Union SE in Grand Rapids. Transforming the existing gymnasium into this new Health Center would provide a welcoming, culturally sensitive, innovative, and trauma informed medical home for refugees and immigrants. It would meet the unique challenges of primary healthcare, dental, and access to supportive services. The historical landmark is the new home to Bethany and Samaritas programs serving the refugee population. Our programs have always focused on cross collaboration and community partners. Community Health Workers, clinical therapists, and refugee services staff will all be present in one place making the model effective, efficient, and sustainable. Funding for the Refugee and Immigrant Health Center pays for the design and build out of both the physical and operational structure needed to launch the center. The build out of the space will be done by Pinnacle Construction in connection with The Architectural Group, Inc. Through a collaborative approach, local health systems and centers will work with a facilitator to determine an operating and governance model that works best for Kent County. The ongoing service delivery will be sustained through insurance reimbursement, client co-pays, and private donor dollars. Bethany and Samaritas are working with community partners and refugee and immigrants and leaders on the design.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$6,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$6,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Susan Kragt

Organization: Bethany Christian Services of Michigan

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Immigrant Services

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

If this project is funded, Bethany will work with partners to pursue in-kind gifts, private donation and foundation dollars, and State funding to assist with this project however no funding has been secured at this time.

Partnership

(Listed in main description)



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$6,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$6,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Susan Kragt

Organization: Bethany Christian Services of Michigan

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Immigrant Services

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

If this project is funded, Bethany will work with partners to pursue in-kind gifts, private donation and foundation dollars, and State funding to assist with this project however no funding has been secured at this time.

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Long-Term Benefit

The Center will improve the health outcomes and health care satisfaction of the refugee and immigrant communities. It will allow for a more efficient use of services for both refugee service providers and health systems. The Center will provide education so that patients are able to navigate the local health system. This will reduce missed appointments, improve adherence to medical recommendations, and streamline interpretation services—all of which will provide cost savings to providers.

Intended Beneficiary

Refugees and Immigrants in Kent County are the primary beneficiary. This includes individuals entering the U.S. through the Refugee Admissions program (including people from Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Burma, Bhutan, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, Iraq, Ukraine, Venezuela, Cuba, and Haiti). Additionally, minors in the custody of the Office of Refugee Resettlement would be served at the center as well as other immigrants needing this type of health care. Finally, the whole community will benefit from a more efficient system and healthier new neighbors.

*Partnership

Samaritas; University of Michigan Health- West; Spectrum Health; Catherine's Health Center; Trinity Health Medical Group—West Michigan; Exalta Health; Grand Rapids Community Foundation; Kentwood Public Schools ; Kent County Health Department; Bhutanese Community of Michigan; Alliance; A Glimpse of Africa; African Network Collaborative; African Resource Center; West Michigan Asian American Association; Cherry Health; Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce; City of Grand Rapids- Office of Equity and Engagement

Estimated Cost

Total: \$6,000,000 (Space Renovation Cost: \$3,700,000.00 Architectural and Engineering fees: \$250,000.00 Medical Exam Room: \$60,000.00 Dental Suites: \$1,200,000 Office furniture, Information Technology (IT), Office copy/fax machine: \$350,000 Dental X-ray: \$14,000 Panoramic Machine: \$90,000 Ultrasound Machine: \$115,000 Collaboration Facilitator: \$50,000 Misc. \$171,000)

Project Management Experience

Specifically, within Kent County, the agency has 2 Ready by 5 awards. In addition, many of our contracts are with local DHHS's or with State specific DHHS's that are specific to serving a range of 1 county to statewide. Within Kent County, we work with the West Michigan Partnership for Children to provide foster care services to children in Kent County. We serve between 150-200 children at any given point in time in partnership with WMPC. We can segregate our county, or regional funding, from other funding by giving it a unique code within our general ledger so that all revenue and expenses are tracked separately for each unique funding source (whether it is county, regional, or statewide).



(Page 3)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$6,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$6,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Susan Kragt

Organization: Bethany Christian Services of Michigan

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Immigrant Services

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Federal Funds Experience

Through a nationwide budget of close to \$188 million, Bethany has extensive fiscal capacity and annually administers over 200 state and federal contracts for services in place through Headquarters and the Region offices. Bethany has extensive experience managing Federal and State funding streams, to include funding from ORR, and has a strong understanding of leveraging braided and blended funding; in the past 15 years, it has managed over 3,600 grants totaling over \$317 million including \$265 million in Federal funding.

Studies on Impact

Bethany and our partners have and will continue to work closely with the Center for Refugee Health at Rochester Regional Health in New York as a promising practice model, as well as the Center of Excellence in Newcomer Health in Minnesota to inform the design of the Health Center.

Guidehouse Ranking Notes

 **Eligibility**

Eligible under public health

 **Sustainability**

Project will need additional funding to operate facility but they have many partners and are currently seeking more funding

 **Feasibility**

Source of Funding

If this project is funded, Bethany will work with partners to pursue in-kind gifts, private donation and foundation dollars, and State funding to assist with this project however no funding has been secured at this time.

Partnership

(Listed in main description)



PROJECT #266

Interdisciplinary Trauma Therapy

Identify the need for the proposed project

Bethany Christian Services has been providing mental health counseling services for refugees and immigrants through the Healing Center since 2009. Bethany also provides mental health services to refugees and immigrants through other structured programs. We seek to provide an essential service to the refugees in our community, but the ability to serve the entirety of referrals is limited due to the eligibility of funding constraints. To qualify for services within the Healing Center, a refugee has to be qualified as a Survivor of Torture. Many of the refugees served by Bethany have experienced significant trauma, but do not meet the rigid requirements for the Healing Center. The result is many clients who are uninsured or underinsured are left unserved, often presenting with high levels of distress in the community. Others with insurance are often sent to external providers without Bethany's robust cultural training and expertise. Although this occurs on a regular basis, this need was highlighted in the fall of 2021 when a significant number of Afghan refugees arrived, and no refugee-specific counseling center existed in the West Michigan area to meet their unique needs. Our outpatient trauma therapy program is being developed to meet the clinical needs of the refugee community without the constraints of the client having to meet any eligibility requirements. Through this program, any refugee with a mental health concern could be treated.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$1,220,000

Maximum Cost: \$1,220,000

Submitter Info

Name: Ashley Hanberry

Organization: Bethany Christian Services of Michigan

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Immigrant Services

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Brief Description

Bethany's Refugee and Immigrant Outpatient Counseling Center is intended to meet the mental health needs of refugee and immigrant clients within the West Michigan area. This program operates as a traditional outpatient counseling center, with specific training to be well-equipped to work with the refugee population. This program is staffed with licensed mental health clinicians, most of whom are multi-lingual, and are trained to work with interpreters in the clinical setting. Our therapists are specifically trained in how to navigate cultural considerations to effectively treat an array of mental health needs. This includes but is not limited to PTSD, anxiety, depression, and adjustment disorders. The program is voluntary and able to serve clients of all ages, cultural backgrounds, and family structures. Individual, couple, and family counseling is available as needed to best help the client. There are no eligibility requirements other than securing funding either through health insurance (Medicaid included) or grants/donations. Clients from this program will also benefit from coordinating with Bethany's internal psychiatric providers.

Long-Term Benefit

Bethany has a large employment department aiding in finding jobs. During Covid, many of our clients have had and continue to work in essential worker positions. Mental health concerns can directly impact a person's ability to function in the work space. Our proposed services will work to keep our refugees healthy and functioning in their community roles. Additionally, this will set up healthier families in our schools and for generations to come.

Intended Beneficiary

The refugee and immigrant community in West Michigan will be the greatest beneficiaries of these services, particularly those who do not qualify for services through eligibility in another contracted program.

Source of Funding

Billing insurance can offset the some of the costs.

Partnership

n/a



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Estimated Cost

\$1,220,000 (total for 4 years) Break down per year: Director \$65,000, Admin \$40,000, Therapist .5 \$60,000, Therapist .5 \$60,000, Interpretation \$80,000

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$1,220,000

Maximum Cost: \$1,220,000

Submitter Info

Name: Ashley Hanberry

Organization: Bethany Christian Services of Michigan

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Immigrant Services

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

Billing insurance can offset the some of the costs.

Partnership

n/a

Project Management Experience

Bethany Christian Services across the country has many county funded programs with county specific reporting requirements. Specifically, within Kent county, the agency has 2 Ready by 5 awards. In addition, many of our contracts are with local DHHS's or with State specific DHHS's that are specific to serving a range of 1 county to statewide. Within Kent County, we work with the West Michigan Partnership for Children to provide foster care services to children in Kent County. We serve between 150-200 children at any given point in time in partnership with WMPC. We are able to segregate our county, or regional funding, from other funding by giving it a unique code within our general ledger so that all revenue and expenses are tracked separately for each unique funding source (whether it is county, regional, or statewide).

Federal Funds Experience

Through a nationwide budget of close to \$188 million, Bethany has extensive fiscal capacity and annually administers over 200 state and federal contracts for services in place through Headquarters and the Region offices. Bethany has extensive experience managing Federal and State funding streams, to include funding from ORR, and has a strong understanding of leveraging braided and blended funding; in the past 15 years, it has managed over 3,600 grants totaling over \$317 million including \$265 million in Federal funding.

Studies on Impact

According to the America Psychiatric Association, up to 80% of the refugee population experiences high rates of mental health disorder, with up to 40% experiencing high anxiety, up to 44% experiencing high depression, and up to 36% experiencing high PTSD as screen via western normed assessments. Bethany utilizes TFCBT, DBT, ACT, MI, and EMDR, all of which are evidenced-based and effective therapies to treat trauma. TFCBT (Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy) is heavily relied upon within our refugee programs and adapts the TF-CBT model of Drs. Mannarino and Cohen at Allegheny General Hospital in Pittsburgh, PA. TFCBT has been found to be clinically effective in URM (ages 13-17) population (Unterhitzenger, Eberle-Sejari, Rassenhofer, Sukale, Rosner, and Goldbeck; 2015). While TFCBT is only evidence-based with children and adolescents, we have seen success in using the adapted model in our adult refugee population. Bethany's Healing Center has been highly effective in building therapeutic relationships with the refugee population and successfully treating serious mental health concerns over the last 13 years. Similar training and treatment models used in this program will be expanded for our new outpatient center.

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Behavioral health services are eligible



Sustainability

Does not include a funding plan or fund availability after expending all the ARPA dollars.



Feasibility



PROJECT #175

Project Faulu - Satellite Site Expansion

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$450,000

Maximum Cost: \$650,000

Submitter Info

Name: Meg Derrer

Organization:
Refugee Education Center

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Immigrant Services

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

We will need to develop the Employer Partner Program and look forward to including many employers across sectors

Identify the need for the proposed project

Refugee Education Center (REC) has been cultivating the workforce of the future for 16 years. We exist to create an environment where refugee children can learn and thrive as they receive an American education. We acknowledge the unique needs of refugee students and design our programs and services to coincide with traditional education in order that students may excel academically at an equitable rate as their American-born peers - and prepare for success in their new homeland. Kent County recognizes that these students are a solution to the talent crisis. REC can increase the number of students impacted by our programming by doubling our Project Faulu satellite sites. At these sites, we will be able to offer literacy and language acquisition, STEM/STEAM curriculum, and socio-emotional wellbeing support.

Brief Description

Refugee Education Center will increase/double its Project Faulu programming sites from 6 - 12 sites. We will be able to serve a minimum of 100 more refugee students. We will use this money to pay for program supplies, curriculum innovation, transportation, language access, volunteer support + management, operational support and space rental. We will expand our current curriculum to include an Employer Partner program where local employers can begin to educate and recruit future employees. We will hire a manager for this program. REC can also offer education to employers on how to create a culture of belonging for individuals from a refugee background.

Long-Term Benefit

Studies show, refugees bring productivity when they are integrated across various communities. They help enrich their local communities, creating a cultural diversity within the local population + helping nurture understanding and appreciation for social diversity. Years after their settlement, refugees continue to stimulate the economy, often boosting economic activity and increasing wages. They also complement the job market boasting high rates of entrepreneurship and creating jobs.

Intended Beneficiary

There are multiple beneficiaries. The refugee children + by extension their families who are being prepared for success in their new country. The local employers and our economy which benefits from REC's preparation of a culturally diverse talent pool, our community that will enjoy the opportunity to appreciate all that New American's bring to west Michigan.

Estimated Cost

\$450,000 - \$650,000

Project Management Experience

Refugee Education Center is part of a healthy refugee eco-system in the state of Michigan and as such, have experience with working from a collaborative framework. We receive a large part of our funding from state + federal funders and are qualified and experienced leading/managing projects that include multiple partners and stake-holders.



(Page 2)

Federal Funds Experience

Refugee Education Center receives large grants from the state and federal government and we are experienced with the expectations and reporting connected with these dollars.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$450,000

Maximum Cost: \$650,000

Submitter Info

Name: Meg Derrer

Organization:
Refugee Education Center

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Immigrant Services

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Studies on Impact

<https://giwps.georgetown.edu/refugees-have-billions-to-contribute-to-u-s-economy/>

<https://www.icmc.net/2020/07/14/refugees-good-or-bad-for-economy/>

<https://research.newamericaneconomy.org/report/from-struggle-to-resilience-the-economic-impact-of-refugees-in-america/> <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/up-front/2018/06/19/refugees-are-a-win-win-win-formula-for-economic-development/>

Guidehouse Ranking Notes

 **Eligibility**

Programs that addresses educational disparities are eligible.

 **Sustainability**

Does not include a funding plan or fund availability after expending all the ARPA dollars.

 **Feasibility**

Source of Funding

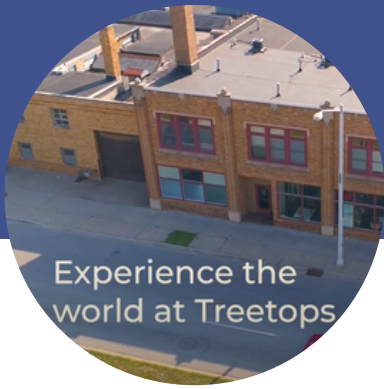
n/a

Partnership

We will need to develop the Employer Partner Program and look forward to including many employers across sectors

PROJECT #232

New American Resource Hub



Identify the need for the proposed project

Treetops Collective is deeply rooted in relationships with New American community leaders through our Concentric program and was involved in the development of the Kent County Welcome Plan. Through the feedback we've received through our programs in the process of developing that plan, we have continuously heard the desire for a space that can be community owned and focused on the interests and needs of refugee and immigrant communities.

Brief Description

In order to deliver on the goals of The Welcome Plan there must be investment in cultivating an ecosystem for connections, opportunities, reform, and ownership to take root. Through the creation of a cross-cultural community center at 906 Division we believe that we can increase access to resources through language leaders, feedback loops that would allow better service delivery from local organizations, and a hub for emerging ethnic based community organizations and entrepreneurs. To steward this space, provide capacity building and orchestrate new connections we are seeking investment into this resource hub model. In addition to managerial and infrastructure needs we are proposing language-based strategies for increasing access to resources and opportunities for those who have arrived as refugees and immigrants. As we establish network connectivity, conduct asset maps, and create communication trees for the different language communities it is important to have a central hub that ensures information is getting out to the community efficiently. Kent County is rich with services and opportunities for growth but many New Americans are unaware of what is available to them. In partnership with WMAA, Glimpse of Africa, Hispanic Center, Bhutanese Community of Michigan, and other ECBO's we would establish opportunities for individuals in the community looking to grow their experience and serve their community by being a part of multiple resource teams and networks.

Long-Term Benefit

The establishment of this resource hub, service platform and investment in a connected ecosystem to support the work of welcoming is a tangible way for the county to invest in the operationalizing of The Welcome Plan. This would create opportunities for language leaders in the community to be paid for their expertise, create more access to resources, and more fully utilize the services provided by local organizations.

Intended Beneficiary

The entire community

*Partnership

African Collaborative Network, Motherland Cultural Connections, Hands Connected, A Glimpse of Africa, MomsBloom, Fountain Hill Center, Heart of West Michigan United Way, ICCF Community Homes, Kent District Library, Lighthouse Immigrant Advocates, West Michigan Literacy Center, Bethany Christian Services, Samaritas, Spectrum Health - Healthier Communities, Safe Haven Ministries, LINC Up, Bhutanese Community of Michigan, Wolverine Building Group, Ugandans of West Michigan, United Methodist Community House, West Michigan Home Care

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$4,200,000

Maximum Cost: \$4,200,000

Submitter Info

Name: Tarah Carnahan

Organization: Treetops Collective

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Immigrant Services

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:

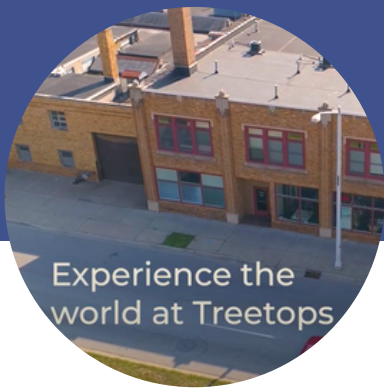


Source of Funding

Treetops Collective is pursuing a capital campaign to secure private funding for the renovation of our building. We have already raised 1,310,820.72 for this project, including \$500,000 from the Office of Global Michigan.

Partnership

(Listed in main description)



(Page 2)

Estimated Cost

4.2 million

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$4,200,000

Maximum Cost: \$4,200,000

Submitter Info

Name: Tarah Carnahan

Organization: Treetops Collective

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Immigrant Services

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Project Management Experience

We have not yet led a county-wide project but we have extensive experience in collaborating with other organizations as evidenced by our over 20 letters of support for our cross-cultural community center.

Federal Funds Experience

Treetops Collective received over \$92,000 in CARES Act funds at the end of 2020 and successfully executed all funds in a limited amount of time.

Studies on Impact

Our project is based in part on Allport's Intergroup Contact Theory. More on that can be found here: <https://www.simplypsychology.org/contact-hypothesis.html>

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

Multiple eligibility lanes here. Additional information will be needed if the proposal moves forward in the process.

Source of Funding

Treetops Collective is pursuing a capital campaign to secure private funding for the renovation of our building. We have already raised 1,310,820.72 for this project, including \$500,000 from the Office of Global Michigan.

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

PROJECT #14

Cross-Cultural Community Center



Identify the need for the proposed project

By listening to New American community leaders for many years, including and especially through the process of developing the Kent County Welcome Plan

Brief Description

Treetops Collective is proposing an investment in the renovation of our building into a cross-cultural community center focused on connecting New Americans to local resources and opportunities. Grand Rapids and West Michigan have long been communities that have welcomed refugees and have been grown through the investments and innovation of immigrants and refugees.

Long-Term Benefit

Investing in New American community members' ability to thrive in West Michigan is beneficial to our economy as well as our social fabric. Our community will benefit from increased opportunities for members from different ethnic and immigration backgrounds to connect, exchange ideas, and learn from one another. Co-locating service provision, entrepreneurship space, and community space for individual and collective connection would be a unique offering in West Michigan.

Intended Beneficiary

Immigrants and refugees are the primary intended beneficiary for the services and opportunities offered in this space, but space, activities, and opportunities will be available to all members of the Kent County community

*Partnership

Bhutanese Community of Michigan, Heart of West Michigan United Way, West Michigan Home Care, Spectrum Health Healthier Communities, Kent District Library, Ugandans of West Michigan, Safe Haven Ministries, Motherland Cultural Connections, African Collaborative Network, Samaritas, A Glimpse of Africa, ICCF Community Homes, Fountain Hill Center, United Methodist Community House, MomsBloom, Wolverine Building Group, Bethany Christian Services, Lighthouse Immigrant Advocates, West Michigan Asian American Association, Literacy Center of West Michigan,

Estimated Cost

2600000

Project Management Experience

Our organization has extensive experience working collaboratively with a variety of partners and community leaders. We are currently partnering with the Kent County Health Department to increase health care access in New American communities. We have some experience managing large amounts of money from government agencies due to opportunities created in response to the covid-19 pandemic.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$2,600,000

Maximum Cost: \$2,600,000

ARPA Request: \$600,000

Submitter Info

Name: Abigail Punt

Organization:
Treetops Collective

Project Overview

Funding Group:

Economic Innovation and
Workforce Development

Project Theme: Immigrant Services

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

500000 received from the State of Michigan, individual donors have already given over \$900,000

Partnership

(Listed in main description)



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$2,600,000

Maximum Cost: \$2,600,000

ARPA Request: \$600,000

Submitter Info

Name: Abigail Punt

Organization:
Treetops Collective

Project Overview

Funding Group:

Economic Innovation and
Workforce Development

Project Theme: Immigrant Services

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Federal Funds Experience

We received about \$92,000 of CARES Act funding through Kent County. There were some challenges managing these funds due to a tight timeline and navigating an internal bookkeeping transition during that period, but those were unique circumstances and we still managed those funds effectively.

Studies on Impact

The value Treetops Collective places on cross-cultural connection and community building is rooted in part in Intergroup Contact Theory. This theory was first developed by Gordon Allport in response to racial segregation resulting from Jim Crow laws in the U.S. The crux of this theory tells us that when people from different groups interact more regularly under certain conditions, the prejudice they have toward one another decreases. Learn more about this theory here:

<https://www.in-mind.org/article/intergroup-contact-theory-past-present-and-future>

Supporting Documentation

1. [Treetops 906 Division Drawing](#)

2. [2022 Program One-Pagers](#)

3. [Letters for Support \(x21\)](#)

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

Potentially eligible but additional details and scoping is necessary to ensure it is within the rules.

Source of Funding

500000 received from the State of Michigan, individual donors have already given over \$900,000

Partnership

(Listed in main description)



PROJECT #81

Eritrean Cultural Civic & Community Center

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$150,000

Maximum Cost: \$250,000

Submitter Info

Name: Abrehet Joseph

Organization: Eritrean Cultural
Civic & Community Center

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Immigrant Services

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Other Funding Source

n/a

Partnership

Kent County Health Department.
Early Childhood Neighborhood
Collaborative. Bethany Christian
Services. Kettering University.
Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox
Church. MedhanieAlem Orthodox
Church.

Identify the Need for the Proposed Project

We have a large community of Eritreans in the Grand Rapids metropolitan area who need a safe place where they are heard, understood and accepted. A place they can go to for help when they need it, especially when it comes to issues of transportation, health, housing and education. This includes the Eritrean refugees who are being resettled here, as well as the Eritrean-American citizens who have built their lives and families here. We want to continue to be a anchor for the Eritreans in the surrounding cities of Lansing, Flint, Detroit and Chicago.

Brief Description

We would like to be able to teach refugees in our community how to speak, read and write in English. We want to partner with bigger health organizations to provide workshops and seminars on physical and mental health issues as well as create vaccination clinics for our community, as we've done previously with Kent County Health and Glimpse of Africa who assisted with our Covid-19 vaccination clinic. We want to provide needed repairs to our building and parking lot to better serve our community and its visitors. We want to update the building to be able to rent it out as an event venue for Grand Rapids. This would allow us to generate revenue and remain sustainable as a project. We have run multiple fundraisers, attended by people from all over the USA, in which the Eritrean community continues to financially reinvest in itself and its people. We want to partner with the Early Childhood Neighborhood Collaborative and Kettering University for their pre-college summer learning program. We want to continue to partner with Bethany Christian Services in helping clothe, feed, house and provide Eritrean refugees with work opportunities. We want to continue to provide tax preparation seminars and information obtaining US citizenship.

Long-Term Benefit

We will be drawing people to the community and city of GR that normally would not have visited the city. We will be improving our community members' lives through education and mental health resources so that they may become productive members of the workforce and not have trouble with the law. We will be providing an event venue people can rent in GR that can generate revenue. We will be providing an education center with computers, free WiFi and access to housing and citizenship resources.

Intended Beneficiary

The Eritrean Community of Grand Rapids, and the surrounding cities of Lansing, Flint, Detroit & Chicago

Estimated Cost

150,000-250,000



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Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$150,000

Maximum Cost: \$250,000

Submitter Info

Name: Abrehet Joseph

Organization: Eritrean Cultural
Civic & Community Center

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Immigrant Services

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Project Management Experience

We have run vaccination clinics through our partnership with Kent County Health. The Eritrean community participated in The Glimpse of Africa festival by cooking and running a food booth and by providing leadership for the festival through board participation. We would like for people outside the Eritrean community to access our services. Our community members span the cities of Grand Rapids, Kentwood, Walker and Rockford. We serve as an anchor for the Eritreans all over the United States.

Federal Funds Experience

n/a

Studies on Impact

<https://www.brookings.edu/research/the-future-of-the-inclusive-economy-is-in-activity-centers/>

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

Eligible under non-profit support. Additional information will be needed if the proposal moves forward in the process.

Other Funding Source

n/a

Partnership

Kent County Health Department.
Early Childhood Neighborhood
Collaborative. Bethany Christian
Services. Kettering University.
Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox
Church. MedhanieAlem Orthodox
Church.



PROJECT #66

Happy people, Healthy communities

Identify the need for the proposed project

Our collective well-being makes a healthier community. Our project is founded on the belief that all people should have access to what is needed to live their healthiest lives, by creating systems that address a whole person's care and wellbeing versus their isolated aspects of life. We serve new Americans facing disparities due to cultural, language, and systemic barriers. In addition to the existing racial discrimination, the African/black immigrant and refugees also face increased challenges due to language, system, and cultural barriers. These intersectionalities exacerbate these communities' isolation and lack of access to essential resources and opportunities necessary to become thriving overall healthy community members. Our projects and programs are aimed to alleviate these traumas and challenges to help provide peace of mind and an overall good quality of life. Our mental health healing and listening sessions are designed to address the social pressures that cause mental health to provide awareness, multi-lingual education, and resources in a safe inclusive space. Our project's goal is to create an empowering sustainable social-economic prosperity hub with a host of essential resources, such as an affordable prep kitchen for emerging food businesses, language support, and entrepreneur classes to elevate startup businesses to self-sufficiency. In the wake of the pandemic, we learned pre-kitchens are needed to keep food production alive. A Glimpse of Africa is a well-respected, trusted organization with a track record of bringing people together, convening and engaging new Americans and local communities to forge a way forward. During our annual festival, we host more than 50 vendors, who could use a space to learn more about registering and taking their business from "mom and pop" to a thriving small business. This project/program goal is to provide a high quality of life by stopping poverty rooted in a lack of inclusion and equitable access to health, education, and social and economic opportunities. Our organization's projects motto is bringing people together because we know "Together we are Stronger" we bring people together, to educate and embrace the beautiful, diverse cultures represented in our county and West Michigan at Large to a stronger united community. A Glimpse of Africa partners with many other organizations in the community to conduct its programs, particularly organizations that are led by or center the voices of New Americans, immigrants, and refugees. One of our strengths is acting as a convener for organizations and local leaders who have expertise in the areas of work we have selected. For example, efforts to increase mental health awareness and resources among African communities are carried out in partnership with local practitioners of color and organizations such as Family Outreach Services, Grand Rapids African American Health Institute, Treetops Collective, AYA, Bethany Christian Services, and more. Our Art and culture programs are done hand in hand by our local African immigrants and refugee groups, artists, and business. Our civic engagement efforts are in partnership with NAACP, and Urban League, Grand Rapids has many resources, but we use our expertise, networks, and reputation among African immigrants and refugees to address the barriers African community members face in accessing these resources.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$1,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$1,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Fridah Kanini

Organization: A Glimpse of Africa

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Immigrant Services

Project Status: Existing Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Other Funding Source

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Brief Description

Creating an equitable, accessible space and programs with the language and cultural competency where New Americans can feel welcome and have a sense of belonging. An inclusive representation of languages, culture, food, and a post-settlement integration plan that is well planned to set them up for success. A space and system specifically designed for New Americans can cultivate great connections with the local residents, include an incubator program for basic business skills, and access resources in alignment with the Kent County Welcome Plan. Additionally, our project/ programs align with the World Health Organization statement which describes wellbeing as not just the absence of disease or illness but the complex combination of a person's physical, mental, emotional, and social health factors. Well-being is strongly linked to happiness and life satisfaction socially, economically, and in other ways that positively impact one's life. Key components: Multilingual staff with lived experiences to create a sense of representation. providing essential mental health resources, activities, and discussions designed for the diverse refugee and immigrant communities. Providing cross-cultural education to build trust and confidence in healthcare services. Providing a directory of handpicked health specialists from the impacted communities. Providing resources in collaboration with local partners such as Clinicians of Color, Catherine's Health Center, Hispanic Center,



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Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$1,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$1,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Fridah Kanini

Organization: A Glimpse of Africa

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Immigrant Services

Project Status: Existing Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Other Funding Source

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Long-Term Benefit

Thriving healthy communities due to more people having access to essential resources and opportunities. A business incubator space will create economic prosperity and more community engagements. Less racial and inter-cultural tensions and hate crimes. Equitable access to opportunities for the less privileged populations will reduce poverty. Building a proactive culture versus reactive culture when crises happen. Helping our government and institutional systems to improve on equity and inclusion

Intended Beneficiary

A Glimpse of Africa is an equal opportunity organization and does not discriminate in its administrative, program operations or in provision of services. Therefore we serve anyone that needs our support and services! While we do not discriminate, our programs and services are custom designed for the New American(immigrants and refugees) more specifically the African community members, we also serve people of color, and any other New American impacted by culture, systemic and language barriers. We serve adults, youth, low income families, and any other underserved/marginalized persons or groups who may benefit from our support

*Partnership

We do not have signed partnership contracts with any of the following organizations we have had conversations and or have ongoing partnerships with the following organizations that we plan to continue and expand with the help of the ARPA grant. United way, UHMWest, Kent county Health Department and GRAAHI: Partnership on our Mental health, Covid19 vaccine and wellness, K-connectGrant writing support Michigan Nonprofit Associations: partnership on Civic engagements programs Hispanic center- Partnership on Youth programs, Health and wellness as well as working together to provide language support GROW & Flora's Elegance Events: We plan to work with and partnership on the incubator and prep kitchen. These partners would ensure we mobilize, organize and promote the talents, artists, culture through business training, Showcasing, promotion and finances lending support . We hope to partner with Grand Rapids Chamber on Leadership training support

Estimated Cost

1,000, 000

*Other Funding Source

we are planning to apply for federal and private grants. We also plan to work with other community partners to support and cost-share where applicable. We hope with your support we can get the organization's capacity/structures in place to support running our much-needed space and programs. We are also planning to fundraise and create monthly donor options through fundraiser events. With our heavy involvement in the community providing support and services, especially in the wake of Patrick Lyoya death, we hope donors will see and value and support great community work that makes our county and city a thriving place.



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Project Management Experience

We have experience working on Covid19 vaccines during the pandemic with kent county Health Department, United Way, and MDHHS, We also have Worked

Federal Funds Experience

We have not yet been directly awarded a federal grant but we have worked under Bethany Christian services as a sub-grantee one some of their federal grants. We did some grant reporting in collaboration with them

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$1,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$1,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Fridah Kanini

Organization: A Glimpse of Africa

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Immigrant Services

Project Status: Existing Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Studies on Impact

We do not have research done yet but we know traditional healthcare treats only one part of a person leaving out health components that are very critical to a persona's wholeness and wellbeing. While we cannot address all, our project aims to support many aspects of our lives that influence our state of well-being. According to Eccovia a resettlement agency and World health statements factors that influence well-being are interrelated. For example, a job provides not just money but purpose, goals, and friendships. Essential needs provide peace of mind while Poverty causes anxiety, poor health, and sadness A community provides a sense of belonging. Some factors also make up for the lack of others.

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Potentially eligible under support for non-profits.



Sustainability

Does not include a funding plan or fund availability after expending all the ARPA dollars.



Feasibility

Other Funding Source

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)



PROJECT #306

Cleaning training for East African Refugees in Kent County

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$100,000

Maximum Cost: \$100,000

Submitter Info

Name: Edwin Rotich

Organization:
REIN Cleaning Services

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Immigrant Services

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

Bethany Christian Services

Identify the need for the proposed project

REIN Cleaning was asked by individuals and Bethany Christian Services to train a refugee family in cleaning and maintaining their house. REIN Cleaning has helped a few families on a voluntary basis, but recognized a great need under the East African Refugee Community, which cannot be offered on a voluntary basis.

Brief Description

Kent County has a long history of refugee resettlement. Many of these refugees come from Eastern Africa. Housing and living conditions are quite different. Many refugee families find it hard to maintain their houses and use appliances, according to American standards. The lack of knowledge on how to use electric appliances, such as vacuum cleaners, microwaves, ovens, and the lack of knowledge about cleaning products and materials in the USA leads to a poor indoor home environment. According to different studies, indoor home environments are the sites of a variety of biological, chemical, and other environmental hazards. Biological hazards include infectious agents such as bacteria and viruses, molds, endotoxins, and antigens from house dust mites, rodents, cockroaches, pollen, and animal dander. A language barrier is one of the reasons for not getting enough knowledge about the American lifestyle. Edwin Rotich, from Rein Cleaning Services, is a professional cleaner, fluent in Swahili, and understands African culture. He has experience in training refugee families but acknowledges the great need which still exist in Kent County.

Long-Term Benefit

Poor hygiene will lead to more sickness in the families, which can cause absence from school and work, hospital bills, less income, and fire hazards. This will influence the economic situation for both the refugee families and the government when the refugee families need economical assistance and business and factories miss their employees. More knowledge of cleaning and the use of appliances will help refugee families to prevent and control pests and improve public health.

Intended Beneficiary

East African Refugees (Swahili speaking community)

Estimated Cost

East African Refugees (Swahili speaking community)

Project Management Experience

Edwin, the manager of REIN Cleaning Services, has a healthy cleaning organization. He has been a project leader of KIMON NGO (A Dutch Organization) in Kenia for 4 years.

Federal Funds Experience

Edwin has experience with working with federal funds in Kenya, but not in the USA.



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Studies on Impact

I could not find any studies on training immigrant families on household hygiene, pest control, the right use of appliances, and the effects on the community. However, there are many studies that show the influence of poor hygiene on infections in the community.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$100,000

Maximum Cost: \$100,000

Submitter Info

Name: Edwin Rotich

Organization:
REIN Cleaning Services

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Immigrant Services

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

Bethany Christian Services

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

May be eligible under public health.



Sustainability

Does not include a funding plan or fund availability after expending all the ARPA dollars.



Feasibility

15

LEAD





PROJECT #30

Lead education and Prevention workshops (parent lead/grassroots)

Identify the need for the proposed project

As a parent led grassroots group in one of the high risk areas for lead poisoning in our community, we have discovered the need for early education and preventive measures to ensure the safety of our children.

Brief Description

We are proposing funds to support local parents to educate, involve and activate community members by providing workshops throughout the community in common spaces that feels safe and open to learn ways to prevent/ reduce the risk of lead hazards in homes, workplaces and most importantly children. Parents will lead workshops from personal stories, experiences, and advocacy. At the end of the workshops members of our community will feel informed, empowered and capable of helping their families identify risk. We will connect families to community resources and meet people where they are. We will set goals with members all while building relations and trust as we learn together for better.

Long-Term Benefit

Reduced number of lead poisoned children. Strong community /Parent relationships. Resources community really want and need. Education the undeserved community can resonate with.

Intended Beneficiary

Undeserved community BIPOC and people who are not likely in spaces where lead education is provided.

Estimated Cost

5,000-10,000 depending on how many workshops

Project Management Experience

We have experience.

Federal Funds Experience

We have a Fiduciary/partner that is proficient with working with federal funds.

Studies on Impact

No

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$5,000

Maximum Cost: \$10,000

Submitter Info

Name: Tabitha Williams

Organization:

Parents for Healthy Homes

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Lead

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

n/a

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Public outreach and education on lead risk is eligible



Sustainability

This will contain a limited number of workshops



Feasibility



PROJECT #166

Lead Service Line Replacements

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$1,500,000

Maximum Cost: \$7,212,390

ARPA Request: \$1,500,000

Submitter Info

Name: Wayne Jernberg

Organization: City of Grand Rapids

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Lead

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 76% or greater

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

The city received a \$5 million grant from the EPA for private lead line replacements, which will replace approximately 1,600 lead lines.

Partnership

n/a

Identify the need for the proposed project

Since 2017, the City of Grand Rapids has been proactively replacing lead lines throughout the city during emergency leaks and construction projects. There are currently approximately 23,000 lead lines in the system and estimate that \$140 million of funding will be needed to replace them by 2030. The City is required to replace all its lead lines by 2030 without proper funding from the state. Lead lines are actively being replaced, but the cost of replacements affects customers' water rates.

Brief Description

The City is attempting to tackle the replacement of private lead lines that are connected to a public copper line. This approach is cheaper, and the work can be completed faster. In the past year, there has been a 15% cost increase for lead line replacements on private property. As of today, the City still has 7,146 private lead lines. \$1.5 million would help eliminate approximately 500 more private lead lines.

Long-Term Benefit

This project will remove a lead source in homes and protect public health.

Intended Beneficiary

The project will benefit approximately 500 homes with a private lead line.

Estimated Cost

\$1.5 million - \$7.2 million

Project Management Experience

The City of Grand Rapids regularly manages infrastructure projects in its service area, including but not limited to projects in Cascade, Walker, and Grand Rapids Township.

Federal Funds Experience

The City of Grand Rapids was awarded a \$5 million Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grant for private lead line replacements. We report our progress and money expended to the EPA.

Studies on Impact

Yes. The EPA has released data on lead line replacements and effectiveness.

<https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/lead-service-line-replacement>

Supporting Documentation

1. [Grant Agreement](#)

2. [Project Narrative](#)

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

Replacement of lead service lines is eligible



PROJECT #258

Renovate Right Training for Contractors, Property Managers, and Rental Property Owners

Identify the need for the proposed project

The Kent County Lead Task Force, in its December 2017 report “Ending Child Lead Exposure in Kent County,” specified the need for contractor and rental property owner training in lead-safe work practices. That report, in Section 3: Risk Identification and Elimination Objectives, specifically recommends action to “Educate contractors and rental property owners, especially individuals new to those occupations, about the federally mandated certification program (Lead Renovation, Repair, and Painting training).” The federal Renovation, Repair, and Painting Rule (RRP), administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (US-EPA), provides the first line of defense for ensuring renovation and maintenance staff disturbing lead-based paint in older housing do not unintentionally create lead hazards. Unsafe renovation is a significant contributor to childhood lead poisoning. The City of Grand Rapids works with renovation contractors and rental property owners in various capacities. During that work, City staff frequently encounter contractors and property owners that are unaware of their legal obligation to be trained and certified under RRP when working in pre-1978 housing and child occupied facilities and the public health value of working lead-safe. Further, the US-EPA lists fewer than 200 Kent County firms and/or individuals as certified. This is significantly less than the number of contractors, painters, rental property owners, and property management firms in Kent County. A campaign to promote lead-safe work practices and free RRP training will result in a higher-skilled workforce, more certified firms, and increased safety for children.

Brief Description

Renovation in pre-1978 housing that disturbs lead-based paint, when done incorrectly, can create significant hazards for dwelling occupants, especially young children. Training contractors, rental property owners, and others in lead-safe work practices will build the skill of the workforce to work safely, prevent the use of hazardous work practices, and reduce children’s exposure to the toxic lead dust which is the leading cause of childhood lead poisoning. This project proposes to promote the Renovation, Repair and Painting program throughout Kent County (in partnership with federal and State partners) and to train a minimum of 600 contractors, rental property owners, and other renovators in four years.

Long-Term Benefit

The long-term benefit is fewer children poisoned by toxic lead dust—the leading cause of lead poisoning. The use of lead-safe work practices contributes significantly to the reduction of lead hazards in housing. Workforce practices will be improved as training increases knowledge and develops skills. The creation of lead-dust hazards will be eliminated when work is done by trained and skilled labor. Eliminating lead-dust hazards in children’s homes results in fewer lead-poisoned children.

Intended Beneficiary

The primary beneficiary will be children 0-5 years of age living in pre-1978 housing. Secondary beneficiaries will be the construction and rental property industries.

Estimated Cost

\$300,000.00

*Source of Funding

To the extent possible, the City of Grand Rapids will work to attract additional support from the US-EPA and the State of Michigan to promote lead-safe work practices and training and perhaps increase the number of people trained. Local efforts will be coordinated with federal and State efforts to maximize awareness and training.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$300,000

Maximum Cost: \$300,000

ARPA Request: \$300,000

Submitter Info

Name: Paul Haan

Organization: City of Grand Rapids

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Lead

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Kent County Health Department, Home Builder’s Association, Builder’s Exchange of Michigan, Grand Rapids Community College, Rental Property Owners Association, Home Repair Service of Kent County, and LINC UP Nonprofit Housing Corporation



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Project Management Experience

The City of Grand Rapids Community Development Department has extensive experience managing and leading federal, state, local, and philanthropically funded projects of significant size. The department has partnered with the Kent County Health Department, Kent County Community Action and Michigan Department of Health and Human Services on several local and county-wide projects.

Federal Funds Experience

The City's Community Development (CD) Department has been administering large federal funding contracts for more than 45 years. The primary role of the CD Department is administration of federal housing and community development programs, including the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME), Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG), and Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG). Annually the CD Department administers \$8 to \$10 million in program funds. The CD Department has an experienced and skilled staff equipped to handle project implementation and compliance monitoring. The Director has led the department since 2000 and has been responsible for managing more than \$250 million in community investments.

Studies on Impact

According to "10 Policies to Prevent and Respond to Child Lead Exposure," a 2017 report from the Health Impact Project (a joint project of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Pew Charitable Trusts), compliance with the EPA's Renovation, Repair and Painting rule has the greatest return on investment of any proposed strategy to reduce childhood lead exposure, a value of \$3.10 for every dollar spent. The report states, "Unsafe and unregulated remodeling and renovation of older housing that contains lead-based paint pose significant hazards that can increase children's blood lead levels by as much as 69 percent. In a 2013 study, 276 children ranging in age from 6 months to 2 years whose housing underwent interior renovation had mean blood lead levels at 2 years of age that were 12 percent higher than children whose homes were not renovated." "10 Policies to Prevent and Respond to Child Lead Exposure" can be viewed at https://www.pewtrusts.org/-/media/assets/2017/08/hip_childhood_lead_poisoning_report.pdf. Additional research that validates this approach is cited in the end notes of the Health Impact Project report and can be provided upon request.

Supporting Documentation

- [1. Letter of Support #1](#)
- [2. Letter of Support #2](#)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$300,000

Maximum Cost: \$300,000

ARPA Request: \$300,000

Submitter Info

Name: Paul Haan

Organization: City of Grand Rapids

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Lead

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Kent County Health Department, Home Builder's Association, Builder's Exchange of Michigan, Grand Rapids Community College, Rental Property Owners Association, Home Repair Service of Kent County, and LINC UP Nonprofit Housing Corporation

Guidehouse Ranking Notes

 **Eligibility**

Public outreach and education on lead risk is eligible

 **Sustainability**

4 year program. Will be completed in time.

 **Feasibility**



PROJECT #256

Proactive Lead-Dust Sampling in High-Risk Rental Housing

Identify the need for the proposed project

The Kent County Lead Task Force, in its December 2017 report “Ending Child Lead Exposure in Kent County,” specified the need for contractor and rental property owner training in lead-safe work practices. That report, in Section 3: Risk Identification and Elimination Objectives, specifically recommends action to “Educate contractors and rental property owners, especially individuals new to those occupations, about the federally mandated certification program (Lead Renovation, Repair, and Painting training).” The federal Renovation, Repair, and Painting Rule (RRP), administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (US-EPA), provides the first line of defense for ensuring renovation and maintenance staff disturbing lead-based paint in older housing do not unintentionally create lead hazards. Unsafe renovation is a significant contributor to childhood lead poisoning. The City of Grand Rapids works with renovation contractors and rental property owners in various capacities. During that work, City staff frequently encounter contractors and property owners that are unaware of their legal obligation to be trained and certified under RRP when working in pre1978 housing and child occupied facilities and the public health value of working lead-safe. Further, the US-EPA lists fewer than 200 Kent County firms and/or individuals as certified. This is significantly less than the number of contractors, painters, rental property owners, and property management firms in Kent County. A campaign to promote lead-safe work practices and free RRP training will result in a higherskilled workforce, more certified firms, and increased safety for children.

Brief Description

This project will conduct lead-dust sampling in the majority of the 28,000 pre-1978 rental units located in the city of Grand Rapids to identify lead-based paint hazards. This is a primary prevention strategy for property owners and tenants to protect children from the number-one source of lead poisoning—toxic lead dust in the home. Homes are currently not sampled because it is not required and the cost is a disincentive for rental property owners. The project will provide a no-cost opportunity for rental property owners, stimulate economic activity in the lead inspection and lead hazard control sectors, and provide increased safety for Kent County’s children. It will save long-term costs lead poisoning has on health, education, social service, employment, and justice systems. Specifically, this project will fully underwrite private-sector dust sampling costs at 22,732 pre-1978 rental units. It will eliminate an economic impediment, allowing rental property owners and the City of Grand Rapids to collaborate to proactively control lead hazards in rental housing. The City will complement the lead-dust sampling activity with the continued investment of HUD and Medicaid funds to assist property owners with hazard remediation costs.

Long-Term Benefit

The long-term benefit will be a reduction in the number of children with elevated blood lead levels. The monetary costs and nonmonetized impacts associated with child lead exposure to various sectors will be reduced. Savings will be realized by health, education, social service, employment, and justice systems. Children will be healthier, smarter, and better prepared to succeed in life.

Intended Beneficiary

The primary beneficiary will be children 0-5 years of age living in rental housing. Secondary beneficiaries will be rental property owners, all tenants, and the lead inspection industry.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$5,793,274

Maximum Cost: \$5,793,274

Submitter Info

Name: Paul Haan

Organization: City of Grand Rapids

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Lead

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

Rental Property Owners
Association



(Page 2)

Estimated Cost

\$5,793,274 over four years.

*Source of Funding

While there is not funding available to specifically match the investment to provide lead-dust sampling in rental properties, County investment will be matched as the City of Grand Rapids pays for the operation of the rental certification program that is the platform upon which a systematic lead-dust sampling program will be built. The City of Grand Rapids will also continue to leverage approximately \$2 million per year in federal (HUD and Medicaid) funds to assist with lead remediation and abatement costs. The lead-dust sampling program is expected to stimulate increased interest in the remediation and abatement of lead hazards and there is the capacity for the City to attract significant additional federal investment with an increase in private sector demand.

Project Management Experience

The City of Grand Rapids Community Development Department has extensive experience managing and leading federal, state, local, and philanthropically funded projects of significant size. The department has partnered with the Kent County Health Department, Kent County Community Action and Michigan Department of Health and Human Services on several local and county-wide projects.

Federal Funds Experience

The City's Community Development (CD) Department has been administering large federal funding contracts for more than 45 years. The primary role of the CD Department is administration of federal housing and community development programs, including the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME), Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG), and Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG). Annually the CD Department administers \$8 to \$10 million in program funds. The CD Department has an experienced and skilled staff equipped to handle project implementation and compliance monitoring. The Director has led the department since 2000 and has been responsible for managing more than \$250 million in community investments.

Studies on Impact

"Lead-based paint is the major source of lead, but ingestions of leadcontaminated house dust and residential soil are the major pathways for exposure (for children)." AAP Policy Statement: Prevention of Childhood Lead Toxicity. "Lead-based paint and lead-contaminated dust are the most widespread and hazardous sources of lead exposure for young children in the United States." Centers for Disease Control and Prevention <https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/prevention/sources/paint.htm>. Valerie Zartarian, Jianping Xue, Rogelio Tornero-Velez, and James Brown, "Children's Lead Exposure: A Multimedia Modeling Analysis to Guide Public Health Decision-Making," Environmental Health Perspectives Vol. 125, No. 9 (September 2019), <https://doi.org/10.1289/EHP1605>. Benfer, E., Coffey, E., Gold, A., Hanna-Attisha, M., Lanphear, B. P., Li, H., Norton, R. A., Rosner, D., & Walz, K. (September 15, 2020). Health Justice Strategies to Eradicate Lead Poisoning: an Urgent Call to Action to Safeguard Future Generations, Yale Journal of Health Policy, Law, and Ethics, Vol. 19, No. 2, 2020, p. 146. Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=3692852>. Additional research can be provided.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$5,793,274

Maximum Cost: \$5,793,274

Submitter Info

Name: Paul Haan

Organization: City of Grand Rapids

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Lead

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

Rental Property Owners
Association



(Page 3)

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$5,793,274

Maximum Cost: \$5,793,274

Evaluation and remediation of lead paint is eligible in disproportionately impacted communities

4 year project

Submitter Info

Name: Paul Haan

Organization: City of Grand Rapids

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Lead

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

Rental Property Owners
Association



PROJECT #219

Lead Service Line Replacement

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$8,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$10,000,000

ARPA Request: \$500,000

Submitter Info

Name: Shea Charles

Organization:

City of East Grand Rapids

Project Overview

Funding Group: Infrastructure

Project Theme: Lead

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

City of East Grand Rapids
Water Fund

Partnership

n/a

Identify the need for the proposed project

State of Michigan requires all municipal water system must identify lead water service lines by 2027. The City of East Grand Rapids has visually identified 295 lead lines to date and estimates there may be as many as 1,793.

Brief Description

The City of East Grand Rapids is responsible for replacing all lead water service lines over a 20-year period. The city has visually identified 295 lines to date, the City is requesting \$500,000 in APRPA funding to assist in the cost of these replacements. This funding will assist in replacing 100 lead service lines.

Long-Term Benefit

The replacement of lead water service lines is a national priority and an approved funding category in the American Rescue Plan Act.

Intended Beneficiary

Residents of East Grand Rapids

Estimated Cost

\$8 Million - \$10 Million

Project Management Experience

City of East Grand Rapids has successfully administrated various large capital improvement projects.

Federal Funds Experience

City has received various Federal Grants over the years. Current City staff has administered Federal Grants in other communities.

Studies on Impact

Lead Water Service Line Replacement is national and state priority.

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

Replacement of lead services lines is eligible

Project may take a while but only a portion of the project cost is requested



PROJECT #82

Healthy Homes for Healthy kids

Identify the Need for the Proposed Project

The need for this project was determined as a direct result of the current observation and activity of current programming. The community has several strong prevention resources in the community which has clearly identified targets and objectives. However, we've seen the unfortunate very present reality of children continuing to lead poisoning, parents that are continuing to fight for better living conditions, and many others advocating for policy change. We believe that this project helps reduce the risks while creating sustainable positive impacts on the community to create a better good.

Brief Description

The need for this project is based on the needs we continue to see throughout the community; which is flexible & discretionary funds to expand on current activities. Additional funding would allow us to test more homes for lead. The cost of swabs, dust wipes and soil samples has increased, and these are valuable tools to assess families' homes and advise them on next steps. Additional funding could also allow us to provide more immediate solutions for families with lead concerns. We could provide mulch or other ground cover for soil around the home to help families avoid tracking lead into the home and provide a safer place for children to play. We could explore the process of phytoremediation where certain plants are grown in soil with lead levels and over time the plant extracts the metal from the soil. This is an environmentally friendly and lower-cost option that we could explore with families to aid in the removal of the hazard. Funding for additional staff members and training would make a huge impact on our ability to provide these services to the community. We are a small organization and are currently budgeted for 11 staff. The ability to expand and add three more team members would make a huge impact on our ability to serve the community

Long-Term Benefit

The proposed project has several long-term benefits, including a positive increase in overall health, literacy, and life enjoyment. Additionally, a long-term objective of the program is to help children under 5 stay lead-free and benefit the entire community. It improves their Kindergarten readiness. It decreases the likelihood of health problems like damage to the brain and nervous system, learning and behavioral problems, and slowed growth and development.

Intended Beneficiary

Any Kent County Resident with a home built prior to 1978.

Estimated Cost

50-75,000

Project Management Experience

We are currently a recipient of the GTLO grant in collaboration with the City of the Grand Rapids. This grant is a HUD 3-year grant & we manage to hold the grant for multiple contract years.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$50,000

Maximum Cost: \$75,000

Submitter Info

Name: Jameela Maun

Organization: The Healthy Homes Coalition of West Michigan

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Lead

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Other Funding Source

We can provide match funds for up to 30%

Partnership

n/a



(Page 2)

Federal Funds Experience

We have direct experience managing federal funds. We currently have HUD funds and previously did so as well.

Studies on Impact

CDC and EPA. Health Effects of Lead Exposure | Lead | CDC Phytoremediation Resource Guide (epa.gov)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$50,000

Maximum Cost: \$75,000

Submitter Info

Name: Jameela Maun

Organization: The Healthy Homes Coalition of West Michigan

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Lead

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

We can provide match funds for up to 30%

Partnership

n/a

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Lead remediation is eligible



Sustainability

Does not include a funding plan or fund availability after expending all the ARPA dollars.



Feasibility



PROJECT #173

Removing lead paint from a transformative community treasure

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$50,470

Maximum Cost: \$69,850

Submitter Info

Name: Shawn Campbell

Organization:

Gilda's Club Grand Rapids

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Lead

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

We have received restricted funding to complete the "barn" portion of the project. We have also received a gift in the amount of \$10,000 to help with the remediation and abatement project.

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Identify the need for the proposed project

Founded with love by cancer survivors, we officially opened the doors of Gilda's Club Grand Rapids on February 15, 2001. Since our program atmosphere is as important to us as our program, we are purposefully located in a home-like setting in the heart of one of Grand Rapids' west side neighborhoods. Our clubhouse is an 1848 renovated farmhouse with an attached re-constructed barn. Age, time, and wear and tear have caused the need to do significant work on the exterior of the building and grounds. The area of focus for this project is our historic signature farmhouse (the main clubhouse), where the exterior paint is peeling and chipping, and lead paint has been confirmed by city-recommended certified lead inspectors, AAA Lead Inspections. For the safety of the children and families who attend Gilda's Club for free cancer and grief support, we have also requested and received three quotes to perform a risk assessment and remediation by certified lead abatement firms. Our plans are to refurbish, repair, remove the lead paint, and repaint the farmhouse.

Brief Description

Our proposed project is for exterior lead remediation, repair and repainting of the Gilda's Club Grand Rapids Clubhouse located at 1806 Bridge Street in Grand Rapids. The scope of this project includes:

- Final remediation assessment
- Abatement (removal) of exterior lead paint
- Stabilize or replace exterior wood
- Prime and paint (two coats)
- Clean exterior area and grounds for clearance

Gilda's Club Grand Rapids opened its doors to the community in February 2001. Located at 1806 Bridge Street, the clubhouse has served Kent County for over 20 years by supporting thousands of people on a cancer or grief journey. Over 500,000 program visits have been made to our clubhouse. The pandemic was particularly hard for our members. While we immediately implemented virtual programming and were able to provide uninterrupted service during the pandemic it came at a great cost to the organization. We also installed new air filtration equipment and instituted enhanced cleaning protocols to lessen exposure to COVID-19. Again, these measures are necessary but have come with additional expenses for our small non-profit. We know there is still more to do, and lead-based paint is serious business. Given the negative economic impact COVID-19 has had on non-profit funding sources and ongoing philanthropic uncertainty, Gilda's Club is asking for assistance in continuing to make the clubhouse safer by funding the exterior lead remediation, repair, and repainting of the historic farmhouse.

Long-Term Benefit

Exposure to lead-based paint chips and dust, as well as soil with higher levels of lead, are most often to blame when it comes to having elevated levels of lead in the body. We host between 15- 20,000 member visits annually; many members are considered moderately or severely immunocompromised due to their conditions and treatments. The project will help protect our members from possible lead exposure, ensuring there will always be a safe place for people to connect and receive support.

Intended Beneficiary

We know that one in two men and one in three women will encounter a cancer diagnosis in their lifetime, and nearly everyone has been affected by the death of someone in their life. Gilda's Club is a free support service to anyone in Kent County/West Michigan. Ensuring a warm, welcoming, and safe environment is essential for an organization that is core to the health of this community.



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$50,470

Maximum Cost: \$69,850

Submitter Info

Name: Shawn Campbell

Organization:

Gilda's Club Grand Rapids

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Lead

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

We have received restricted funding to complete the "barn" portion of the project. We have also received a gift in the amount of \$10,000 to help with the remediation and abatement project.

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

*Partnership

Through the generosity of a third-party fundraising event, Echelon Properties and its partners will be covering the costs of the exterior maintenance of the barn (which is connected to the clubhouse). The barn, built in 1991, does not have lead issues but is in serious need of repair and will need to be repainted to match the clubhouse.

Estimated Cost

\$ 50,470.00 - \$69,850.00

Project Management Experience

None

Federal Funds Experience

We have previous experience with a \$50,000 COVID-related grant from the County, as well as first-round funding support from the Payroll Protection Plan (PPP) funding. All applicable report requirements were completed and accepted.

Studies on Impact

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and countless experts agree that there is no known safe level of lead in a child's blood. No child, no family, no teacher, no American should drink water with lead or be exposed to lead paint in their homes. • UCI Newkirk Center for Science and Society – Chipping away at the Lead Crisis through Community Activism – February 17, 2022 • Environmental Protection Agency – Lead Based Paint – January 3, 2022 • The Biden-Harris Lead Pipe/Paint Action Plan

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

Remediation of lead paint is only eligible in disproportionately impacted communities and this is not in a QCT. Individuals or communities served is not clear or does not align with Treasury guidelines' definition of 'impacted' or 'disproportionately impacted'. Eligible under revenue replacement as a government service.

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MEDICAL CARE



PROJECT #103

Healthy Starts Here (HSH)– Finish Phase 1 and Start/Finish Phase 2



Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$1,800,000

Maximum Cost: \$3,100,000

ARPA Request: \$1,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Kurtis Kaechele

Organization: Streams of Hope

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Medical Care

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Identify the need for the proposed project

In 2019, Streams of Hope (Streams) conducted a community assessment and discovered the neighborhood surrounding the organization (49548) sits in what was considered a “medical desert” meaning that access to healthcare options for those living near the poverty line was limited with three times more people per medical provider than the recommended rate. The closest health care center (Exalta Health) providing services to individuals regardless of their ability to pay was almost seven miles away – a major barrier for an already underserved population. That’s why Streams launched the “Healthy Starts Here” capital campaign to build a new medical, dental and behavioral clinic on campus with Catherine’s Health Center. With the help of private donations from individuals, businesses, and organizations, Streams was able to raise \$2.1 million dollars for this project. However, due to the rising costs of construction, and unplanned expenses, the estimated cost for completion is now \$2.6 million dollars.

With the funds requested, Streams can complete HSH Phase 1 debt free, and fast track a five-year plan with Healthy Starts Here Phase 2. This will help solidify and expand the partnership with Catherine’s Health Center, while adding new opportunities for life and career skills for neighborhood youth, provide fresh fruits and vegetables for neighbors, and expand Streams’ footprint in their disadvantaged neighborhood. The Streams’ community assessment concluded the 49548 zip code grew at a higher rate (5.63%) than Kent County (1.09%) as a whole from 2015 to 2016. Almost 50% of the population earn below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), and 7.70% of those living in this zip code are non U.S. Citizens compared to 4.72% of Kent County’s residents. Streams also learned via the Kent County 2020 Community Health Needs Assessment that obesity, food access, and physical activity remain issues: •30.8% of adults have BMIs over 30 and middle school and high school youth obesity rates rose from 9.7% and 11.4% respectively, to 15.8% and 14.9% from 2014 to 2020. Low consumption of fruits and vegetables was evident as only one in 10 adults meet the USDA recommendation of 1.5-2 cups of fruit and 2-3 cups of vegetable daily. According to one survey respondent, “Without reliable transportation, the only place for easy food access is a Dollar General that doesn’t offer healthy food items or fresh food.” The report also indicates the “barriers to healthy eating include limited availability and access to healthy foods, high cost, and perceived lack of cooking knowledge or preparation time” (pg. 72). Getting the recommended 60 minutes per day of physical activity is an issue for middle school and high school youth as 56% did not meet the recommendation on 5 or more of the past 7 days. As youth and adults struggle to maintain a healthy lifestyle, it contributes to obesity in children and chronic health conditions in adults.

Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

Partnerships include Catherine’s Health Center, Kentwood Public Schools, and Kent School Services Network (KSSN).

Brief Description

Our proposed project helps complete our current “Healthy Starts Here” (HSH) Campaign. Phase 1 began in February of 2021 with a \$2.1 million dollar expansion on the Streams of Hope campus which will be home to a new medical, dental, and behavioral health clinic operated by Catherine’s Health Center. It will also allow Streams to double the capacity of existing free developmental programs. This projects’ cost has increased to 2.6 million dollars and is expected to be completed in December of 2022. These funds will fast track Phase 2 of HSH which includes expanding the campus by purchasing two acres from a neighbor. With the extra space, Streams plans to add container greenhouses so that produce can be grown nearly year-round. This will provide an opportunity for the middle school and high school youth to learn to grow, harvest, and prepare their own food with a simple message – if you learn to grow your own food, you’ll never go hungry. The additional produce grown on campus will also supplement the fresh food section of the Streams’ pantry and strengthen the partnership with Catherine’s by adding a “VeggieRX program. Patients with chronic conditions will have priority access to fresh produce and special sections of the pantry. This partnership with Catherine’s also includes health and wellness classes so community members can learn about healthy eating and food prep plus engage in physical activity.



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$1,800,000

Maximum Cost: \$3,100,000

ARPA Request: \$1,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Kurtis Kaechele

Organization: Streams of Hope

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Medical Care

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

Partnerships include Catherine's Health Center, Kentwood Public Schools, and Kent School Services Network (KSSN).

Long-Term Benefit

The benefits of this project are healthy schools, healthy families, and a healthy neighborhood, plus a model collaboration that can be duplicated in other communities. Working with Catherine's Health Center and the community, Streams brings healthcare; fresh, nutritious food; free after-school educational and recreational programs; and adult health and wellness classes to vulnerable families. This project will be transformative for one of Kent County's poorest neighborhoods.

Intended Beneficiary

The intended beneficiary of this program includes low income, vulnerable families and neighbors that live in the SE side of Kentwood, Cutlerville, and portions Gaines Township (49548).

Estimated Cost

\$400,000 to complete the Healthy Starts Here Phase 1 building project (estimated completion date: December 2022) This project includes a medical/dental/behavioral healthcare center in partnership with Catherine's Health Center. It's also enables Streams of Hope to double the size of their free developmental and educational programs. \$200,000 to purchase property from a neighbor expanding the Streams' campus from 5 to 7 acres total so that there is enough space for outdoor activities and sports along with the expanded building and gardening areas. \$100,000 to build a garage for the food pantry box truck and storage for the community gardens and rec programs. \$300,000 for the veggie RX program and sustainable pantry produce growing operation with shipping container greenhouses for yearround produce and life skills/career path programming for middle school and high school youth as part of the youth SWAG@Streams MS/HS program. (SWAG is Succeeding While Achieving Greatness.) For an estimate of \$1,000,000

*Source of Funding

Sixty-six percent (66%) of the total project is already funded. Streams of Hope's HSH project began in February of 2021 originally as a \$1.8 Million project. SOH was able to secure 2.1 Million in funding from private individuals, organizations, and business partners. The estimated completion date for HSH Phase 1 is December of 2022, with a cost of \$2.6 million dollars. With an additional \$1 million (33%) in ARPA funds, Streams will be able to finish HSH Phase 1 debt free, and fast track our planned HSH Phase 2 for a total of 3.1 million dollars.

Project Management Experience

Streams of Hope has been serving the community members of southern Kent County since 2006. Streams continues to reach out to community members to identify gaps in service and/or barriers to becoming a healthy neighborhood. Input from those living and working in the community is crucial to addressing their needs for a greater impact for families and individuals in the neighborhood.



(Page 3)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$1,800,000

Maximum Cost: \$3,100,000

ARPA Request: \$1,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Kurtis Kaechele

Organization: Streams of Hope

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Medical Care

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

Partnerships include Catherine's Health Center, Kentwood Public Schools, and Kent School Services Network (KSSN).

Federal Funds Experience

USDA boxes for the food pantry. COVID relief fund through Kent County. Catherine's Health Center is a Federally Qualified Health Center. There is opportunity for joint federal grants with Catherine's in the future.

Studies on Impact

There is a study reported by the National Library of Medicine that states "Greater improvement in BMI was found among Veggie Rx programme participants. This information will guide programme changes and inform the field on the effectiveness of healthy food incentive programmes for improving health outcomes for low-income populations."

(<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/27539192/#:~:text=Conclusions%3A%20Greater%20improv,outcomes%20for%20low%20income%20populations.>)

The relationship between physical activity and diet and young children's cognitive development was studied and reported by the National Library of Medicine. It states "Physical activity and healthy diets in early childhood are associated with better cognitive outcomes in young children.... Given that the early childhood years are critical for both obesity prevention and neurocognitive development, evidence that the same healthy behaviors could promote both should inform future interventions."

(<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4929214/>)

Supporting Documentation

1. [Floor Plan](#)
2. [Digital Brochure](#)
3. [Progress Picture](#)
4. [Letter of Support #1](#)
5. [Letter of Support #2](#)
6. [Letter of Support #3](#)

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

Eligible as it would address food insecurity

PROJECT #223

Health Equity Collaborative



Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$23,650,000

Maximum Cost: \$23,650,000

ARPA Request: \$23,650,000

Submitter Info

Name: Ed Postma & Evelyn Esparza-Gonzalez

Organization: Exalta Health and Hispanic Center of Western Michigan

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Medical Care

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

Exalta Health, Hispanic Center of Western Michigan, West Michigan Asian American Association, A Glimpse of Africa, Grand Rapids LGBTQ+ Healthcare Consortium, African Collaborative Network, and Heart of West Michigan United Way

Identify the need for the proposed project

Grand Rapids' 49507 zip code is home to 39,731 people and is the fourth most populated zip code in Kent County out of 31 zip codes. The largest racial and ethnic groups in this zip code are Hispanic (36.9%) followed by Black (28.8%) and White (27.8%). In 2020, the median household income was \$42,426 compared to \$65,772 in Kent County as a whole. In addition, 21.4% of 49507 residents lived in poverty compared to 11.1% in Kent County (Source: US Census, 2020). In Kent County's 49507 zip code, too many people start behind and stay behind because they do not have the same opportunities as others. Social determinants affect all systems, from inequitable medical care to lack of access to adequate housing, childcare, transportation, employment, education, and more. People living with these disparities have shorter, lower quality lives and greater incidence of chronic disease. While health is determined in part by access to health care services, it is also determined by access to social and economic opportunities, including the resources and supports available in our neighborhoods and communities. The need for this project matches the priorities documented in the 2020 Kent County Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA). These priorities include Access to Health Care, Discrimination and Racial Inequity, Economic Security, and Mental Health – and all of the population groups served by this project suffer disproportionately from disparities in these areas. To address these needs, nonprofit organizations that serve residents of the 49507 zip code, including Exalta Health, Hispanic Center of Western Michigan, West Michigan Asian American Association, A Glimpse of Africa, Grand Rapids LGBTQ+ Healthcare Consortium, African Collaborative Network, and Heart of West Michigan United Way combined efforts to determine how best to address health disparities in this zip code. The consensus was to create a welcoming, safe, affirming, culturally appropriate space that focuses on whole person care – including health care, mental health services, immigration services, childcare, a drop off day center for seniors, the 2-1-1 Information & Referral service, and other services that address the social and economic issues that result in stress and are root causes of depression, anxiety, suicide, and chronic disease.

Brief Description

This project will build a community space located in the Burton Heights neighborhood (near Burton and Division) that will house each of this project's seven partner organizations, allowing these organization to have a presence in the neighborhood that they serve. The result will be a facility where these entities connect services in a way that allows 49507 residents to access many crucial services in one convenient location. At the heart of this project will be space for a clinic that provides Exalta Health's high quality medical, dental, and mental health services – and will also house a multi-ethnic community that effectively promotes and sustains health for all populations – from youth to seniors, citizens to immigrants, and families to individuals – resulting in one place that meets many needs. The organizations that inhabit this space will provide services that include immigration support, ESL classes, disease prevention and health literacy education, assistance seeking health insurance benefits, translation/interpretation services, a senior drop-in day center, a childcare center, a prep kitchen, and other intersecting programs. It will also include office space for partner agencies, ample parking, and shared conference and community rooms, reception area, and event space. This space will allow residents of the 49507 zip code access to services that help build a healthy, thriving community.

Long-Term Benefit

Many small-to-medium nonprofits serving a variety of populations under one roof will have a collective impact that will expand services and bring positive, long-term change. This space will be cooperatively owned by partner agencies – somewhat like a condo model, where multiple owners contribute to maintenance fees. This will allow organizations that have traditionally had limited access to assets to own their own space, which will contribute to sustainability and a strong future.



(Page 2)

Intended Beneficiary

The 39,731 people living in the 49507 zip code will benefit most from this project.

*Source of Funding

This \$23,650,000.00 request includes all expenses for constructing a new building or renovating an existing one. Each partner in this project has the track record and commitment to raise the funds needed to run all programs that will take place in this space (which are generally extensions of current programs led by each of the partners in this project). These programs will be supported (as they have historically) by a mixture of private donations, grants, and program revenue. Exalta Health will bring medical equipment from its current building, and some new equipment will be provided through partnerships with Samaritas, Bethany Christian Services, local health systems, and a capital campaign. Hispanic Center of Western Michigan, A Glimpse of Africa, West Michigan Asian American Association, Grand Rapids LGBTQ+ Healthcare Consortium, and the African Collaborative Network have all budgeted for the program expansions that this project will allow, including increased program revenue that will result from the senior center, kitchen, and childcare center, all of which will be invested in operating these programs. United Way will continue its current services in this new location, which is appropriate since the majority of those that they serve live in the 49507 zip code.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$23,650,000

Maximum Cost: \$23,650,000

ARPA Request: \$23,650,000

Submitter Info

Name: Ed Postma & Evelyn Esparza-Gonzalez

Organization: Exalta Health and Hispanic Center of Western Michigan

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Medical Care

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Project Management Experience

Heart of West Michigan United Way (which will serve as fiduciary for this project) has experience leading the following projects: — Operated the Michigan COVID Information and Vaccine Hotline for the entire state in partnerships with MDHHS, fielding 153,000 calls through 2-1-1. —Distributed \$8.8M in CARES Act funds through 186 grants to nonprofit agencies through the Kent County Nonprofit Organization COVID-19 Grant Fund. —Managed the Coronavirus Response Fund, which combined \$3.5M in funds donated by local foundations and individuals that were allocated to 136 nonprofit organizations in Kent County. —Established the Opportunity Initiative, which has helped 20 grassroots nonprofits in Kent County build capacity to date. —Annually distributes \$3M+ in grant funds and tracks outcomes for 40 agencies leading 48 programs in Kent County. —Acted as fiduciary for \$46 million in CERA (Covid Emergency Rental Assistance) funds that served 9,896 people in Kent County.

Federal Funds Experience

Heart of West Michigan United Way, as the fiduciary for this project's ARPA funds, has managed \$71,384,307 in federal grants and contracts over the last five years, including HUD Community Block Grants, HUD/MSDA Emergency Solutions COVID response grants, HUD Homeless Management System grants (via Salvation Army), HUD grants for Continuum of Care/Coalition to End Homelessness, Department of Justice Crime Victim Assistance program, IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, US Dept of Health and Human Services Low-Income Home Energy Assistance, US Department of Treasury/MSHDA COVID Emergency Rental Assistance (CERA), and US Health and Human Services Preschool Development Grant. In addition, United Way currently serves a fiduciary for the Kent County Essential Needs Task Force, Doulas of Color, and Great Start Collaborative. We also served as fiduciary for Health Net of West Michigan, KConnect, and First Steps Kent until they each gained their own 501(c)3 status.

Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

Exalta Health, Hispanic Center of Western Michigan, West Michigan Asian American Association, A Glimpse of Africa, Grand Rapids LGBTQ+ Healthcare Consortium, African Collaborative Network, and Heart of West Michigan United Way



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Studies on Impact

This project mirrors a model developed in Denver, Colorado called the “Communities Lead, Communities Thrive Coalition.” This coalition received \$35 million in ARPA funds to acknowledge the role small nonprofits played during the COVID pandemic, when there was increased demand and expanded programming for nonprofits without the proper infrastructure or support. This was a challenge for the people being served, but also a challenge for the organizations doing the serving. This funding means that as they pivot out of COVID, these organizations can become stronger than they were before – since it is hard for a community to bounce back when the anchor organizations in that community do not have the resources to bounce. The funding provided to the Communities Lead, Communities Thrive Coalition will support generations to come by building infrastructure for organizations that are often the first responders when there is a crisis. These organizations have often been overlooked by large and even small funders. Infusing dollars using this model will allow the resources needed to do the connective work that will ensure that these organization have the resources to build themselves up so that they can in turn build up their communities.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$23,650,000

Maximum Cost: \$23,650,000

ARPA Request: \$23,650,000

Submitter Info

Name: Ed Postma & Evelyn Esparza-Gonzalez

Organization: Exalta Health and Hispanic Center of Western Michigan

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Medical Care

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

Exalta Health, Hispanic Center of Western Michigan, West Michigan Asian American Association, A Glimpse of Africa, Grand Rapids LGBTQ+ Healthcare Consortium, African Collaborative Network, and Heart of West Michigan United Way

Guidehouse Ranking Notes

 **Eligibility**

Eligible under public health

 **Sustainability**

Funds requested are for construction. The program services will be funded by other sources

 **Feasibility**

Risk to 2026 completion



PROJECT #69

Holistic Care Center for LGBTQ+ Patients

Identify the need for the proposed project

Through a 2021 online survey on healthcare experiences and needs of the GR LGBTQ+ population, with 38% stating they would prefer to seek care at a LGBTQ+ focused facility and 37% stating they prefer either a LGBTQ+ focused facility or a traditional clinic like Spectrum Health. The survey, administered through snowball sampling on social media by the Grand Rapids LGBTQ+ Healthcare Consortium, received over 150 responses from patients in the GR area.

Brief Description

The facility would provide multi-faceted care to GR's growing LGBTQ+ population, including behavioral health services and primary/preventative care. The facility would house resources that also impact health, such as housing resources and insurance. The idea is that patients who would normally avoid receiving care due to perceived/anticipated discrimination or lack of resources can receive assistance and affirming care in one location, similar to Cherokee Health Systems in Tennessee and Corktown Health in Detroit.

Long-Term Benefit

The clinic will have the ability to address health disparities noted in the 2020 Kent County Community Health Needs Assessment, improving health outcomes and quality of life for LGBTQ+ GR residents.

Intended Beneficiary

LGBTQ+ community members

Estimated Cost

LGBTQ+ community members

Project Management Experience

While we are a young organization, we have worked with Health Net of West Michigan to lead/sponsor a campaign to ban conversion therapy in the city of Grand Rapids.

Federal Funds Experience

n/a

Studies on Impact

<https://www.thenationalcouncil.org/resources/the-comprehensive-healthcare-integration-framework/>

[https://www.npjjournal.org/article/S1555-4155\(20\)30385-8/pdf](https://www.npjjournal.org/article/S1555-4155(20)30385-8/pdf)

Example: <https://www.cherokeehealth.com/patient-services/adult-primary-behavioral-care>

Example: <https://corktownhealth.org/>

Example: <https://www.impactsuite.com/>

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$20,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$20,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Arly Johnson

Organization: Grand Rapids
LGBTQ+ Healthcare Consortium

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Medical Care

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact:  

Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

n/a



(Page 2)

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Eligible under public health



Sustainability

This facility will need future funding. Further information would be needed to determine.



Feasibility

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$20,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$20,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Arly Johnson

Organization: Grand Rapids
LGBTQ+ Healthcare Consortium

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Medical Care

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

n/a



PROJECT #74

Grand Rapids LGBTQ+ Healthcare Consortium

Identify the need for the proposed project

The Grand Rapids LGBTQ+ Healthcare Consortium has identified the need for a LGBTQ+ healthcare center based on the 2020 Kent County Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) results, the LGBTQ+ Healthcare Experiences in Grand Rapids Survey, and national data. In addition to those resources, the Grand Rapids LGBTQ+ Healthcare Consortium has received many anecdotal comments, questions, and requests for a safe and affirming place for LGBTQ+ folks to receive holistic healthcare. The 2020 Kent County Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) identifies that of LGBTQ+ respondents, 17.2% report fair to poor general health and 37.7% report poor mental health, which is 3 times higher compared to straight/cisgender respondents. Health risk behaviors including smoking, binge drinking, frequent marijuana use, and high-risk HIV behavior are significantly higher in those that identify as LGBTQ+ in Kent County. Depression (52.9/22.2%), stress all or most of the time in the past 30 days (35.3/8.8%), and mental/emotional problems that prevent activities of daily living/work 7 or more days out of the past 30 days (19.1/2%) are significantly higher for the LGBTQ+ population in the Kent County area. The 2021 LGBTQ+ Healthcare Experiences in Grand Rapids Survey indicate the LGBTQ+ population experiencing Queer friendly providers with unfriendly/unaffirming front facing staff, lack of education/ training/knowledge on LGBTQ+ experiences and behaviors (especially for transgender and non-binary patients, as well as sex education), professional healthcare providers being unaware of resources and making assumptions/uninformed comments based on a patient's identity. LGBTQ+ individuals also report difficulty with finding affirming providers, receiving holistic care, wait times for specialists, cost barriers to HRT and other medication, unclear directions for navigating insurance, relying on word of mouth in order to find affirming, non-discriminatory providers, and conservative/religious community fostering discrimination that carries into healthcare. National data reports that LGBTQ+ folks have less access to timely preventive health care services, systemic discrimination and/or homophobia and transphobia when seeking services, a lack of providers knowledgeable and competent in LGBTQ health issues, and compared to their cisgender and heterosexual peers, higher risk of mental health issues, certain cancers, HIV, and STIs. Negative health outcomes for LGBT people are due to the cumulative and intersecting impact of many different factors, particularly their reduced access to employer-provided health insurance, the social stigma that exists against LGBT people, and a lack of cultural competence in the healthcare system. In addition, the Grand Rapids LGBTQ+ Healthcare Consortium receives many anecdotal comments, questions, and requests for a safe and affirming place for LGBTQ+ folks to receive holistic healthcare.

Brief Description

The Grand Rapids LGBTQ+ Healthcare Center will work closely with and model itself after the Corktown Health Center model which serves the LGBTQ+ community in Southeastern Michigan. Corktown is a successful LGBTQ+ health provider offering primary care, behavioral health services, comprehensive HIV care and treatment, cancer screening, health insurance navigation and more based on meeting the needs of the community. An essential component will be to partner with a larger healthcare organization and/or FQHC in the Grand Rapids area as the project moves forward. ARPA funding would allow for an open and affirming free standing structure of 8,000-10,000 square feet which would provide space for 5-6 LGBTQ+ educated primary care professionals, 4 affirming mental healthcare providers, and administration space. The center would provide a community education/meeting space as well as a space for medical and nursing students with their faculty members to assure a positive clinical experience.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$15,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$20,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Grace Huizinga

Organization: Grand Rapids LGBTQ Healthcare Consortium

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Medical Care

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

Grants, donations, scholarships

Partnership

We plan to partner with healthcare organizations and/or FQHC agencies in the Grand Rapids area



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$15,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$20,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Grace Huizinga

Organization: Grand Rapids LGBTQ Healthcare Consortium

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Medical Care

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

Grants, donations, scholarships

Partnership

We plan to partner with healthcare organizations and/or FQHC agencies in the Grand Rapids area

Long-Term Benefit

Utilizing a model such as the Comprehensive Healthcare Integration (CHI) Framework would assure a sustainability component. The CHI is a framework for guiding the integration of physical health and behavioral/mental health that can help providers, payers and population managers to measure progress in organizing delivery of integrated services. For more information on CHI:

https://www.thenationalcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/04.22.2022_MDI-CHI-Paper

Intended Beneficiary

LGBTQ+ individuals and population in the Grand Rapids and West Michigan area

Estimated Cost

\$15-20,000,000

Project Management Experience

Committee for CHNA development and implementation, Pride festivals, LGBTQ+ health education trainings, healthcare organization strategic and program planning for the LGBTQ+ populations

Project Management Experience

None but we hope to partner with a FQHA in Grand Rapids

Studies on Impact

doi: 10.1016/j.ssmph.2019.100505. 2020 Findings indicate that LGBT-specific clinics and providers represent an important piece of the healthcare landscape for LGB people but access remains an important barrier to utilization.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1370/afm.2542.2020>

Findings indicate that LGBT people experience multiple disparities in access to care and health outcomes. Increases in culturally affirming practice and outcomes were measured. These included collecting patient pronoun information, identifying LGBT patient liaisons, SOGI data collection and documentation, screenings among LGTQ+ patients, STI & HIV screening and diagnosis. doi: 10.1370/afm.2542.2020 Findings indicate that LGBT people experience multiple disparities in access to care and health outcomes. Increases in culturally affirming practice and outcomes were measured for specialized care clinics. doi: 10.3949/ccjm.83a.15148 2016 Guide for primary care providers indicate a need for LGBTQ+ specific LGBTQ+ care. Findings indicate that LGBT people have unique healthcare needs. While all LGBT people are at an increased risk for mental health and substance abuse disorders, certain health conditions vary by group and need directed attention for improved outcomes

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Eligible under public health



Sustainability

Will need future funding but is partnering with healthcare organizations



Feasibility

More information is needed in terms of funding requested, partners, etc.

PROJECT #104

Heritage Hill-Heartside Health Hub: A place-based project serving African Americans



Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$40,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$40,000,000

ARPA Request: \$15,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Vanessa Greene

Organization: Grand Rapids African American Health Institute

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Medical Care

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

GRAAHI will partner with Trinity Health, the Grand Rapids Chapter of the Black Nurses Association, KC Health Department, Urban League, NAACP, Mental Health Clinicians of Color (Kent County), and others

Identify the need for the proposed project

Grand Rapids African American Health Institute (GRAAHI) has been monitoring and assessing African Americans' health needs in Kent County since 2002. We also monitor and integrate research, evaluation, and assessment data from the KC Health Department, MI Department of Health, Center for Disease Control, and The Johnson Center at GVSU to ensure we have a comprehensive picture of local African American health needs. GRAAHI regularly collects, analyzes and disseminates health equity data to inform Black citizens and public officials of trends in health disparities, which are worsening, and to drive GRAY's work eliminating these inequities.

Brief Description

The project will develop a place-based Health Hub on property formerly owned by Trinity Health System at the intersection of Lafayette Avenue SE and State Street SE, near downtown Grand Rapids. The Hub will provide comprehensive health promotion and disease prevention services to African Americans who live in the Oldtown-Heartside and Heritage Hills Neighborhoods and homeless individuals there. The multi-story building will provide offices, a multipurpose room, and a kitchen to support innovative programming promoting healthy lifestyles delivered by GRAAHI and its partners. These programs will engage and serve African Americans in the neighborhoods adversely impacted by COVID, as well as those at risk of adverse health consequences from inactivity, poor diets, smoking, excessive alcohol consumption, untreated, unrecognized medical needs, and social isolation. This place-based approach will translate evidence-based research into practice to reduce the disproportionate burdens of premature mortality and morbidity that Kent County's African Americans now bear, including disparate rates of obesity, diabetes, maternal mortality and morbidity, cancers, kidney disease, liver disease, mental health disorders and other health conditions linked to the local social determinants of health. GRAAHI will also leverage the contributions of its partners to achieve the project's objectives, and work to address the root causes of Black health disparities countywide.

Long-Term Benefit

The expected long-term benefit is a reduction in the incidence, prevalence, and negative impacts of health conditions that can be improved by addressing the most fundamental aspects of individuals' and families' lifestyles, including promoting regular physical activity, healthy eating, avoidance of smoking and excessive use of alcohol or other drugs, attainment of medical homes, and reducing residents' social isolation, which has been significantly exacerbated by the COVID pandemic.

Intended Beneficiary

African Americans who reside in the Heritage Hill & Oldtown-Heartside Neighborhoods will be the principal focus; however, all Black individuals and families in Kent County will benefit.

Estimated Cost

The overall cost is \$40,000,000. We are asking for \$15,000,000 in this proposal



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$40,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$40,000,000

ARPA Request: \$15,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Vanessa Greene

Organization: Grand Rapids African American Health Institute

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Medical Care

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

GRAAHI will partner with Trinity Health, the Grand Rapids Chapter of the Black Nurses Association, KC Health Department, Urban League, NAACP, Mental Health Clinicians of Color (Kent County), and others

*Source of Funding

GRAAHI will receive funding for public health initiatives for African Americans from Michigan Public Health Endowment Fund, Kent County Health Department, W.K. Kellogg Foundation, the Grand Rapids Foundation, Steelcase Foundation, and many other local and statewide funders; however, there is no other source of capital funds for the facility.

Project Management Experience

GRAAHI is implementing a countywide COVID vaccine project serving African Americans in partnership with KCHD; we are leading a mental health and wellness programs, promoting physical exercise and nutrition for African Americans of all age groups; we lead countywide blood drives in partnership with Versiti; we are launching a colorectal health campaign with funding from Michigan Public Health Endowment Fund countywide; we lead a large multi-milliondollar Kellogg Foundation Pathways grant to increase racial and ethnic diversity within the county's healthcare provider systems; GRAAHI is working with the faith community countywide to address maternal and infant health disparities across the county; and, we are working with Hope College to improve global health.

Federal Funds Experience

We received federal funds for 15 years to improve infant and mental health in partnership with Spectrum Health and are continuing to work with local churches on this goal, as we seek federal continuation funds. GRAAHI is implementing a \$600,000 COVID vaccination campaign with federal pass-through funds in partnership with Spectrum Health and KCHD, which is an add-on to our longerterm, successful COVID vaccination campaign; GRAAHI is applying for NIH funds to support the evaluation of an innovative project to increase KC African American residents' participation in regular blood donations.

Studies on Impact

Yes, Empirical evidence supporting place-based approaches to improving the health of individuals and families has emerged from many sources, including the Center for Health Equity in New York City's Health Department, which launched neighborhood health action centers that have successfully implemented place-based methods in diverse communities with disproportionate burdens of premature mortality and other measures of poor health. These health hubs are part of robust neighborhood intervention strategies that colocate clinical and community-based services and leverage customized referral systems to facilitate linkages across healthcare providers needed by neighborhood residents, all focused on these residents' specific health and social needs. Health hubs offer a vibrant, welcoming community space and local programming, and they effectively engage residents in proactively improving their personal health and ability to influence health policies and practices in the community. As Dankwa-Mullan (2016) noted, "Addressing health disparities is a place-based issue." GRAAHI has developed a bibliography of >500 recent studies providing a foundation for place-based health promotion, disease prevention practices.

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Eligible under public health



Sustainability

Expensive operating costs but has several partners



Feasibility

Risk to 2026 completion

PROJECT #53

West Michigan Prescription Assistance Program



Identify the need for the proposed project

One in 4 people in our community are considered underinsured for their health. One in 10 people in our community are uninsured. This leaves many people not taking the life saving medication they need to maintain a good quality of life. This increases hospitalization and adds to the healthcare costs for all. We have other non profit partners that can provide free medication, this doesn't cover our operating costs.

Brief Description

WMPAP will provide free medication to our community to those who make less than 250% of federal poverty level. Other members of the community can join the pharmacy for a modest monthly membership to purchase their medications at wholesale cost. This project will reduce the burden of rising prescription drug costs on our community.

Long-Term Benefit

This project will reduce hospitalizations and help our community spend their healthcare dollars more wisely.

Intended Beneficiary

People who make less than 250% FPL and are uninsured or underinsured.

Estimated Cost

About \$500,000

Project Management Experience

Our clinical director was a director of pharmacy for a county wide health system and has successfully managed other pharmacies. Our executive director has studied public health and has developed policies to improve the social determinants of health.

Federal Funds Experience

None.

Studies on Impact

We are members of the association Charity Pharmacies of America. The playbook for our operation can be found here. <https://www.charitypharmacy.org/>

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$500,000

Maximum Cost: \$500,000

Submitter Info

Name: Adam King

Organization: CompassionRx

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Medical Care

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

Memberships and cash donations

Partnership

Dispensaries of Hope

Americares

Disaster Relief Fund

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Programs or services that expand access to health insurance are eligible



Sustainability

Does not include a funding plan or fund availability after expending all the ARPA dollars.



Feasibility

PROJECT #179

On-Demand Health Care in the Urban Core



Identify the need for the proposed project

As a Federally Qualified Health Center, Cherry Health is charged with meeting the primary health care, dental and behavioral health needs of our communities' most vulnerable and underserved populations. With this charge, and from this perspective, we have researched key and relevant studies that identify the needs of the Kent County residents, determined the location of where there is an unmet need for those services, and assessed our demand for services to help us build our proposal: To establish a full-service, ondemand, walk-in clinic at our Heart of the City West location at 201 Sheldon Ave SE providing healthcare services for people struggling against social, economic, and environmental barriers that may keep them from meeting their health care needs. The 2020 Kent County Community Health Needs Assessment, the 2019 Kent County ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) Report and WK Kellogg Foundation's March 2022, Health Equity in Grand Rapids Neighborhoods of Focus: Social Determinants of Health, all demonstrate a need for accessible, affordable, high quality health care targeted at community members with significant barriers to care.

The 2020 Kent County Community Health Needs Assessment identified "Access to Health Care" as the community's number one barrier to population health. The "Neighborhoods of Focus" points to neighborhoods in Grand Rapids that face greater social determinants of health disparities than faced by the rest of the County. The children and families living in the 17 census tracts studied, have suffered from systemic racism in every aspect of their lives, ultimately hindering their ability to attain good health outcomes. The social determinants of health that significantly affect positive health outcomes include low economic security, little access to health care or affordable housing, and food insecurity and lack of nutrition. Residents in these neighborhoods have poor or poorer quality education, they deal with transportation barriers and they live in poorly built environments with little access to the outdoors/green spaces. (WK Kellogg Foundation's March 2022, Health Equity in Grand Rapids Neighborhoods of Focus: Social Determinants of Health Pages 9-11).

The 2019 Kent County ALICE report demonstrates well, how the economic barriers faced by people we intend to reach, keep them from meeting their basic needs, including, and not limited to their health care needs. Within the City of Grand Rapids, 48% of the city's residents live at the ALICE. Threshold – households that earn more than the Federal Poverty Level, but less than the basic cost of living for the county (Kent County ALICE Report, 2019, page 2), often keeping these families from affording health care insurance and/or medical expenses – a leading cause of poor health outcomes.

There are 16 urgent care facilities spread throughout the Greater Grand Rapids Area, none of which are located in the downtown Grand Rapids area. The closest urgent care center is northeast of downtown Grand Rapids, on Fuller NE but this location closes at 3 pm. The next closest urgent care to downtown Grand Rapids is located on 28th street, which requires 2-3 bus changes to get there. Cherry Health's HOTC West on-demand, walkin clinic will live amongst the neighborhoods coined by the WK Kellogg Foundation study as the "Neighborhoods of Focus," where Cherry Health will provide a broad range of health care services 6 days a week, from Noon until 10 pm during the week and 8 am until 6 pm on Saturdays.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$7,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$7,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Tasha Blackmon

Organization: Cherry Street Services, Inc., DBA Cherry Health

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Medical Care

Project Status: Expanded

Matching Funds: 76% or greater

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

As a Federally Qualified Health Center, Cherry Health bills Medicaid, Medicare, other insurances and has a few self-paying clients (those patients on the sliding fee scale). Cherry Health is projecting to see revenue generated in years two and three from patient service delivery.

Partnership

Community Food Club

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$7,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$7,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Tasha Blackmon

Organization: Cherry Street Services, Inc., DBA Cherry Health

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Medical Care

Project Status: Expanded

Matching Funds: 76% or greater

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

As a Federally Qualified Health Center, Cherry Health bills Medicaid, Medicare, other insurances and has a few self-paying clients (those patients on the sliding fee scale). Cherry Health is projecting to see revenue generated in years two and three from patient service delivery.

Partnership

Community Food Club

Brief Description

Since 1988, Cherry Health has strived to build a healthier community by providing high quality, integrated care to those who need our services. Cherry Health is proposing to grow this vision by opening a readily accessible walk-in health clinic to meet the needs of people living in downtown Grand Rapids, including people experiencing homelessness. We will focus on accessibility of care for refugees by providing interpretation services and staff onsite to help navigate the challenges of the health care system. Services will take place at Cherry Health's Heart of the City's West location (201 Sheldon Blvd SE 49503). The site is currently used only for research studies and administrative staff. The walk-in clinic will provide people with convenient access to healthcare services for non-life-threatening illnesses or injuries. At this location, Cherry Health will offer integrated primary care, pharmacy, behavioral health including substance use disorder and emergency oral health services. Patients who use the walk-in clinic, will be encouraged to establish a primary healthcare home with Cherry Health for continuity of care and longterm improved health outcomes.

Long-Term Benefit

By making an investment in Cherry Health's proposed on-demand, walk-in clinic, the County will be addressing its identified 2020 healthcare accessibility issues and be building health equity amongst our communities most oppressed people. "Access to care refers to the timely use of personal health services to achieve the best possible health outcomes." (2020 Kent Co. Health Care Needs Assessment, page 7). Building health equity means making additional investments in those who have been excluded.

Intended Beneficiary

Residents and the housing insecure living or located in the following zip code areas: 49503, 49504, 49505, 49506, 49507, and 49509 are the intended beneficiaries of our proposed project. The 201 Sheldon Ave SE location is strategically located near seven homeless and/or service ministries and blocks from the YWCA of West Central Michigan. The on-demand model, combined with the extended hours will be a haven for those persons needing to walk for care or take public transportation to the site, and for those needing to take advantage of the longer hours of operation due to work restrictions and immedi

Estimated Cost

\$7,000,000.00

Project Management Experience

Cherry Health has been a mainstay for high quality health care in Kent County for over 30 years. Established in 1988, Cherry Health is the largest Federally Qualified Health Center in the State of Michigan, providing services in six different counties across the state.



Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$7,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$7,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Tasha Blackmon

Organization: Cherry Street Services, Inc., DBA Cherry Health

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Medical Care

Project Status: Expanded

Matching Funds: 76% or greater

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

As a Federally Qualified Health Center, Cherry Health bills Medicaid, Medicare, other insurances and has a few self-paying clients (those patients on the sliding fee scale). Cherry Health is projecting to see revenue generated in years two and three from patient service delivery.

Partnership

Community Food Club

Federal Funds Experience

As a Federally Qualified Health Center, Cherry Health receives competitive and non-competitive funding from the Health Resources and Services Administration arm of the Federal Government to provide primary health care services in underserved areas. As a steward of millions of federal dollars annually, Cherry Health is subject to a rigorous annual audit with the most recent audit having no findings.

Studies on Impact

Historically speaking, neighborhood health centers (now called Federally Qualified Health Centers) became fully functioning healthcare institutions as a result of the 1960's Civil Rights Movement and were included in President Johnson's War on Poverty. By definition and design, Cherry Health started as a neighborhood health center and is now recognized as a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC). As a Federally Qualified Health Center, Cherry Health must meet several federal requirements and standards. All health centers must be located in or serve a high-need community, specifically a federally designated, medically underserved area or population (MUA/MUP). Medical underservice is defined by a shortage of health professionals or services in a geographic area or among a population, as well as high rates of poverty and infant mortality. Health centers must also meet other requirements to be recognized as an FQHC, including mission and strategy, governance, financing, and services. In addition, and by law Cherry Health must provide services to all people, regardless of their ability to pay. Health centers serve 1 in 11 people across the country, and they lead the nation in driving quality improvement and reducing health care costs

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Eligible under public health



Sustainability

Does not include a funding plan or fund availability after expending all the ARPA dollars.



Feasibility

PROJECT #242

RMHC West Michigan Mission Expansion



Identify the need for the proposed project

Ronald McDonald House Charities of West Michigan is expanding our mission by increasing the number of overnight rooms and building a Ronald McDonald Family Room inside Helen DeVos Children's Hospital. The House has served more than 10,000 families in our 30+ years while turning away approximately 5,000 families. RMHCWM is typically at capacity with 5-20 families on a wait list. Additionally, we take reservations for families returning for follow-up appointments. A consequence of the COVID 19 pandemic included RMHCWM spending thousands of dollars on hotels for our families due to limited capacity at the House, ranging from 45-75%. Babies are born early, children experience illnesses, injuries, or diseases, and youth need mental health support – regardless of a pandemic. In fact, Helen DeVos Children's Hospital's NICU reported that their 88 bed NICU was full throughout 2020 and 2021. Our highly collaborative relationships with hospital referral partners have given us insight into the growth of pediatric services in Grand Rapids. Local providers are investing in pediatric specialties including cardiology, oncology, and mental health. As a healthcare hospitality house, we are part of the healthcare continuum in Grand Rapids, these investments will increase our demand. Increasing specialties will continue to draw patients from Kent County and beyond, increasing the number of families who will need housing and support. In 2017, we participated in a study to estimate the demand for our services and rooms with our referral partners, including Helen DeVos Children's Hospital, Mary Free Bed, Forest View Hospital, Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services, and others. Each hospital partner provided future estimated demand for pediatric services over the next 5 years. RMHC Global used an algorithm to estimate that RMHC West Michigan will need 88 rooms to meet the growing demand. Our House was built with 17 bedrooms, and we have yet to expand amidst growing need. There has also been an increased in demand for local mental health providers. We partner with Forest View Hospital and Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services to support families with children experiencing mental health crisis. Studies on the impact of COVID-19 and the mental health of children are emerging, highlighting issues from hyperactivity to depression. Other studies are evaluating teens who felt isolated during lockdowns. While the crisis is still too recent for most research to be conclusive, the early indications are alarming. We must be prepared to support the growing demand in our communities. Expanding the mission will allow us to increase our ability to serve families in crisis, decrease our waitlist for overnight rooms, and pursue our vision of all families having access to quality medical and mental healthcare while healing together.

Brief Description

When the best treatment for a critically ill child is far from home, RMHCWM eliminates worry and financial burdens by providing families a free place to stay. In addition to lodging, we provide compassionate hospitality through food, transportation, and other amenities. Research has shown that children heal faster when families are together. RMHCWM is requesting a \$2 million grant to support our mission expansion. This involves two projects. First, we are increasing the number of overnight rooms at the House. By renovating an attached 4,000 sq. ft. building, we will add 8 bedrooms with private baths. Repurposing this building is cost effective and time efficient. The renovation will increase our room capacity and families served from 300 to approximately 450 per year. The second project, in collaboration with Helen DeVos Children's Hospital, is building a Family Room inside the hospital. This is a homelike environment designed to support any family through their child's medical journey by providing a quiet place away from the medical space, while remaining steps away from their child's bedside. Families can recharge, access food, laundry, shower, or rest during the long days at the hospital – all at no cost. Hospitals are inherently a stressful environment and studies prove that infants and children are deeply attuned to the emotional state of their caregivers. The Family Room allows parents and caregivers to take care of themselves before their stress reaches harmful levels.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$2,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$2,500,000

ARPA Request: \$2,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Ellen Carpenter

Organization: Ronald McDonald House Charities West Michigan

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Medical Care

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

Helen DeVos Children's Hospital, Mary-Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital, Trinity Health, University of Michigan Health-West, Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services, and Forest View Hospital



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$2,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$2,500,000

ARPA Request: \$2,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Ellen Carpenter

Organization: Ronald McDonald House Charities West Michigan

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Medical Care

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

Helen DeVos Children's Hospital, Mary-Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital, Trinity Health, University of Michigan Health-West, Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services, and Forest View Hospital

Long-Term Benefit

With increased room capacity, 450 families annually will avoid living and commuting costs while significantly improving the child's odds of recovery by being close by. The alternative is sleeping in hospitals, cars, hotels, or commuting. The Family Room will give thousands a place of respite. The combined 10-year impact is 30,000 people avoiding \$15 million in costs. We offer financial benefits as well as social and emotional support while improving health outcomes for critically ill children.

Intended Beneficiary

Families who stay at the House come from every county in Michigan and beyond. Our families have an in-patient child (18 years or younger) at one of our referral medical and mental healthcare partners. There is no financial need requirement to stay at RMHCWM. Our family demographics are low-income (43% less than \$21K annual income) with 66% qualifying for federal assistance. Many come from rural or inner-city areas with limited economic resources. Over half our families are unemployed with some high school education and few with higher education. For the Family Room, the intended beneficiary is ANY family with a hospitalized child (18 years or younger) in the hospital. With 241 beds, Helen DeVos Children's Hospital serves 7,700 inpatient families each year. With a family room located within the hospital, there is potential to save families the cost of food, laundry, and trips back home for a quick break. Without RMHCWM, alternatives are sleeping in hospitals, vehicles, hotels, or commuting. Our families are facing a crisis, struggling economically, and cannot afford these expenses. Additionally, families will face unexpected medical costs. A recent study estimated the average out of pocket spending for NICU care was \$4,969 ("Out of Pocket Spending for Deliveries and Newborn Hospitalizations among the Privately Insured"). Being able to cover their basic needs and avoid hotel, food, and travel costs reduces the financial impact of unexpected medical expenses. In summary, our services for families offer financial benefits as well as social, psychological, and emotional stress support while improving health outcomes for their sick children.

Estimated Cost

\$2-2.5 million

Project Management Experience

RMHC West partners with medical and mental healthcare providers across Kent County. Our services are delivered at the House and Family Room located in Grand Rapids. We do not manage countywide projects outside of our own services.

Federal Funds Experience

RMHC West Michigan received a CARES grant in 2020.



(Page 3)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$2,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$2,500,000

ARPA Request: \$2,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Ellen Carpenter

Organization: Ronald McDonald House Charities West Michigan

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Medical Care

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Studies on Impact

There are 380 Ronald McDonald Houses and 267 Ronald McDonald Family Room programs globally. Researchers are examining the role of Ronald McDonald House programs in improving clinical and psychosocial outcomes, as well as the hospital experience. The following summaries provide a snapshot of findings from Ronald McDonald House Impact studies. Over 90% of hospital administrators agreed that the Houses reduced stress and costs to families. The study was based on a survey of 530 administrators from 16 countries (Lantz et al., Journal of Health Organization and Management 2015). A study published in Families, Systems, & Health analyzed responses from over 2,000 family members and concluded that proximity to the hospital provides important benefits for the family experience, psychological well-being, and perceptions of child recovery (Franck et al., Families, Systems, & Health, 2013). In a study conducted by RMHC Argentina, 250 families were surveyed about their perceived quality of life. The researchers found that children and their parents, who stayed at a Ronald McDonald House, had a better perceived quality of life than expected for children with chronic diseases (Sanchez et al., Archivos Argentinos de Pediatría, 2014).

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

May count as physical plant improvements to hospital to implement Covid mitigation tactics. May also be eligible if clearly impacts disproportionately impacted community. Additional information will be needed if the proposal moves forward in the process.

Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

Helen DeVos Children's Hospital, Mary-Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital, Trinity Health, University of Michigan Health-West, Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services, and Forest View Hospital



PROJECT #183

Community Healthcare Equity Outreach

Identify the need for the proposed project

While the coronavirus pandemic has alerted the nation to the dire access problems that have long plagued both urban and rural communities and highlighted the fragility of the health system, the results of the 2020 Kent County Health Needs Assessment also mirrored the inequities. Out of that assessment, the County highlighted these key areas as 2021 Strategic Priorities: • Access to healthcare • Discrimination and racial inequities • Economic Insecurity • Mental Health Exalta Health is the only primary care clinic in our area offering both professional bilingual staff and practicing a multi-disciplinary model of healthcare. Located in the Burton Heights neighborhood (49507), we treat the whole person by providing high-quality medical, vision, dental, behavioral, and spiritual care services to all those in need regardless of their ability to pay. For 25 years, we have served the unemployed and underemployed, the uninsured and underinsured, our neighbors, and the refugee population. But there is still much work to be done as practical barriers impede access to healthcare services for much of our population. Barriers such as inadequate information and awareness about the availability of services, insufficient financial means, restricted access to transport, culturally insensitive care, and inadequate provision of interpreters. Based on that information, Exalta Health partnered with Michigan State and received a grant to bring in an experienced community healthcare worker whose sole function was to proactively reach out to neighborhood residents and businesses to raise awareness of who we are and what we do.

Brief Description

This community outreach has been widely successful. Our patient population has grown over 7% this fiscal year after a 28% increase in FY2021. Unfortunately, funding for this position expires on July 31. Exalta Health is requesting funding to continue and to expand the work that our community healthcare worker, Rosemary Peralta, has started. Our plan is to continue to survey the neighborhood, while also expanding to provide basic healthcare and nutritional education and coordinate in-home care for those in our community who otherwise might not be able to access the services they need. Working with the Grand Rapids African American Health Institute (research and education), the Grand Rapids Black Nurse Association (health assessments, home testing, and vaccinations), and the Hispanic Center of West Michigan (contacts and referrals), we have begun to actively address three of the key areas of the County's strategic priorities. Additionally, in partnership with Samaritas, we will be able to expand our community mental health outreach—key area number four. Countless studies illuminate that access to quality primary care can help people live longer, healthier, and happier lives. Effective disease management requires a commitment, and it is our mission to improve the health of our community by providing access to high-quality care services for the mind, body, and soul to all those in need.

Long-Term Benefit

Community outreach services are one of the possibilities to enhance access to healthcare and improve health at the county level. Better mobilization of services, sharing culturally appropriate health education, providing informal counseling support, and acting as advocates will benefit the community and the overall healthcare system. Long-term; underserved individuals residing in Kent County will receive a proactive, integrated healthcare model resulting in better healthcare outcomes.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$175,000

Maximum Cost: \$525,000

Submitter Info

Name: Edward Postma

Organization: Exalta Health

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Medical Care

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

Private donors, foundations, and healthcare entities.

Partnership

• Gilda's Club Grand Rapids •
Grand Rapids African American
Health Institute • Grand Rapids
Black Nurse Association • Hope
College • Michigan State
University • Samaritas

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$175,000

Maximum Cost: \$525,000

Submitter Info

Name: Edward Postma

Organization: Exalta Health

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Medical Care

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

Private donors, foundations, and healthcare entities.

Partnership

• Gilda's Club Grand Rapids •
Grand Rapids African American
Health Institute • Grand Rapids
Black Nurse Association • Hope
College • Michigan State
University • Samaritas

Intended Beneficiary

Our primary population resides in the 49507 zip code, where the poverty rate skyrockets to 31.02%. Seventy-five percent of our patient population are people of color, 68% are Hispanic/Latino, 70% have no insurance, 57% are unemployed or underemployed, and 48% have incomes less than the Federal Poverty Index for their income and family size.

Estimated Cost

\$525,000 (\$175,000 per year for three years)

Project Management Experience

None

Federal Funds Experience

We have received funds from the CDC administered by Michigan State University. We also were granted PPE and PPP funding for COVID Relief.

Studies on Impact

<https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/10.1377/hlthaff.2019.00981>

Evidence-Based Community Health Worker Program Addresses Unmet Social Needs and Generates Positive Return on Investment Abstract: Interventions that address socioeconomic determinants of health are receiving considerable attention from policymakers and health care executives. The interest is fueled in part by expected returns on investment. We present a return-on-investment analysis that is based on a randomized controlled trial of Individualized Management for Patient-Centered Targets (IMPACT), a standardized community health worker intervention that addresses unmet social needs for disadvantaged people. We found that every dollar invested in the intervention would return \$2.47 to an average Medicaid payer within the fiscal year. BMC Health Service Research - Concept Analysis of Community Health Outreach/May 2020 Results: The defining attributes of the concept of community health outreach were purposive, mobile, and collaboration with the community. The antecedents were the population facing health risks and awareness of health risks. The consequences were increased accessibility and health promotion.

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Would be eligible as a non-profit grant. May be eligible as narrowly tailored health program



Sustainability

3 year program



Feasibility



PROJECT #19

Awareness and action - Spanish speaking blood donors

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$15,000

Maximum Cost: \$15,000

Submitter Info

Name: n/a

Organization: n/a

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Medical Care

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

West Michigan Hispanic Center

Identify the need for the proposed project

53% of Latinos have O type blood. O type blood is a universal blood type that is used in emergencies. 17% of Latinos have Ro blood (Ro is common (44%) in African Americans. Sickle cell disease affects African Americans and Latinos. If someone receives multiple blood transfusions, they have better outcomes when the blood type comes from someone like them. This is why blood centers need Ro blood.

Brief Description

Promote blood drives in Kent county specifically targeting Latino donors. Use funds to push new donors to donate and encourage repeat donations. Rent space and participate in the West Michigan Hispanic center activities to promote Latino blood donations.

Long-Term Benefit

People need people. Blood shortages are a community problem, not a blood center problem. More diverse units of blood to our neighborhood hospitals (like Spectrum and U of M Health West).

Intended Beneficiary

The community.

Estimated Cost

\$15,000.00

Project Management Experience

n/a

Federal Funds Experience

n/a

Studies on Impact

n/a

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Potentially eligible but additional details and scoping is necessary to ensure it is within the rules.



Sustainability

Unsure if this is a marketing campaign or an ongoing program



Feasibility

PROJECT #217

Children's Rehabilitation Hospital



Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$60,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$60,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Jane Brierley, MPA

Organization: Mary Free Bed
Rehabilitation Hospital

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Medical Care

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 76% or greater

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

• We're collaborating to create the children's rehabilitation hospital with Spectrum Health Helen DeVos Children's Hospital. • This will be a public-private partnership.

Identify the need for the proposed project

Our pediatric program, Mary Free Bed Kids, provides Michigan's most comprehensive pediatric rehabilitation services. Last year we treated 57% of children in the state who required inpatient rehabilitation. The need for our services continues to grow; there are days when we have more inpatients than pediatric beds. We're safely maneuvering, but the lack of capacity is far too common. Our outpatient gyms are crowded. We've increased hours to help accommodate the numbers, but we've run out of room. **INPATIENT SERVICES Access:** We're concerned about kids having adequate access to rehabilitation. Our analysis shows across the state of Michigan during CY 2021, 1,565 kids age 0 - 17 years would medically qualify for inpatient hospitalization. Of those, 322 children actually received it. We're concerned about what happened to the other 1,243 kids. The new hospital will accommodate at least 200 more inpatients annually – doubling our capacity. Because we estimate in the next five years, 45% of Mary Free Bed kids will have Medicaid coverage, each year an additional 90 inpatients will be treated. **Medicaid Cost Savings:** We project approximate savings of \$20K per child per year for the first 10 years following an inpatient stay for the 90 inpatients with Medicaid. How will that be accomplished? We'll use a variety of tactics including admitting patients sooner, improved outcomes and because of improved outcomes fewer health care services will be necessary. **OUTPATIENT SERVICES** We track outpatient activity according to the number of visits kids make. During calendar year 2021, there were 47,000 pediatric outpatient visits in the Mary Free Bed Kids system. By the third year of operation at the new hospital, we estimate there will be a 20% increase of inpatient days and outpatient visits. Based on the CY 2021 statistics, that totals 56,400 outpatient visits, for an increase of 9,400. This will be the first free-standing children's rehabilitation hospital in Michigan, the ninth in the United States and one of only three geographically located between the east and west coasts. It's our answer to successfully meet current demand, plan for future growth and provide care at the forefront of medical advances. To learn more visit:

<https://www.maryfreebed.com/kids/rehabilitation-hospital/>

Brief Description

The freestanding rehabilitation hospital will serve kids and their families. The two-story structure will be built across from the current Mary Free Bed hospital. A pedestrian walkway over Wealthy Street SE. will connect them. Outpatient services will be on the first floor with multiple therapy gyms, private treatment and exam rooms, conference areas for medical teams to meet with patients and families, spaces for laboratory services and a café with menus for young and older palettes. The second floor will house 24 private inpatient rooms with ample space for parents to stay overnight. Several rooms will have ventilator capability. Multiple therapy gyms will provide different stimulation environments. Home-like areas will enable kids to practice everyday tasks. Common eating spaces will promote patients and families dining together and supporting one another. The hospital will house our pediatric specialty programs: Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Chronic Pain, Early Development and Limb Differences. Other conditions treated will include amputations, brain injuries, cancer, multiple traumas, neurological disorders, scoliosis, spinal cord injuries, strokes and congenital conditions. Specialized services such as assistive technology, braces, prosthetics and cranial remolding helmets will be easy to access. Distinctive features will include recreation areas for all ages, leading-edge technology and a dedicated area for a certified teacher to help children keep up with schoolwork.



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$60,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$60,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Jane Brierley, MPA

Organization: Mary Free Bed
Rehabilitation Hospital

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Medical Care

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 76% or greater

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

• We're collaborating to create the children's rehabilitation hospital with Spectrum Health Helen DeVos Children's Hospital. • This will be a public-private partnership.

Long-Term Benefit

We'll continue to provide rehabilitation for kids while advancing community development by: • Addressing rehabilitation voids in the community. • Boosting our area's health care sector by becoming a larger destination specialty hospital. • Bringing new business activity from visiting patients and families. • Creating health care positions and numerous construction-related jobs. • Attracting top-flight caregivers. • Impacting lives every day that will touch other lives spanning generations.

Intended Beneficiary

The project is an investment in our kids from birth to 17 years who deserve the latest in rehabilitation medicine. Having vigorous therapy soon after an injury, serious illness or diagnosis of a chronic condition makes better outcomes more likely. We help patients chart lifetime trajectories that may have seemed unreachable. Education and jobs become possible, and these former patients become taxpaying members of society. Taggart VanderMolen is an example. He tries out for the Paralympic hockey team this summer. Learn more about Taggart in this video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BgAj9OKNDDs>. We invest in lifetimes and livelihoods for families as well as kids. Significant health conditions don't occur in isolation. Everyone in the family is affected. When children receive sophisticated treatment in their own communities, parents remain near their support systems and their jobs. Siblings maintain more normal schedules. Quality of life is better for all. From a medical standpoint, efficiencies in care delivery will be created. A fellowship graduate medical education program in pediatric rehabilitation will also be established to augment our general rehabilitation residency program. We offer clinical studies in rehabilitation for nursing therapy and other disciplines. These factors will attract expert medical personnel and buoy the area's growing medical sector.

Estimated Cost

\$60 Million

*Source of Funding

• State of Michigan In early July, state legislators have designated \$10M in next year's budget for this project, and the governor will sign it when it crosses her desk. • Federal earmarks We've been included in federal congressional and senate earmarks that total \$13M. Those budgets will be considered in the fall. • City of Grand Rapids We applied for \$100,000 in funding from the city of Grand Rapids. • Private donations We've begun briefing major area philanthropists.

Project Management Experience

For 131 years, Mary Free Bed has been building its legacy. We've established a network alliance of more than four dozen hospitals serving counties across Michigan, Illinois, Indiana and Georgia. At our Main Grand Rapids Campus, we treat children from throughout Kent County every hour of the day, every day of the year.



(Page 3)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$60,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$60,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Jane Brierley, MPA

Organization: Mary Free Bed
Rehabilitation Hospital

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Medical Care

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 76% or greater

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

• We're collaborating to create the children's rehabilitation hospital with Spectrum Health Helen DeVos Children's Hospital. • This will be a public-private partnership.

Federal Funds Experience

Mary Free Bed is licensed by the state of Michigan as an acute care hospital. According to federal Medicare guidelines, we're considered an inpatient rehabilitation facility (IRF), which requires our adherence to more stringent regulations. We have an excellent record working with the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare services.

Studies on Impact

The number of studies that illustrate the effectiveness of rehabilitation for children is far-reaching, and research is ongoing. In addition, Mary Free Bed participates in clinical studies to further our field.

About three years ago, we began using an evidence-based technique called General Movement Assessment (GMA) to detect movements suggestive of cerebral palsy (CP) in newborns up to three months of age. Learn more about GMA in this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lr67gDTaNvw>

CP is a brain injury or malformation that occurs before, during or shortly after birth. It's typically diagnosed between two and three years of age. By detecting abnormal movement patterns earlier, we take advantage of rapidly developing baby brains. With intensive therapy, new neural pathways are formed to circumvent the damaged areas. Movement patterns are improved. Futures are better for kids and their families. And, there's a reduced need for health care services, which lowers health care costs.

• Journal of American Medicine Pediatrics <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamapediatrics/article-abstract/2636588>

• Cerebral Palsy Alliance <https://www.sourcekids.com.au/why-neuroplasticity-is-the-secret-ingredient-for-kids-with-special-needs/>

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

Eligible under public health. Individuals or communities served is not clear or does not align with Treasury guidelines' definition of 'impacted' or 'disproportionately impacted'.

Risk to 2026 completion

17

MENTAL HEALTH





PROJECT #35

Therapeutic Laughter Exercise

Identify the need for the proposed project

We are living in stressful times. The overall effect of laughter helps prevent and reverse the ill-effects of stress.

Brief Description

The purpose of therapeutic laughter is to bring the healing power of laughter to our community in many venues and applications. Therapeutic Laughter Exercise applies laughter theories and practices into multi-generational, multi-cultural, systematic health and happiness programs. This promotes mental and physical health which positively impacts the individual, family and by extension the entire community. The applications are endless as laughter exercises can be adapted to any group of people in any venue. Therapeutic Laughter Exercise is usually done in a room with enough space to move around with a few chairs situated around the perimeter. Participants sign the waiver or the waiver can be signed corporately. The class begins with an introduction to the benefits of laughter and a breakdown of the structure of the class. Next is a quick warm up with deep breathing and then we do the fun and engaging exercises with mini breaks in between. Next we do a quick relaxation exercise. Finally we discuss the guidelines of Good Hearted living to promote the benefits of therapeutic laughter throughout the coming week. Therapeutic laughter powerfully contributes to the larger mission of health and happiness for all.

Long-Term Benefit

Through the healing benefits of therapeutic laughter exercise, our community will be healthier, build better bonds and become more resilient.

Intended Beneficiary

Our entire community is invited to discover the long term benefits of therapeutic laughter exercise.

Estimated Cost

A therapeutic laughter session lasts about one hour. Cost is \$150 for a 10-25 size group of participants. Add the usual and customary mileage travel costs. Funding is based on the amount of classes you would like to schedule. Sunday through Thursday classes are available at this time.

Project Management Experience

This is my first county-wide project and I look forward to the endeavor.

Federal Funds Experience

This would be my first county-wide project and I look forward to learning all about federal fund requirements.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$58,000

Maximum Cost: \$58,000

ARPA Request: \$58,000

Submitter Info

Name: Karen Griggs RN, BSN, CLE, CLS, CLL

Organization:
Therapeutic Laughter Exercise

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Mental Health

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

n/a



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$58,000

Maximum Cost: \$58,000

ARPA Request: \$58,000

Submitter Info

Name: Karen Griggs RN, BSN, CLE, CLS, CLL

Organization:
Therapeutic Laughter Exercise

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Mental Health

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Studies on Impact

A sample of the benefits of therapeutic laughter: Muscle relaxation (Southern Medical Journal) Cortisol(a stress hormone) levels reduced (American Journal of Medical Sciences) Improves immune system(Journal of Clinical Research) Laughter has a natural euphoriant effect(light pleasant feelings are produced) (Psychological Reviews) *The Laughter Prescription <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6125057/> *Stress relief from laughter? It's no joke - Mayo Clinic <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6125057/>

Supporting Documentation

1. RN License (*Available upon request; Contains personal information*)
2. [Mayo Clinic Stress Management](#)
3. [CLL Certification](#)

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

Behavioral health services are eligible

Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

n/a

PROJECT #63

Mental Health First Aid and Youth Mental Health First Aid Certification for the Kent County Community - Provided by Experienced Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Educators from The Mental Health Foundation of West Michigan



Identify the need for the proposed project

Within the 2020 Kent County Community Health Needs Assessment, findings include: Diagnosed depression is more common in Kent County compared to Michigan and the U.S. There are persistent disparities in poor mental health based on age, sex, sexual orientation and gender identity, disability status, race, and household income. Groups who consistently report higher rates of poor mental health, diagnosed depression, and stress include: ▪ Younger adults (age 18-24) ▪ Females ▪ LGBTQ adults ▪ People who have one or more disability ▪ Non-Hispanic/White adults ▪ Those with a lower household income 14.3% of adults experienced work or activity limitations in the past 30 days due to a mental health condition ▪ 37% are not currently receiving mental health treatment Source: Kent County BRFSS, 2020; Michigan and U.S. BRFSS, 2019 In 2014, the Mental Health Foundation of West Michigan (MHF) helped to spearhead the county's adoption of Mental Health First Aid (MHFA), an innovative public education model that is addressing this pervasive and persistent challenge in communities across the United States. MHFA is an evidence-based, in person or virtual training program with the proven ability to teach individuals how to recognize and respond to the warning signs of mental and substance use disorders and link people with appropriate, local treatment. As of 2022, the MHF has four MHFA instructors and has trained over 3000 participants in MHFA and YMHFA across West Michigan with an incredibly positive response. Since Spring of 2022, we have received requests for MHFA courses from a variety of local organizations and individuals. We have found that the number one barrier to individuals and organizations adopting this course is the cost

Brief Description

Our proposed project will support participation in MHFA and YouthMHFA courses at no cost to Kent County Community Members over the next four years. The project will support the MHF to work with local to Kent County organizations to host targeted courses to at-risk populations, including Veterans, LGBTQ+ youth, individuals with disability status, educators of at-risk youth, and other groups. The project will also support one additional MHFA trainer that is staff of the Mental Health Foundation, and one additional training module for an existing staff member.

Long-Term Benefit

MHFA is designed to give community members the skills to help someone who is experiencing a mental health crisis, or to intervene early to prevent a crisis from occurring. The program is based on the principle that early intervention prevents mental illness from becoming more severe by encouraging people to seek help early. MHFA teaches people ways to connect to the appropriate local resource, utilizing local and experienced trainers in the areas of mental illness and suicide prevention.

Intended Beneficiary

The intended beneficiaries of this project are Kent County Community Members including, but not limited to, educators, employers, employees, members of faith communities, caregivers and the participants' family, coworkers and peers. By utilizing MHFA and its train-the-trainer model, we can create lay people that are members of diverse groups, ensuring that the knowledge of mental health, illness and suicide prevention is catered to the community we are serving.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$60,700

Maximum Cost: \$60,700

ARPA Request: \$55,000

Submitter Info

Name: Cat Lanting

Organization: Mental Health Foundation of West Michigan

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Mental Health

Project Status: Existing Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

Kent County Health Department
Kent Intermediate School District
Disability Advocates of Kent
County West Michigan Veterans
Coalition The above organizations
have pledged to assist this project
in hosting classes, both with
physical space, as well as
advertising and filling the MHFA
classes with participants.



Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$60,700

Maximum Cost: \$60,700

ARPA Request: \$55,000

Submitter Info

Name: Cat Lanting

Organization: Mental Health Foundation of West Michigan

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Mental Health

Project Status: Existing Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

Kent County Health Department
Kent Intermediate School District
Disability Advocates of Kent
County West Michigan Veterans
Coalition The above organizations
have pledged to assist this project
in hosting classes, both with
physical space, as well as
advertising and filling the MHFA
classes with participants.

Estimated Cost

One Mental Health Foundation staff trained as a MHFA trainer. \$2,200 + \$1000 travel (5-day course).
One MHF staff (who is currently a MHFA trainer) trained in the Adult MHFA module = \$2,000 + \$500
travel (3-day course) 9 courses per year = 36 courses, \$1500 per course = \$54,000 Mileage to
courses, \$30 per course = \$1,000 TOTAL Cost \$60,700

*Source of Funding

The Mental Health Foundation of West MI has been involved in a Capital Campaign to fund Program
Enrichment and Enhancement, among other objectives. The be nice. Program Enrichment and
Enhancement pillar of the Mental Health Foundation's be together. Campaign, which was started in
2020, has the objective to build our capacity to increase our audience and innovate our mental health
programs through: -Training in social emotional learning and maximizing learning opportunities to be
nice. staff. -Increase staffing to enhance and sustain regional and national growth. -Ensure the be
nice. action plan is targeted to address the adolescent mental health crisis. The achieved funds from
the campaign will and provide coverage for the training of instructors and travel to trainings portion
of the project, roughly covering \$5700 of the \$60,700 project. The resulting ask to ARPA is \$55,000.

Project Management Experience

The MHF and its be nice. program has extensive experience with county-wide projects. We access
multiple donor advised funds that are restricted to specific county use. Our staff then targets
schools or businesses within the county with programming needs. We also have worked with
specific community foundations that sponsor programming to their county schools. Our team is
equipped with the abilities and tools to support recruitment of schools, teams, or businesses within a
county as well as management of their programming long term for sustainability after the grant is
complete.

Federal Funds Experience

The Mental Health Foundation of West Michigan does not currently work with federal funds.
However, the beginning of the Live, Laugh, Love was started with a Federal Block Grant in 2001. This
grant provided funds to develop and sustain a four-lesson curriculum, facilitated by MHF staff, in
middle and high schools in Kent County, educating students on mental health, illness and suicide
prevention. This program is sustaining today in nine schools in and outside of Kent County, and has
been re-named as be nice. extension.

Studies on Impact

Mental Health First Aid has been rigorously evaluated and is proven to improve mental health literacy
and reduce the stigma surrounding mental illness. Peer-reviewed studies have been conducted
around the world and show that individuals trained in the program: Grow their knowledge of signs,
symptoms and risk factors of mental illnesses and addictions. Can identify multiple types of
professional and self-help resources for individuals with a mental health or substance use challenge.
Increase their confidence in and likelihood to help an individual in distress. Show increased mental
wellness themselves. (<https://www.mentalhealthfirstaid.org/about/research/>)



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Supporting Documentation

[Letter of Support](#)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$60,700

Maximum Cost: \$60,700

ARPA Request: \$55,000

Submitter Info

Name: Cat Lanting

Organization: Mental Health
Foundation of West Michigan

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Mental Health

Project Status: Existing Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

Kent County Health Department
Kent Intermediate School District
Disability Advocates of Kent
County West Michigan Veterans
Coalition The above organizations
have pledged to assist this project
in hosting classes, both with
physical space, as well as
advertising and filling the MHFA
classes with participants.

Guidehouse Ranking Notes

 **Eligibility**

*Behavioral health
services are eligible*

 **Sustainability**

*Limited duration. Should
not require additional
funding*

 **Feasibility**

PROJECT #64

be nice. Teams for Kent County Student-Athletes, Coaches and Families



Identify the need for the proposed project

With the suicide rates of student-athletes on the rise and the NCAA noting a 1.5X higher suicide rate since the fall of 2020, a need for mental health awareness and suicide prevention programming for student-athletes is extremely apparent. Not only do we know this group of individuals experiences unique stressors and risk factors, studies also show they are less likely to seek mental health services than their non-athlete peers. Education and awareness are essential to tackling these issues. Since 1990, the Mental Health Foundation of West Michigan (MHF) has been offering mental health and suicide prevention education to secondary students in Kent County. be nice. has been the flagship program of the MHF since 2010. Our evidence-based research in West Michigan schools supported our observations that be nice. was improving factors that support good mental health in school districts across Michigan, not only for students, but for staff and families. For the last four years (2018 thru 2022), the Michigan High School Athletic Association has utilized be nice. and its action plan within coaches' rules meetings - educating 30,000 coaches per year in this simple tool to gain knowledge, confidence, and take action when it comes to mental health and suicide prevention. Creating be nice. Team programming was a natural next step for our organization as coaches began reaching out to bring be nice. to their student-athletes and use the program throughout their seasons.

Brief Description

be nice. Team is a mental health and suicide prevention education program that trains coaches, players, and families of athletes in a simple action plan to protect their own mental health as well as that of others. The plan is to notice what is good and right in others so we can notice when there may be changes in mental health. Invite conversations around mental health by asking simple questions and being an active listener. Challenge yourself to know resources that you can share with someone struggling, also work to challenge the negative stigma surrounding mental health. Lastly, empower yourself and others with identifying protective factors and positive coping skills in our lives. Our goal is be nice. to be implemented upstream for prevention of mental health illnesses; however, it also can be used in the mid and downstream areas when recognizing illnesses and mental health crises. By equipping this population with the proper knowledge, they will gain further confidence to take action when it comes to the mental health of their athletes, themselves, their colleagues and their families. Our proposed project supports 120 youth athletic teams over the next three and a half years at about 30 teams per year. Each be nice. Team kit includes the trainings, materials, and follow-up that a coaching staff needs to implement the program to their team and amongst athletic families. Each be nice. Team kit costs \$750 and will be accessible for use by the team for a span of two years.

Long-Term Benefit

be nice. Team trains coaches, players and families. It is inclusive and accessible to diverse populations - The be nice. program is led by members of the community that it is serving. We empower trainers to reach diverse communities by utilizing a train-the-trainer model and giving those trainers license to add their unique perspective when it comes to stigmas, resources, and communication tactics. We hope to make our community safer by educating in the be nice. action plan.

Intended Beneficiary

The target beneficiaries of this project are student-athletes while coaches, families, and community members will be secondary beneficiaries by nature.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$90,000

Maximum Cost: \$90,000

ARPA Request: \$67,500

Submitter Info

Name: Christy Buck

Organization: Mental Health Foundation of West Michigan

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Mental Health

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

be nice. partners with the MHSAA to train all coaches in the be nice. action plan during their season-starting rules meeting. The project would expand coaches knowledge and confidence to be able to train their athletes.



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Estimated Cost

\$90,000.00

*Source of Funding

The Mental Health Foundation of West MI has been involved in a Capital Campaign to fund Program Enrichment and Enhancement, among other objectives. The be nice. Program Enrichment and Enhancement pillar of the Mental Health Foundation's be together. Campaign, which was started in 2020, has the objective to build our capacity to increase our audience and innovate our mental health programs through: -Training in social emotional learning and maximizing learning opportunities to be nice. staff. -Increase staffing to enhance and sustain regional and national growth. -Ensure the be nice. action plan is targeted to address the adolescent mental health crisis. The achieved funds from the campaign will provide a 25% coverage of the project cost, roughly \$22,500. Our ask to ARPA would be to cover the other \$67,500

Project Management Experience

The MHF and its be nice. program has extensive experience with county-wide projects. We access multiple donor advised funds that are restricted to specific county use. Our staff then targets schools or businesses within the county with programming needs. We also have worked with specific community foundations that sponsor programming to their county schools. Our team is equipped with the abilities and tools to support recruitment of schools, teams, or businesses within a county as well as management of their programming long term for sustainability after the grant is complete.

Federal Funds Experience

The Mental Health Foundation of West Michigan does not currently work with federal funds. However, the beginning of the Live, Laugh, Love was started with a Federal Block Grant in 2001. This grant provided funds to develop and sustain a four-lesson curriculum facilitated by MHF staff in middle and high schools in Kent county that educates students on mental health, illness, and suicide prevention. This program is active today in 9 schools in and outside of Kent County and has been re-named, be nice. extension.

Studies on Impact

The be nice. program completed a research project with Grand Valley State University. The study results showed over a three year span, the be nice. education program; increased behaviors that prevent suicide, increased kindness by 60%, decreased disrespect by 50%, increased mental health awareness by 70% and decreased aggression by 49% in high schools. A study done by Rosemary Purcell, Kate Gwyther, & Simon M. Rice on Mental Health in Elite Athletes suggested 4-steps for the mental health needs of studentathletes. The first step is building mental health knowledge. The researchers suggest training coaches, athletes, supporting staff, and parents in mental health literacy. By engaging all of these individuals, it ensures that the athlete's overall ecology is equipped to be a protective factor for their mental health. The suggested main points for a program directly coincides with the be nice. action plan. The second step is early identification. The be nice. program emphasizes early detection and provides stakeholders within the athletes life the tools and confidence to take action. The last two steps are for treatment - users of the program identify local resources in their school or community.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$90,000

Maximum Cost: \$90,000

ARPA Request: \$67,500

Submitter Info

Name: Christy Buck

Organization: Mental Health Foundation of West Michigan

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Mental Health

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

be nice. partners with the MHSAA to train all coaches in the be nice. action plan during their season-starting rules meeting. The project would expand coaches knowledge and confidence to be able to train their athletes.



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Supporting Documentation

1. [Letter of Support](#)
2. [be nice. Grant Reference Letter](#)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$90,000
Maximum Cost: \$90,000
ARPA Request: \$67,500

Submitter Info

Name: Christy Buck
Organization: Mental Health
Foundation of West Michigan

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health
Project Theme: Mental Health
Project Status: Expanded Project
Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

be nice. partners with the MHSAA to train all coaches in the be nice. action plan during their season-starting rules meeting. The project would expand coaches knowledge and confidence to be able to train their athletes.

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Behavioral health services are eligible



Sustainability

Appears that this program is for a limited duration



Feasibility



PROJECT #153

College/University Suicide Prevention Blue Envelope Program

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$1,500,000

Maximum Cost: \$1,750,000

ARPA Request: \$1,500,000

Submitter Info

Name: Harriet Bird

Organization: Spectrum Health

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Mental Health

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

The Kent County Suicide Prevention Coalition and all other Kent County colleges (Calvin University, Davenport University, Cornerstone University, Aquinas College, Kuyper College, Kendall College of Art & Design).

Identify the need for the proposed project

Suicide is the second leading cause of death in 10–24-year-old youth nationally (CDC, 2020). Furthermore, suicide is the 8th leading cause of death among all ages in Kent County with residents 18-29 years old accounting for 30% of all suicide deaths (Kent County CHNA, 2020). School staff and faculty have the most interaction with students and can be the first line of defense against suicide. Suicide prevention programs in schools, including gatekeeper training, provide personnel with knowledge, confidence, and a standardized protocol for responding to a student expressing thoughts of suicide. Our School Blue Envelope Program, a suicide prevention and crisis response protocol, provides clear, S.A.F.E. (S: Stay with the student; A: Access help; F: Feelings: validate them; E: Eliminate lethal means) steps for school personnel when a student expresses thoughts of suicide. The program aligns well with other prevention efforts that enable community members to recognize warning signs and concerning behavior. Overall, this project aligns with Objective 5.2 of the National Strategy for Suicide Prevention, which states: “Encourage community-based settings to implement effective programs and provide education that promote wellness and prevention suicide and related behaviors” (US DHHS Office of the Surgeon General & NAASP, 2012).

Brief Description

Spectrum Health, through collaboration, will customize our School Blue Envelope suicide prevention program for the college/university setting with protocols and toolkits for community colleges, residence halls, and health clinics. We will reach out to all colleges/universities in Kent County to find a pilot school, who will be involved in development. A program manager will be hired along with two community program specialists, who will be trained as trainers. In the first year, we provide Level 1 frontline staff education and Level 2 advanced leadership education with shorter, refresher trainings the second year. In the third year, we train the trainer to sustain the program long-term. Data collection will be an integral part of the program, including training pre/post surveys and anonymized Blue Envelope events with students. After piloting the new program, we will reach out to other local colleges/universities in Kent County and offer the program & training over three years. We have successfully completed a small pilot with Calvin University. They have expanded the program to their entire institution, but no data was collected for quality improvement.

Long-Term Benefit

Long-term benefits include increased suicide prevention awareness, increased knowledge & confidence of staff responding to a student in crisis, connecting students to mental health resources & care, more appropriate referrals with fewer students sent to the emergency department, increased collaboration among school staff using a common language, and an established culture of suicide prevention. Overall, improved suicide prevention can ultimately result in a reduction of suicidal behavior.

Intended Beneficiary

Local college/university faculty, staff, and students will benefit most from this suicide prevention training. Faculty and staff will benefit from clear steps and evidence-based tools for responding to a student in crisis. At-risk students will benefit from early intervention and referral to appropriate mental health resources.

Estimated Cost

\$1,500,000-\$1,750,000



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Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$1,500,000

Maximum Cost: \$1,750,000

ARPA Request: \$1,500,000

Submitter Info

Name: Harriet Bird

Organization: Spectrum Health

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Mental Health

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

The Kent County Suicide Prevention Coalition and all other Kent County colleges (Calvin University, Davenport University, Cornerstone University, Aquinas College, Kuyper College, Kendall College of Art & Design).

Project Management Experience

BHSH/Spectrum Health has extensive experience managing and leading county-wide projects. Our team, in collaboration with the Ottawa County Suicide Prevention Coalition, developed and led the pilot phase of the School Blue Envelope Program in Ottawa County. We are currently expanding our school program in elementary, middle, and high schools throughout our 16- county West Michigan service area. After training, school staff express increased knowledge and confidence when responding to a student expressing thoughts of suicide. School feedback highlights the common language provided by the program and a standardized process to follow during a potential crisis. In the 2021-2022 school year, we have trained 52 schools in the program.

Federal Funds Experience

BHSH/Spectrum Health has extensive experience working with federal funds. We have experience managing over \$4.8 million per fiscal year in state and federal grants. Our Office of Sponsored Programs consists of five grant analysts and a manager assisting with grant compliance, progress reporting, and documenting policies and procedures and financials. Furthermore, the School Blue Envelope Program is heavily grant funded and has been operating off these funds since 2019.

Studies on Impact

Outcomes from Spectrum Health's School Blue Envelope program implementation in West Michigan currently show significant increases in knowledge and confidence of elementary, middle, and high school staff when responding to a student who expresses thoughts of suicide. This is consistent with research that demonstrates gatekeeper suicide prevention training increases the knowledge, confidence, and self-efficacy of participants. This training can also influence gatekeeper intervention and referral behaviors. Furthermore, studies of higher education institutions have found that most faculty believe their role includes suicide prevention and widespread gatekeeper training increases confidence in identifying and assisting at-risk students (Hashimoto, et al., 2021; Sylvara & Mandracchia, 2019; Woliskzy-Taylor, et al., 2020).

Supporting Documentation

[Letters of Support](#)

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Prevention program within behavioral health is eligible



Sustainability

Pilot program



Feasibility



PROJECT #121

Each One Teach One Intensive Mentoring Program

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$400,000

Maximum Cost: \$1,600,000

Submitter Info

Name: JD Chapman Jr.

Organization: Realism Is Loyalty

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Mental Health

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Identify the need for the proposed project

Having had a personal history of involvement with both the juvenile and adult criminal justice system, RIL founder and Executive Director, JD Chapman Jr., created Realism Is Loyalty in collaboration with two fellow returning citizens who recognized a need for African American, credible and relatable role models and mentors in their home neighborhoods. They established a 501(c)3 organization in 2014 and began to serve the highest-risk youth in the community with referrals from family members, school personnel and Kent County judges and probation offices. Since that time RIL has added a licensed clinician and additional mentors to meet the increasing demand for community-placed, family-centered, culturally competent, intensive mentoring and therapy for youth who would otherwise be sent to detention or residential placement. With the Covid pandemic, RIL's targeted demographic has seen steep increases in anxiety, depression, substance abuse, home and community violence and educational deficits. RIL created the Each One Teach One Intensive Mentoring Program in order to meet rising demand for comprehensive, long-term mental health services among a population which has virtually no other access to them.

Brief Description

The Each One Teach One Intensive Mentoring Program is a one-year youth development program that provides wraparound services for participants and their families. The unique mentoring component of the program utilizes credible agents with similar backgrounds and lived experience as well as evidence-based strategies that nurture educational attainment, life skills, leadership, workforce development, financial literacy and community service. The core programming centers on intensive mentoring for a cohort of 15 youths, paired with mental health services for the entire family, that aims to address underlying attitudes that lead to unhealthy behaviors. Financial incentives tied to program attendance and performance ensure meaningful engagement and help to support participants and families during the program while providing participants an opportunity to exercise real-world budget management skills. RIL mentors actively partner with the Courts, probation officers and family and community members to keep participants living safely at home, thereby reducing public spending on detention and residential facilities while at the same time directly providing and connecting them to community-based resources to support them in their home environments. RIL was founded on the principle and for the purpose of increasing the use of alternatives to incarceration and arrest for Kent County youth by addressing the problem directly with the actors themselves, guiding them towards healthier behavior.

Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

Family Outreach Center
(Seeking Safety; Mental Health;
SUD); Wedgewood Christian
Services (SUD)

Long-Term Benefit

The Program aims to interrupt years' worth of generational trauma in participant families. Participants of the program benefit directly through durable improvements to their mental health, reduced stress and family turmoil; communities benefit from better relationships with the youth and their families and decreased crime rates. County residents benefit from the lower cost of a community-based intervention compared to detention and residential placement.

Intended Beneficiary

Participating youth and their parents will benefit the most from the program. However, program therapies are evidence-based, proven to effect lasting behavioral change and improved mental health, and learned skills and benefits are transferable to others in the family and social circle.



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Estimated Cost

\$400,000 annually for 4 years, total \$1,600,000

*Source of Funding

Committed to Date: \$200,000 Grand Rapids Community Foundation 2023-24 and \$137,980 Steelcase Foundation for 2023-24. Pending: \$150,000 Wege Foundation for 2023-2024 and an amount to be determined from WK Kellogg Foundation and Spectrum Health Healthier Communities (a past funder). Additional funds to be raised as needed through private and corporate donations and events.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$400,000

Maximum Cost: \$1,600,000

Submitter Info

Name: JD Chapman Jr.

Organization: Realism Is Loyalty

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Youth Support

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Project Management Experience

RIL currently serves over 100 individuals within Kent County across its various programs on an annual budget of \$451,252. Members of its Executive Board of Directors have served as Executive Directors and Board members of large, regional nonprofit organizations and are active in guiding and monitoring organizational practices and procedures. Both the Steelcase and the Grand Rapids Community Foundation recently awarded RIL with \$300,000 grants to be distributed over three years.

Federal Funds Experience

This would be the first for the organization itself; however, two current board members have past experience acquiring, administering and reporting on federal grant funding. RIL has retained the services of a third-party bookkeeper who reports both to the Executive Directors and the Board.

Studies on Impact

- Epstein R, et al. Psychosocial and Pharmacologic Interventions for Disruptive Behavior in Children and Adolescents. Comparative Effectiveness Review No. 154. www.effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/reports/final.cfm.
- Fox, A. M., et al (2019). An evaluation of Dialectical Behavior Therapy in Washington State's Juvenile Rehabilitation. Olympia, WA: Department of Children, Youth, and Families, Office of Innovation, Alignment, and Accountability.
- Groves, S., et al (2010). Review: Dialectical behavior therapy with adolescents. Child and Adolescent Mental Health, 17(2), 65-75
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Interventions for Disruptive Behavior Disorders: Evidence-Based and Promising Practices. HHS Pub. No. SMA-11- 4634, Rockville, MD: Center for Mental Health Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2011.
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration: Principles of Community-based Behavioral Health Services for Justice-involved Individuals: A Research-based Guide. samhsa.gov
- The Eisenhower Foundation. (2014) Program Guide: The Quantum Opportunities Best Practice Model. Eisenhowerfoundation.net

Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

Family Outreach Center (Seeking Safety; Mental Health; SUD); Wedgewood Christian Services (SUD)



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Supporting Documentation

1. [Letter of Support #1](#)
2. [Letter of Support #2](#)
3. [Letter of Support #3](#)
4. [Letter of Support #4](#)
5. [Letter of Support #5](#)
6. [Letter of Support #6](#)
7. [Letter of Support #7](#)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$400,000

Maximum Cost: \$1,600,000

ARPA Request: \$400,000

Submitter Info

Name: JD Chapman Jr.

Organization: Realism Is Loyalty

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Mental Health

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

Family Outreach Center
(Seeking Safety; Mental Health;
SUD); Wedgewood Christian
Services (SUD)

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

*Behavioral health
services are an
enumerated use of funds*



Sustainability

4 year plan



Feasibility



PROJECT #229

New American Mental Health

Identify the need for the proposed project

Treetops Collective is deeply embedded in New American communities through our Concentric program. Through these relationships we have seen how language, transportation, and cultural barriers have created additional challenges for immigrant and refugee neighbors in need of mental health services.

Brief Description

During the past two years Treetops has worked with multiple community partners to consider alternative approaches to mental health for those arriving as refugees. In addition to advocating for systems/policy change related to insurance providers and better access to services through already established centers, we created the Circles of Support model with a focus on culturally-connected care done in relationship with others from the same language community. In response to Afghans arriving to Kent County we served 49 individuals through this approach and we desire to expand it through trained individuals from multiple language backgrounds. With a focus on resilience, coping skills, and stress reduction and under the supervision of trained therapists, we can extend services through trusted relationships in the community in small groups of 5- 10. Simultaneously we will work with current providers to better understand the unique needs of these populations through the voices and leadership of those who have come to this country as refugees. We are working with Western Michigan University to establish CEU's for those who participate in trainings and advocate within these provider networks for reduced fee for service for those needing additional services after completing Circles of Support. Additionally, for long-term systems transformation, we would like to establish scholarships and partnerships with local universities to encourage more New Americans to seek out therapy degrees.

Long-Term Benefit

This approach will reduce stigma, eliminate barriers around language, increase access, and elevate the leadership and capacity of the New American community contributing to change that is sustainable. Financial and logistical barriers around interpretation will always hinder access to care so creating a model that is focused on practitioners with varying language backgrounds would increase access and decrease the expenses around intervention leading to healing of Kent County residents.

Intended Beneficiary

Immigrants and refugees

Estimated Cost

\$500,000-750,000

*Source of Funding

Treetops Collective is currently partnering with the Kent County Health Department to increase access to mental and physical health services among New American communities through a contract for up to \$176,800. We are also pursuing funding from the Office of Global Michigan in 2022.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$500,000

Maximum Cost: \$750,000

Submitter Info

Name: Tarah Carnahan

Organization: Treetops Collective

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Mental Health

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact:  

Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

Fountain Hill, Samaritas,
Bethany Christian Services,
Kent County Health
Department, A Glimpse of
Africa, West Michigan
University



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Project Management Experience

We have not yet led a county-wide project but we have extensive experience in collaborating with other organizations as evidenced by our over 20 letters of support for our cross-cultural community center.

Federal Funds Experience

Treetops Collective received over \$92,000 in CARES Act funds at the end of 2020 and successfully executed all funds in a limited amount of time.

Studies on Impact

Yes we are - this can be provided upon request from our Collective Care Specialist SaraJane Herrboldt at sarajane@treetopscollective.org

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$500,000

Maximum Cost: \$750,000

Submitter Info

Name: Tarah Carnahan

Organization: Treetops Collective

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Mental Health

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Guidehouse Ranking Notes

 **Eligibility**

Behavioral health services are eligible

 **Sustainability**

Matching funds are discussed, but not guaranteed.

 **Feasibility**

Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

Fountain Hill, Samaritas,
Bethany Christian Services,
Kent County Health
Department, A Glimpse of
Africa, West Michigan
University



PROJECT #88

Community Health Connections & Culture Development

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$300,000

Maximum Cost: \$500,000

Submitter Info

Name: Veronica Leshan

Organization:
Leshan Consulting, LLC

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Mental Health

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Identify the need for the proposed project

Throughout my interactions in the community, I have seen a simple game turn into a highly charged traumatic situation. This has shown me that there is a high level of trauma experienced by youth in Kent County. Our youth do not have the mental health tools and resources needed to cope appropriately. This program will create mental health experiences that allow our youth to look inwards and recognize their internal and external stressors. The program will also develop, teach and train our youth to cope with circumstances, de-escalate situations with peers, parents, leadership and authority figures.

Brief Description

Theater offers many opportunities to discuss mental health in a nonthreatening way. This project will create a space for youth to receive regular access to licensed mental health professionals, while engaging in arts and culture enhancement activities. The program will build skills such as de-escalation, identifying internal and external stressors, appropriate coping mechanisms, and building positive character. These skills will help show our youth participants, & adult staff, volunteers and community partners options in life, that it's okay to be different, and create the space to build relationships with positive role models that look like them. The project will also create many jobs within the community.

Long-Term Benefit

Stronger communities, fewer high risk escalated situations, due to preventative mental health resources made available to Kent County's youth. To educate, create and inspire the next generation of leaders. Leaders that have the skills to cope with stressors and build life skills that will allow them to thrive, even when the world around them is in chaos.

Intended Beneficiary

Kent County youth and the communities in which they live.

Estimated Cost

300,000 - 500,000

Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

Mental Health Clinicians of Color

Project Management Experience

I have worked with private, government and non-profit organizations in a variety of regulatory environments. I have extensive experience working in large scale community projects across Michigan, Indiana, Ohio & Illinois.



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Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$300,000

Maximum Cost: \$500,000

Submitter Info

Name: Veronica Leshan

Organization:
Leshan Consulting, LLC

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Mental Health

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

Mental Health Clinicians of Color

Federal Funds Experience

I have direct and indirect experience working with federal funds through my previous employment with the State of Michigan Unemployment office, and my current employment with a financial institution. While I have access to a team of federal regulators, I would welcome any additional training or information offered specific to this program.

Studies on Impact

Yes! Research studies from Michelle Sherman, PhD - University of Minnesota Medical School Clinical Study, WayAhead, BeNice, UNICEF, Dan Summer - Lesley University, Stage Coach Theater Arts, Appalachian State University and various other medical professionals, universities, and professional theater companies will validate the positive correlation between mental health resources and musical theater. The Journal of Experimental Social Psychology, Artists Repertory Theater of Portland and The Public Theater in NYC also have data supported research showing the positive impact on audience behavior. This positive impact includes increases in empathy, charitable behavior etc. when exposed to mental health issues depicted in the theater performances. Due to many research studies across the US and the world I believe this program could greatly benefit Kent County youth and the communities in which they live.

Guidehouse Ranking Notes

 **Eligibility**

Behavioral health services are eligible

 **Sustainability**

Project may need future funding

 **Feasibility**

More details on program/use of funds needed



PROJECT #211

Pediatric Medical Psychiatric Unit at Helen DeVos Children's Hospital

Identify the need for the proposed project

Across the country, hospitals and health systems are challenged by increasing behavioral health cases that have been exacerbated by the pandemic. Delayed and disrupted care, social isolation, virtual learning, food insecurities, and increased stress from the pandemic has magnified existing challenges as there is more demand for care to treat depression, anxiety, and substance use. Teen suicide is also rising and will require the heightened use of early, timely, and appropriate treatment. According to data from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), suicide is the second leading cause of death among people ages 10-24 and recent reports from the National Association of Mental Illness has shown rate of death by suicide for adolescents has surged 57.4% over the last ten years. Sg2 reports an expected increase in inpatient pediatric volume with diagnoses such as bipolar disorder, mood disorder, psychosis, and substance use disorder from 2.5% to 6+ percent in the next 5 years. The Helen DeVos Children's Hospital(HDVCH) Emergency Department(ED) currently cares for the most pediatric behavioral health cases in the Grand Rapids area at 78%. Compared to March of 2020, pediatric patients with behavioral health conditions have increased from ~4% of all admissions and discharges in HDVCH to ~12% one year later. Behavioral health patients require a greater level of care and have a higher utilization of clinical services and resources. Without a locked unit, patients often need to be isolated in their rooms for safety reasons. This milieu can be challenging for patients and does not provide the most healing environment. Knowing we do not currently have the most healing environment for these patients along with the increased demands we recognize we must build a new medical psychiatric unit at Helen DeVos Children's Hospital to better care for these patients

Brief Description

A new pediatric medical psychiatric unit at HDVCH is needed to serve the high behavioral health demands. Currently, behavioral health patients are spread out over multiple floors in the hospital and are not in the most healing environments. Building the unit will allow for beds to be freed up for patients with other medical needs while providing continuity of care and a carefully designed space to meet the needs of the behavioral health patients. In addition, part of this work will be creating care pathways and relationships with local community mental health partners to ensure every patient that comes through HDVCH's ED is cared for in the right setting. By having a dedicated area with more medical psychiatric beds, behavioral health patients will be able to receive specialized care unique to their needs by a dedicated team. The design of the unit will also be specific to serve the needs of this population such as having a group therapy room, sensory space, a family room, a classroom and music/art therapy space. This will all be in one secured unit to allow for easy mobility and comfort for patients.

Long-Term Benefit

Added capacity for pediatric med/psych patients enhances collaboration between medical and behavioral health providers, allowing for coordinated, compassionate care. Patients will have a clear pathway from presenting in the ED to either receiving care in the new unit or a partnering organization. This unit will have resources to best serve this vulnerable population. The program will ensure exceptional outcomes and the care team has the necessary tools to provide excellent care for peds patients

Intended Beneficiary

The intended beneficiaries are pediatric patients aged 6 through 17. We aim to serve approximately 3,504 patient days or 345 patients annually.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$12,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$12,000,000

ARPA Request: \$5,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Natalia Szczygiel

Organization: Spectrum Health

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Mental Health

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

The state has already approved \$5M toward the capital expense of this project.

Partnership

(Listed in main description)



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$12,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$12,000,000

ARPA Request: \$5,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Natalia Szczygiel

Organization: Spectrum Health

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Mental Health

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

The state has already approved \$5M toward the capital expense of this project.

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

*Partnership

The behavioral health team will be working with external community partners such as Pine Rest and Forrest View to find placements for patients who come to the HDVCH ED with behavioral health needs, but do not need medical care. External community partners will be able to transfer patients to the medical psychiatric unit at HDVCH if their patients are experiencing both behavioral health and medical issues defined by admission criteria.

Estimated Cost

The capital cost to build out the unit is \$12M. The State of Michigan has approved \$5M to support this endeavor. \$5M is being asked in this proposal to match the state's contribution. Spectrum Health will plan to cover the remaining capital expense.

Project Management Experience

BHSH/Spectrum Health has extensive experience managing and leading county-wide projects.

Federal Funds Experience

BHSH/Spectrum Health has extensive experience working with federal funds. We have experience managing over \$4.8 million per fiscal year in state and federal grants. Our Office of Sponsored Programs consists of grant analysts and a manager assisting with grant compliance, progress reporting, and documenting policies and procedures and financials.

Studies on Impact

Research has been done regarding the need for medical psychiatric units especially as it relates to the child and adolescent populations and how a healthcare system can best implement these types of units. Below are a list of research papers/publications in support of this project. Current Status of Child and Adolescent Medical/Psychiatric Units Association Between Comorbid Psychiatric Disorders and Hospital Resource Use in Physically Ill Pediatric Inpatients: A Case-Matched Analysis Measuring Outcomes on a Medical Psychiatric Unit: HoNOS, CANSAS and costs Evaluation of Opening a Type III/IV Medical Psychiatric Unit Organization and Outcomes of Integrated Inpatient Medical and Psychiatric Care Units: A Systematic Review

Guidehouse Ranking Notes

 **Eligibility**

Behavioral health services are eligible

 **Sustainability**

Lacking guaranteed funding after 2026 though partners were identified

 **Feasibility**

Risk to 2026 completion



PROJECT #40

Art For Healing

Identify the need for the proposed project

Considering the amount of violence taking place within our community, our organization is aware of the need for healing within our community.

Brief Description

Art for Healing provides self expression art programs, which allows individuals an outlet to express themselves in a positive & creative way. Opposed to expressing themselves through violence! Our programs currently provide services at the Kent County Juvenile Detention Center, however we are looking to expand.

Long-Term Benefit

Our program will provide long term benefits to the community as it will allow individuals/youth an opportunity for creativity, guidance, and a better path of life.

Intended Beneficiary

Our community as a whole, our youth. This program is inclusive to all groups, all ethnic backgrounds.

Estimated Cost

\$200,000.00

Project Management Experience

This organization is in its beginning stages however, we currently provide services at Kent County Juvenile Detention Center. Where any funding received goes towards the program, to benefit our students.

Federal Funds Experience

Exhibit Alexander has participated in The World Of Winter Festival, all funding received was used towards the project. Also any funds received for Art For Healing is used towards the program. We are looking to elevate our experiences.

Studies on Impact

Art has been a source for healing for at least over 30,000 years. Art allows individuals an opportunity to address what they're feeling, it allows individuals to express what they're feeling and allows them to release those feelings through the means of creativity. Art is known to have measurable psychological and physiological healing properties. Which improves personal and public health.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$200,000

Maximum Cost: \$200,000

ARPA Request: \$200,000

Submitter Info

Name: Erica Alexander

Organization: Exhibit Alexander

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Mental Health

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

n/a

Guidehouse Ranking Notes

 **Eligibility**

Evidence-based violence intervention programs are eligible

 **Sustainability**

Does not include a funding plan or fund availability after expending all the ARPA dollars.

 **Feasibility**



PROJECT #51

Women's Seeking Safety

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$238,667

Maximum Cost: \$238,667

ARPA Request: \$217,667

Submitter Info

Name: Dr. Veneese Chandler

Organization:

Family Outreach Center

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Mental Health

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

\$21,000.00 - Funding Source:
General Operating Funds

Partnership

Baxter Community Center,
Steepletown Neighborhood
Services, and the Urban Core
Collective

Identify the need for the proposed project

Family Outreach Center was selected as the lead agency for the Modified Seeking Safety Program (Seeking Safety for African American Males) through the City of Grand Rapids federal grant in 2015. When this grant concluded Family Outreach Center was able to secure funding to run a more limited version of the Seeking Safety for African American Males. Throughout the time that we ran this program for black and brown males we were asked to provide this for females as well. Recently Network180 has funded the clinician to run the Seeking Safety for Black and Brown Females. The peer support that is part of the male program and critical to recruiting, supporting and maintaining participants in the program was not funded based on limited available funds. Family Outreach Center believes in a wrap-around philosophy for individuals who have experienced trauma to provide needed services not available through the provider. A holistic and compressive integrated service that addresses the individual's trauma, behavioral and physical health care, and other unmet basic needs will provide the necessary balance to restore a healthy level of functioning. Presently, most services for adults in Kent County are fragmented. Through Peer Support activities, Family Outreach Center will identify the most active victim service providers, and work within existing collaboratives, including Baxter Community Center, Steepletown Neighborhood Services, and the Urban Core Collective to facilitate wrap-around supports for survivors of trauma and/or violence. Therefore, Family Outreach Center is seeking funding to add this essential role to the Women's program.

Brief Description

This is a multi-year (3 year request for funding). The Female Seeking Safety Program will provide Seeking Safety Groups; Individual Therapy and Community Education on trauma; recognition and treatment for young girls and Women impacted by trauma. The therapist role is currently funded by network180. The program design includes a Peer Support staff person which is the portion being sought through this funding opportunity. The Peer Support is an individual with lived experience who can work with participants individually while assisting them to build natural supports. Additionally, the Peer Support will provide supportive services to eliminate barriers to participation and ensure enrollees are connected to all necessary comprehensive supports (e.g. reminder calls for appointments, arrange transportation if needed, help in developing natural/informal supports, help connect to community resources, help obtain/connect to health care services etc.). The inclusion of the Peer Support will provide wraparound support to enhance program effectiveness.

Long-Term Benefit

Trauma has a lifelong negative impact upon victims' physical and mental health and social functioning, which leads to major public health and social problems. (Felitti, V.J. and Anda, R.F., [2014] The Lifelong Effects of Adverse Childhood Experiences in Chadwick's Child Maltreatment, 4th Ed., vol. 2). The long term benefits include: Improved academic outcomes. Reduce trauma symptoms. Reduction in school suspensions. Reduce poverty & Improve health outcomes for marginalized populations.

Intended Beneficiary

This project's primary focus will be on Black and Brown females residing in Kent County who have experienced trauma. The program will focus on (2) age groups: 12-17 and 18 and older.

Estimated Cost

(3) year total budget \$238,667.



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Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$238,667

Maximum Cost: \$238,667

ARPA Request: \$217,667

Submitter Info

Name: Dr. Veneese Chandler

Organization:
Family Outreach Center

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Mental Health

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

\$21,000.00 - Funding Source:
General Operating Funds

Partnership

Baxter Community Center,
Steepletown Neighborhood
Services, and the Urban Core
Collective

Project Management Experience

Family Outreach Center's (FOC) mission is "leading the way in promoting healthy family living by reaching out to underserved populations and those who are low income in the community." Some of Family Outreach Center's County wide programs include: Prevention service for the Lakeshore Regional Entity focused on youth; Family Outreach Center was one of the founding partners of Kent School Services Network (KSSN) and continues (as the largest provider of services) to date; and Family Outreach Center was selected as the lead agency in the City of Grand Rapids 5 year Federal Grant to provide Seeking Safety for African American Males. The KSSN program covers all of Kent County. Family Outreach Center has 16 schools across several districts including Grand Rapids Public school to Sparta Schools. We have demonstrated the ability to work with several school districts; both Urban and Rural communities and various funders to ensure the success of this program. The Prevention Services for the Lakeshore Regional Entity (LRE) began as Substance Use Prevention services for youth. Family Outreach Center, through its successful partnership with the LRE has expanded services to Youth Gambling and Native American Behavioral Health. This contract demonstrates Family Outreach Center's ability to work not only within Kent County but across counties as well. Seeking Safety for African American Males was a Federal Demonstration Project. Family Outreach Center was successful in meeting and or exceeding benchmarks set throughout this 5 year grant. Due to the success of the demonstration project Family Outreach Center was able to secure funding from Network180; Spectrum Healthier Communities and United Way to continue this work.

Federal Funds Experience

The Seeking Safety for African American Males program was a federally funded program. Family Outreach Center was the lead agency and responsible for all Federal Funding guidelines and operations. In addition, Family Outreach Center's MIREP Program in the Kent County Jail receives federal funding and thus Family Outreach Center is familiar with compliance rules related to programming; budget and reporting. Audits against Federal rules and regulations found no areas of correction throughout the duration of the grant. Family Outreach Center has received COVID relief funding through the Outpatient and Prevention Programs.

Studies on Impact

Seeking Safety is an Evidence Based Program that addresses the impact of trauma & the presence of trauma symptoms for those that have been exposed to violence and/or traumatic events. Research suggests that Black & Brown individuals experience trauma at higher rates than their white counterparts. Our young youth of color are experiencing trauma at higher rates than their peers & the educational system perpetuates dehumanizing behavior through policies & practices. WGUV reported November 8, 2018 that "In Grand Rapids Public Schools, black students are three times as likely as white students to be suspended. And 87% of all the students suspended were students of color." With higher suspension rates for black students we have a societal infrastructure that supports the dehumanization of our black youth. "Suspension predicts greater odds of: victimization (increased by 22%), criminal activity (31% higher), and being incarcerated (72% greater)," Wolf, K. Kupchik, A, Justice Quarterly April 2017. WMU's study of FOC's Seeking Safety Program found: 53% of participants reported that their PTSD symptoms interfered less with their daily lives after attending the Seeking Safety group & 52% reported an increase in their resiliency.

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

*Behavioral health
services are eligible*



Sustainability

*Does not include a funding
plan or fund availability
after expending all the
ARPA dollars.*



Feasibility



PROJECT #54

Expanding Hispanic Behavioral Health Access

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$863,742

Maximum Cost: \$863,742

ARPA Request: \$751,080

Submitter Info

Name: Karol Maurer

Organization:

Catholic Charities West Michigan

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Mental Health

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

Trauma Recovery
Associates, Aquinas College,
Catholic Diocese of Grand
Rapids, local churches

Identify the need for the proposed project

The long-existing need for this project has become increasingly evident through local and national needs assessments, community forums, research and our own work across West Michigan. Locally, some early signs emerged out of Catholic parishes with large Hispanic communities. In these churches, the parish priest is deeply involved in community life, and serves as a confidante, counselor and guide for many families. These pastors are often the primary trusted resource assisting families through difficult and traumatic circumstances. Through their involvement, a growing call was echoed by priests for specialized mental and behavioral health services to be developed specifically with the needs of Hispanic community members in mind. After a long consultation process with multiple stakeholder groups, this project was developed as an answer to that call.

Brief Description

The project aims to expand the Hispanic Behavioral Health infrastructure in Kent County, while lowering the barriers that prevent access to these critical services. It does so through: 1-The implementation of Localized & Culturally Sensitive Model 2-Held at trusted contact points 3-Run collaboratively by community members & licensed professionals 4-Imparting strategic tools to overcome barriers to utilization The project's Trauma Recovery Model is available in 6 languages and has been successfully utilized in Michigan since 2002. National research corroborates local findings that: limited cultural sensitivity, a shortage of Hispanic healthcare providers and mental health illiteracy remain the main barriers to access for Hispanics. Further, even where access to health care services exists, underutilization is a major challenge. These issues lead to traumas from abuse, domestic violence and adverse childhood experiences to continue perpetually unaddressed. Simultaneously, the project focuses on overcoming the shortage of Hispanic counselors by removing key barriers to entry. These include reimbursed college tuition, internships and mentoring. Therefore, creating a pipeline of career-ready Hispanic behavioral health leaders.

Long-Term Benefit

The long-term benefit of such a project is the development of a local, behavioral health infrastructure, specifically designed to meet the needs of our Hispanic communities. This will lead to increased access to critically needed behavioral and mental health services to the underserved Hispanic population in Kent County, driving equitable health outcomes and deeper community well-being.

Intended Beneficiary

The intended beneficiaries of this project are underserved members of the Hispanic community. These include individuals, families, parents and partners, the undocumented and those who are underinsured or completely uninsured. The project includes a special focus on those grappling with domestic violence, abuse and related traumas.

Estimated Cost

We estimate the annual cost of this project to be \$287,914 for each of the first 3 years. We therefore request a 3-year grant of \$863,742.



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Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$863,742

Maximum Cost: \$863,742

ARPA Request: \$751,080

Submitter Info

Name: Karol Maurer

Organization:

Catholic Charities West Michigan

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Mental Health

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

Trauma Recovery
Associates, Aquinas College,
Catholic Diocese of Grand
Rapids, local churches

*Source of Funding

Other funding sources include the Diocese of Grand Rapids, the Catholic community and local family foundations. Our traditional Behavioral Health funding model includes revenue from client insurance payments or client self-payment. As this project is seeking to remove barriers to entry in order to ensure maximum uptake of these critical services, we have chosen to adopt a fee-free model for the initiation years of this project. While this will drive a higher service utilization, it does require that a large portion of these services will be funded through external sources in the project's infancy. Internal allocations, Catholic Diocese of Grand Rapids, local churches - total of \$115,000

Project Management Experience

Our agency has over 75 years of experience serving the West Michigan community. We currently operate 34 projects in 16 counties across the region.

Federal Funds Experience

We have multiple projects across the agency in which we are a subrecipient of federal funds. Below are some examples of federal funds we received in the FY2021 alone (not a comprehensive list): 1. Affordable Care Act funds support Empowering Youth Today, Healthy Families and Local Home Visit Leader Group projects: approx. \$485,000 2. CNCS funds support our Foster Grand Parent and Senior Companion Programming: approx. \$410,000 3. Block Grant for Community Mental Health Services funds our Mental Health Juvenile Justice project: approx. \$35,000 4. CARES ACT funds have been awarded in support of God's Kitchen and Behavior Health services: approx. \$8,000 5. Our foster care and adoption programming in Kent County receive funds from WMPC which is a pass-through agency for federal funds: approx. \$760,000

Studies on Impact

Yes, there is a body of evidence which supports the use of group and individual therapy treatments in addressing behavioral and mental health matters. The success of the particular model being adopted by this project has been independently investigated through a research study of 116 participants. This research study can be found at: Jennifer M. Foster & Whitney DeCamp (2019) A QuasiExperimental Investigation of a Group Intervention for Adult Survivors of Polyvictimization and Complex Trauma, The Journal for Specialists in Group Work, 44:3, 152-169, DOI: 10.1080/01933922.2019.1634780

Supporting Documentation

[Letter of Support](#)

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Behavioral health
services are eligible



Sustainability

Does not include a funding
plan or fund availability after
expending all the ARPA
dollars.



Feasibility



PROJECT #91

Clinical stability - Salvation Army Turning Point Programs

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$75,000

Maximum Cost: \$90,000

Submitter Info

Name: Jason Boeve

Organization:

Salvation Army - Turning Point

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Mental Health

Project Status: Existing Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

n/a

Identify the need for the proposed project

There is a serious therapist shortage throughout the community making it increasingly difficult to give adequate clinical service to patients in our detox and intensive stabilization program in Grand Rapids. The new ASAM Continuum mandated throughout the state's CMH's last October has caused an additional burden for therapists to complete early in treatment on top of the usual clinical duties of therapy groups, crisis intervention, aftercare, co-occurring assessments, suicide risk assessments, and our own therapeutic assessments. We have also been unable to hire a new Clinical Supervisor to fill the need of LMSW clinical supervision for limited licensed MSWs and masters level interns.

Brief Description

Sign contracted therapists (if hiring through normal means continues to produce no results/hires) for assistance regarding the ASAM Continuums. Also, contract with a fully licensed LMSW to provide the state required supervision for our LLMSW therapists as well as masters level MSW interns that provide extra support to our clinical team.

Long-Term Benefit

Having clinical staff to complete the ASAM Continuums and KEEP OPEN. When we are unable to complete those assessments, most CMHs will not allow us to bill for ANY of the services we provide. Consequently, if we continue to have a large therapist shortage, we would eventually go out of business due to not being able to bill enough to break even as a nonprofit. There have been several other local detox/rehab facilities that have closed in the last 2 years due to similar budget/staffing issues.

Intended Beneficiary

The patients we serve and our community would benefit the most as we would be able to give better clinical support - especially to those that struggles with substance AND serious mental health concerns. Also, we would be able to stay open and continue to take patients that are in addiction crisis and have almost nowhere to go for appropriate care.

Estimated Cost

75,000-90,000 (yearly)

Project Management Experience

We are involved in how to best serve the addiction-substance abusing population in all of western michigan - coordinating with N180, Heathwest, WMCMH, and others to better serve their needs. We have opened Outpatient/MAT clinics in Grand Rapids, Muskegon, Ludington, and Baldwin over the last few years to meet part of the high needs counties have related to substance abuse.



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Federal Funds Experience

Extensive experience related to past CARES Act funding, state funding with CMHs, Medicaid funding, as well as other various grants over the years.

Studies on Impact

It is well known that those with serious substance abuse issues tend to have much higher rates of mental health disorders and complications. If hospitals and rehabs aren't giving adequate staffing for the mental health and therapeutic aspects of treatment, patients are much more likely to continue to have relapses. Those relapses usually end in needing to come back for more services - and occasionally there are deaths (due to overdoses and/or suicide).

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$75,000

Maximum Cost: \$90,000

Submitter Info

Name: Jason Boeve

Organization:

Salvation Army - Turning Point

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Mental Health

Project Status: Existing Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

n/a

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Eligible under behavioral health services



Sustainability

Does not include a funding plan or fund availability after expending all the ARPA dollars.



Feasibility



PROJECT #146

Investing in our Community's Mental Health

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$3,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$3,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Taylor Greenfield

Organization: Arbor Circle

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Mental Health

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

Yes – we are planning to partner with the Family Outreach Center and D.A. Blodgett. Additional partners may be added or considered depending on the dollar amount awarded.

Identify the need for the proposed project

Through the pandemic and its recovery, Arbor Circle and other mental health providers have seen an increase in the need for mental health services. Providers have been unable to keep up with demand, particularly for those with Medicaid or who are under/uninsured. To ensure individuals in need have access to critical services and to maintain the high quality of care provided across Kent County, additional funds are needed. These funds will ensure that Outpatient Mental Health Counseling is available for those in need by supporting the cost of care for individuals and families who have Medicaid or are under or uninsured and cannot afford copays/deductibles. The Medicaid reimbursement rate for Outpatient Mental Health Counseling paid by Medicaid Health Plans falls far short of the cost of providing the service. In some cases the rate covers less than half the cost. Standard cost for an Outpatient Counseling session is approximately \$110-\$120.

The Medicaid Health Plans under contract with the State of Michigan and serving Kent County pay the following rates for a typical session for a Medicaid member:

Blue Cross Complete - \$63.47

McLaren Health Plan - \$58.64

Meridian Health Plan -- \$63.47

Molina Healthcare of Michigan -- \$53.95

Priority Health Choice -- \$63.47

UnitedHealthcare Community Plan -- \$58.75

As a result, Outpatient Mental Health service providers, including Arbor Circle, are forced to limit the number of clients they can serve who are covered by Medicaid. This limitation significantly impacts access for low income individuals and families, and specifically communities of color. Because 90% of Arbor Circle clients are 200% of the Federal Poverty Line (FPL) or less, this unsustainable reimbursement disproportionately impacts our client population.

Brief Description

This project would bolster our community's ability to provide services regardless of insurance status for both Arbor Circle and other organizations' Outpatient Services, opening the door for providers to service significantly more clients regardless of insurance type or status. These funds will ensure that Outpatient Mental Health Counseling is available for those in need by supporting the cost of care for individuals and families who have Medicaid or are under or uninsured and cannot afford copays/deductibles. While Arbor Circle has identified this need and requires additional resources to sustain Outpatient Counseling Services for individuals and families who have Medicaid for our own services, we would also be willing to act as a fiduciary for distributing funds to our committed partners in this project in the same way.

Long-Term Benefit

While these funds would be expended over a relatively short period, the long-term impact for those who were able to obtain services that were otherwise not available to them is a significant step on the path to healing. With the pandemic recovery ongoing, this funding will help address critical mental health needs specific to Kent County, and sustain Outpatient Mental Health counseling/therapy services, both at Arbor Circle and additional agencies, by reducing barriers to treatment.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$3,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$3,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Taylor Greenfield

Organization: Arbor Circle


Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Mental Health

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

Yes – we are planning to partner with the Family Outreach Center and D.A. Blodgett. Additional partners may be added or considered depending on the dollar amount awarded.

Intended Beneficiary

Kent County residents; specifically, individuals who have Medicaid or are under/uninsured and in need of/seeking Outpatient Mental Health Counseling. Individuals covered by Medicaid Health Plans often face more limited access to care due to the providers' ability to sustain services with reimbursement rates that don't cover the cost of services. Many Kent County residents face a variety of behavioral health concerns including substance abuse, anxiety, depression, stress, anger, grief and loss, family relationship issues, and trauma; each of these issues may have their roots in or have been exacerbated by the pandemic. Arbor Circle is currently utilizing telehealth and in-person modes of care. While telehealth has increased access and flexibility in care for some, others continue to face barriers due to insurance type and status. With the impact of COVID-19 on our community's mental health still largely unknown, it is necessary to remove barriers to accessing services as a result of lack of or type of insurance. According to the 2020 Kent County Community Health Needs Assessment, 1 in 4 adults and 1 in 3 young adults age 18-24 have some form of diagnosed depression—troubling numbers that point to the significant and ongoing need for accessible mental health counseling services. To address these issues, Arbor Circle is seeking additional funding to increase access to services with both an immediate impact and an eye on the future need. 90% of clients served by Arbor Circle are 200% Federal Poverty Level or less, and sustainability for mental health services remains a challenge because traditional reimbursement rates from Medicaid Health Plans do not fully cover the cost of the service. In order to maintain the current level of services while working towards future solutions for our community, additional funding is critical. We anticipate serving 3,000 individuals and families with these funds.

Estimated Cost

\$3,000,000.00

Project Management Experience

Arbor Circle has established long standing, positive relationships with numerous community-wide systems, agencies and organizations in the community. The Chief Executive Officer, along with a range of other Arbor Circle staff (from Administrative/Leadership positions to direct care staff) are active participants in these collaborations by providing leadership and content expertise to ensure advocacy and appropriate coordination of care. Our service model includes co-location with other organizations, in addition to over 20 school partners and partnerships through our Kent County Correctional Facility based services. Arbor Circle led the effort to produce the Recommendations to the Community to Address LGBTQ+ Youth Homelessness, a True Colors initiative, and created the initial set of workgroups related to this project. Arbor Circle has been an active participant in the Kent County Family and Children's Coordinating Council, as well as the Kent County Community Corrections Advisory Board. Additionally, Arbor Circle leadership serves on the executive committee for the Kent County Great Start Collaborative. Arbor Circle staff serve as the co-chair for the Youth Homelessness subcommittee for the Coalition to End Homelessness. Lastly, Arbor Circle staff serve on the Healthy Kent Infant Health Action Team. With Arbor Circle staff so deeply embedded into the fabric of our community, we are in a constant state of collaboration across our footprint.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$3,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$3,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Taylor Greenfield

Organization: Arbor Circle

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Mental Health

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

Yes – we are planning to partner with the Family Outreach Center and D.A. Blodgett. Additional partners may be added or considered depending on the dollar amount awarded.

Federal Funds Experience

Arbor Circle is well versed in managing federal funds, and maintains its accounts on the accrual basis of accounting. Its Chief Financial Officer has extensive experience in non-profit accounting and holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration with an emphasis in accounting. Care is taken to segregate financial duties and cash handling to ensure that reasonable safeguards are in place. The internal control system is structured to provide reasonable assurance that assets are safeguarded against loss from unauthorized use or disposition and that transactions are executed in accordance with proper authorizations and recorded properly to permit the preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. An independent audit of financial statements is conducted annually in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards issued by the U.S. Comptroller General. The FY2021 audit and Single Audit has been completed, and as in previous years, had an unqualified opinion, and no findings, material weaknesses, deficiencies or noncompliance. Our total amount of federal awards in FY2021 was \$3,138,251. Lastly, financial reporting is also analyzed alongside utilization and outcome achievement to ensure fidelity to clinical models of care and positive impact. Weekly and monthly review of this information allows us to be nimble and respond quickly to the needs of the people being served, staff providing care and the financial health of the business.

Studies on Impact

Supporting our community's mental health is critical, especially in light of the ongoing pandemic recovery. Mental health issues can make life unbearable for the people who have them, and problems can have a wider effect on society as a whole especially when they go untreated or treatment is delayed. The following statistics from NAMI (National Alliance of Mental Illness) shed light on this fact:

- o Serious mental illness costs the U.S about \$193.2 billion in lost earnings per year.
- o Mood disorders, such as depression and bipolar disorder, are the third most common reason for hospitalization for patients between the ages of 18 and 44.
- o American adults living with mental illness die an average of 25 years sooner than others, largely due to treatable conditions.
- o 37 percent of students suffering from a mental health condition drop out of high school.
- o More than 90% of children who die by suicide suffer from a mental health condition.
- o Growing up with a parent who has an untreated MH diagnosis can be detrimental to healthy development.

According to NAMI, approximately 1 in 5 Americans experience some type of mental illness each year, with 10% experiencing serious mental illness that interferes with major life activities.

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Behavioral health services are eligible



Sustainability

Does not include a funding plan or fund availability after expending all the ARPA dollars.



Feasibility

PROJECT #157

Mental Health Today



Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$100,000

Maximum Cost: \$100,000

Submitter Info

Name: Helen Harp

Organization:

Larlen Communications Inc.

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Mental Health

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

WDPW-FM (Larlen Communications Inc.) partner organizations and collaborators within the program are the University of Michigan Health West, Spectrum Health, the Wisdom Center and Dr. Lennox Forrest, PhD of Faith Counseling Services.

Identify the need for the proposed project

A 2021 report by HHS cites “persistent systemic social inequities and discrimination” which worsened stress and associated mental health concerns for people of color. The HHS estimates that during the COVID-19 pandemic 40.3% of Hispanics experienced current depression, and 36.9% had an increase or initiation of substance abuse. This compares to 25.3% depression and 14.3% substance use in Whites. The statistics point to significant health inequities in the United States. COVID-19 is not an equal opportunity virus. Indeed, it shined a light on America’s pandemic of inequality. The facts indicate the burden falls disproportionately on low-income communities and communities of color, especially the Urban community. These inequities are exposed in the average length of life, quality of life, rates of disability, severeness of illness, and access to treatment. Mental health equity will be achieved when all everyone has the opportunity to attain their full health potential, and no one is impeded from doing so because of socially and economic determined circumstances.

Brief Description

This Mental health program is a placemaking opportunity to build a healthy, resilient community for people of color. We propose to air a weekly 30 min. radio roundtable on 91.9FM WDPW (African American founded and operated) noncommercial educational radio station broadcasting for over 11 years. We will focus on mental health issues/topics such anxiety, depression, suicide, schizophrenia, etc. These subjects have a high impact on the lives of the Urban community and surrounding areas. They contribute to substance abuse, unemployment, homelessness and poverty. The panel will consist of invited mental health industry professional i.e., doctors, therapists, and other. It will be facilitated by Samuel Jones, MA, LPC. of the Wisdom Center. We will also broadcast a daily series of vignettes (a brief evocative account) highlighting mental health wellness and crisis support. We will partner and collaborate with the University of Michigan Health West. Together we will leverage the social media platforms of our organization, partners, and collaborators to change the perception of mental illness in the Urban community by encouraging people to get the help they need while building trust between people of color and the mental health field.

Long-Term Benefit

Accessing available resources and information are key for long term benefits and sustainability. This will not only benefit the Urban community but surrounding areas in Kent County. The urban community has been historically underinvested and is considerably further behind other neighboring communities within the City of Grand Rapids. Knowledge is power. Providing valuable content information and crisis support on how to manage and maintain a healthy mental disposition is vital to society.

Intended Beneficiary

Nielsen Radio Market Report states that during the first quarter of 2020, 91% of adults listened to radio each week, more than any other medium. Market estimate data reports WDPW-FM (Larlen Communications Inc.) averages over 2500 listeners per week. These estimates are derived from the diaries that are provided to the audience for data. WDPW station demographics are 70% women and 30% men ages 18-32. As an urban inspirational station, our listeners are primarily African American and people of color. The combined social media platforms of partners and collaboratives will be utilized to reach millennials and generation z which are the fastest growing demographic on social media today.



(Page 2)

Estimated Cost

Estimated Cost \$100,000 annually

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$100,000

Maximum Cost: \$100,000

Submitter Info

Name: Helen Harp

Organization:

Larlen Communications Inc.

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Mental Health

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

WDPW-FM (Larlen Communications Inc.) partner organizations and collaborators within the program are the University of Michigan Health West, Spectrum Health, the Wisdom Center and Dr. Lennox Forrest, PhD of Faith Counseling Services.

Project Management Experience

WDPW-FM (Larlen Communications Inc.) in partnership with The Gerald R. Ford International Airport the exclusive sponsor of a similar program "Community Voices" which was one of the most listened to broadcast on the station. Our organization is deeply involved in a city-wide youth program entitled NexGen Media GR in partnership with the Grand Rapids Public School 21st Century LOOP Program and funded by the City of Grand Rapids BRIP, the Grand Rapids Jaycees Foundation, Wege Foundation, and the Grand Rapids Community Foundation.

Federal Funds Experience

WDPW-FM (Larlen Communications Inc.) has worked with the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) on COVID-19 informational messaging campaigns.

Studies on Impact

The Corporation for Public Broadcasting states, "Public media stations, locally operated and highly trusted, are well-positioned to provide critical information to communities hard hit by the pandemic." The effective messaging project for COVID-19 was the leading factor to providing disproportionately impacted communities with information, resources, and solutions to combat the virus. According to the National Institute of Health "Health information technologies play a pivotal role in responding to the COVID-19 epidemic." Mental health issues are just as prevalent in communities of color and require health informatics as well. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration states, "Blacks and Latinos have substantially lower access to mental health and substance-use treatment services." ResearchGate states, "The findings reveal that community radio is making a significant contribution to managing community mental health by empowering audiences to better understand and control issues that impact their emotional and social well-being." WDPW-FM's (Larlen Communications Inc.) proposed program, "Mental Health Today" will meet the needs of information technology to the people of color in our community.

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Behavioral health services are an enumerated use of funds



Sustainability

Does not include a funding plan or fund availability after expending all the ARPA dollars.



Feasibility



PROJECT #161

Expansion of Behavioral Health Crisis Services to Reduce Suicide

Identify the need for the proposed project

It has long been established that nearly all mental health diagnoses significantly increase the risk of suicide [1]. Patients discharged from a psychiatric inpatient hospital have suicide rates that are 44 times that of the general population [2]. In response to this risk, the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) has established a best-practice standard that all patients should be seen within seven days following hospital discharge. This quick follow-up has been shown to improve clinical outcomes, decrease the likelihood of rehospitalization, and reduce the overall cost of patient care [3,4,5]. The reality, however, is that at best, only 50% of commercially insured patients and 30% of publicly funded individuals meet that target [6]. Based on recent data from Pine Rest's Central Access center, wait times for a new appointment with a therapist can be a month, and for a psychiatrist, the wait can be over two months. The situation is even more grim in rural areas of Michigan where it can be much more difficult to obtain care with appropriate providers, resulting in longer wait times and extended commutes for care. According to the 2019 Altarum report, "Access to Behavioral Health Care in Michigan", 25 counties in Northern Michigan do not have a psychiatrist, and 10 of those counties neither a psychiatrist nor a psychologist [7]. This means that many Michigan children, seniors, and those with more complex needs are often seen post-discharge by their primary care physicians out of necessity. Ideally, they would be seen by providers with expertise in complex psychiatric conditions and have the support of a multi-disciplinary team as they recover from the crisis. Pine Rest provides crisis services across the community and state; however, extended wait times leave those exiting these services at risk for suicide while they wait for an opening at an outpatient clinic.

To address these service gaps and provide proper treatment for patients, Pine Rest will utilize Kent County ARPA funds to enhance and expand current programming to ensure patients who are at risk for suicide receive follow-up care, both immediately post discharge from a crisis service, and during wait times for new appointments. We propose to do this in two ways, first by expanding the capacity of the Pine Rest Transition Clinic. Currently this clinic provides follow-up clinical care for patients discharging from the Pine Rest inpatient units or the Psychiatric Urgent Care Center. However, space limitations also create limits on the number of people that can be treated. Expanding the space will allow this treatment to occur within the recommended seven days for those who call for an outpatient appointment and are screened as high risk for suicide. The Transition Clinic is designed to serve these individuals by bridging the time between the crisis and seeing a permanent provider...a window of time essential to an individual's recovery where they often have many questions, need to acquire new skills, and often need medication adjustments. By providing services such as evaluation, medication management, therapy, and case management during this time of transition, we significantly improve clinical outcomes, decrease re-hospitalizations, reduce suicides, and provide expert care as patients return to their home communities. The Transition Clinic currently provides services both in person and via telehealth to patients residing in the State of Michigan. The second approach to reducing the gaps in service is the utilization of a case manager to provide follow-up care with patients who are at risk of suicide. Funding from the Kent County ARPA fund will provide salary support to case managers, a role that is currently not supported by commercial insurance. These case managers will engage several follow-up tools such as postcards, letters, telephone calls, texting, and/or emails with patients who may be in transition or may be current clients within the Pine Rest

Brief Description

Pine Rest is proposing to expand and enhance services to provide treatment to individuals facing behavioral health crises. This will occur through the expansion of the Pine Rest Transition Clinic, where treatment is provided during periods of time where suicide risk is high and the patient cannot access typical outpatient care, as well as through the implementation of case management services to provide follow-up care and ongoing communication to individuals who are at high risk of suicide. These programs will target both those individuals who are transitioning from a higher level of care as well as those who are seeking treatment, but are waiting for an initial appointment due to barriers with access to care.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$1,050,000

Maximum Cost: \$1,050,000

Submitter Info

Name: Amy Mancuso

Organization: Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Mental Health

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

n/a



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$1,050,000

Maximum Cost: \$1,050,000

Submitter Info

Name: Amy Mancuso

Organization: Pine Rest Christian
Mental Health Services

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Mental Health

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

n/a

Long-Term Benefit

Currently in Kent County suicide is the 10th leading cause of death overall, and in the top 5 leading causes of death for those aged 5 to 45 years. For each suicide death, more than 115 individuals are impacted and of those, up to 25 people have lasting major life disruptions. Based on outcomes in other national programs implementing Zero Suicide approaches, it is expected that this project could reduce these deaths by 40% annually as well as the impact of them on the community.

Intended Beneficiary

The proposed program will benefit adults at higher risk for suicide. These individuals may be transitioning from a higher level of care, such as inpatient hospitalization or a behavioral health urgent care visit but may also be a community member who calls for an outpatient appointment and, during screening, exhibits a risk for suicide behaviors. These services will provide treatment and followup with these adults during a time that research indicates as the highest risk time for a person to attempt suicide or die by suicide. While this program is available to all individuals, regardless of payer, it is often most difficult for those individuals who have Medicaid or Medicare to find aftercare and follow-up outpatient services, it is expected that a large number of the people treated through these initiatives will be publicly insured.

Estimated Cost

Total amount for the 3-year project is \$1,050,000. \$300,000 per year for staffing for three years (3FTE Case Manager and .5FTE Supervisor per year), and \$150,000 for capital needs year one or two to expand the Transition Clinic.

Project Management Experience

Pine Rest has significant experience managing large projects both county and state-wide. Pine Rest has experience as the Kent County PATH (Projects for Assistance from Transition from Homelessness), funded by the State of Michigan through a SAMHSA grant. This program serves adults experiencing homelessness across the county. In addition, those that meet eligibility, are also engaged in SOAR (SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery) in order to provide support to these individuals as they apply for SSI/SSDI with the goal of finding housing and reducing homelessness in the community. Pine Rest provides services to individuals in nearly every county in the state. In Fiscal Year 2021, Pine Rest provided services to over 47,000 individuals across the state in one of 20 outpatient clinics located in northern, west, and southwestern Michigan, by telehealth, or in our hospital and residential programs located in Kent County. In Marion County Iowa, Pine Rest managed all funding and hosted wellness programming for every high school freshman within the county to attend an event designed to provide engaging and ageappropriate information about wellness and suicide prevention to reduce suicide behaviors within this age group in the county.



Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$1,050,000

Maximum Cost: \$1,050,000

Submitter Info

Name: Amy Mancuso

Organization: Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Mental Health

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

n/a

Federal Funds Experience

Pine Rest has received federal funding both directly and via sub awards through grant agreements from SAMHSA (PATH and Telehealth), USDA, and NIH (National Institutes of Health). In addition, Pine Rest has been the recipient of Cares Act/ARPA funding passed through the State of Michigan and the City of Grand Rapids, as well as directly through the FCC and FEMA. In fiscal year 2021, Pine Rest underwent its first federal single audit which was clean with no findings. Pine Rest has a specific procedure in place for all federally funded grant agreements, cooperative agreements and sub recipient agreements, whether directly funded or passed through another non-profit organization. Federal grant financial management is supported by the Great Plains financial system. Each federal program is assigned its own department within Great Plains. New awards will receive a new department. Receipts and disbursements from this department are tracked individually by Federal Program. Pine Rest has the infrastructure in place to manage and report on these federally funded projects.

Studies on Impact

Evidence-Based Practices include Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), Motivational Interviewing, Dialectical Behavior Therapy Informed CBT, Zero Suicide, Lethal Means Reduction, and Collaborative Assessment and Management of Suicidality. Research that validates the effectiveness of this project includes: Layman, D. M., et al. (2021). The Relationship Between Suicidal Behaviors and Zero Suicide Organizational Best Practices in Outpatient Mental Health Clinics. Psychiatric services (Washington, D.C.), 72(10), 1118–1125. Bickley, H., et al. (2013). Suicide within two weeks of discharge from psychiatric inpatient care: a case-control study. Psychiatric services (Washington, D.C.), 64(7), 653–659. Olfson, M., et al. (2016). Short-term Suicide Risk After Psychiatric Hospital Discharge. JAMA psychiatry, 73(11), 1119–1126. National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention. (2019). Best practices in care transitions for individuals with suicide risk: Inpatient care to outpatient care. Washington, DC: Education Development Center, Inc Stanley, B., & Brown, G. K. (2012). Safety planning intervention: A brief intervention to mitigate suicide risk. Cognitive and Behavioral Practice, 19: 256–264.

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Behavioral health services are eligible



Sustainability

Does not include a funding plan or fund availability after expending all the ARPA dollars.



Feasibility



PROJECT #122

Trauma Treatment Collaborative

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$980,000

Maximum Cost: \$1,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Drew Clay

Organization:

Bethany Christian Services

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Mental Health

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

Although not a direct match of funds, some of the direct service activities completed by the occupational therapist will be billable to insurance. This will offset some of the direct costs of employing the provider.

Partnership

n/a

Identify the need for the proposed project

Bethany Christian Services' Outpatient Counseling Center contracted with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services from 2016 to 2022 to provide trauma assessments for children and adolescents engaged with CPS and/or Foster Care. An interdisciplinary team of medical and mental health professionals was formed to evaluate the impact of trauma on children across multiple domains of functioning. In line with emerging research on trauma and the brain-body connection, including somatic experiencing (van der Kolk, 2015) and polyvagal theory (Porges, 2011), this interdisciplinary team frequently found that trauma-related cognitive, emotional, behavioral, and sensory processing concerns were impacting the mental and physiological wellbeing of those being assessed. As a result, service recommendations provided by the team often included a combination of trauma informed mental health counseling, psychiatric care, and occupational therapy. Based upon this trend and existing research, we believe that it would be beneficial for our clients and the community at-large to expand our current trauma-informed outpatient counseling and psychiatric service offerings by developing an interdisciplinary team approach that also includes occupational therapy. Doing so would provide clients with more comprehensive and efficient care by increasing communication between providers and reducing the number of agencies with which a client may need to interact.

Brief Description

We are proposing the development of a collaborative interdisciplinary treatment team to serve individuals who have experienced trauma. Funding obtained would expand our current outpatient counseling and psychiatric services to integrate occupational therapy. This would involve hiring a fully licensed occupational therapist, developing and implementing a collaborative approach to service and consultation, and supporting the administration of the treatment team. Leveraging the expertise we have gained through our work with individuals and families who have experienced trauma or other adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) (e.g. foster care, adoption, residential living, and refugee services), our team of expert clinicians will be able to work together to deliver comprehensive care. Our history of collaboration with Western Michigan University's Occupational Therapy program, which has served youth within Bethany's residential programming, will also be a valuable connection as we seek to implement this service within the outpatient context.

Long-Term Benefit

Mental health services will be improved for children, families and communities who have suffered from trauma. Increased resilience and a return to a healthy developmental trajectory will have lifelong implications for those engaging in services. This will ultimately lead to healthier functioning in adulthood and more stable family systems. As families stabilize, communities benefit socially and economically.

Intended Beneficiary

The primary intended beneficiaries of this proposed project are children and youth who have faced adverse childhood experiences and/or other traumas. Based upon our current client population, this will have the most direct impact on children in foster care and adoptive families, as well as refugees, immigrants, and other at-risk youth in the community.

Estimated Cost

980,000 – 1,000,000 over 4 years



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$980,000

Maximum Cost: \$1,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Drew Clay

Organization:

Bethany Christian Services

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Mental Health

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

Although not a direct match of funds, some of the direct service activities completed by the occupational therapist will be billable to insurance. This will offset some of the direct costs of employing the provider.

Partnership

n/a

Project Management Experience

Bethany Christian Services, across the country, has many county funded programs with county specific reporting requirements. Specifically, within Kent county, the agency has 2 Ready by 5 awards. In addition, many of our contracts are with local DHHS's or with State specific DHHS's that are specific to serving a range of 1 county to statewide. Within Kent County, we work with the West Michigan Partnership for Children to provide foster care services to children in Kent County. We serve between 150-200 children at any given point in time in partnership with WMPC. We are able to segregate our county, or regional funding, from other funding by giving it a unique code within our general ledger so that all revenue and expenses are tracked separately for each unique funding source (whether it is county, regional, or statewide).

Federal Funds Experience

Bethany Christian Services, across the country, has many county funded programs with county specific reporting requirements. Specifically, within Kent county, the agency has 2 Ready by 5 awards. In addition, many of our contracts are with local DHHS's or with State specific DHHS's that are specific to serving a range of 1 county to statewide. Within Kent County, we work with the West Michigan Partnership for Children to provide foster care services to children in Kent County. We serve between 150-200 children at any given point in time in partnership with WMPC. We are able to segregate our county, or regional funding, from other funding by giving it a unique code within our general ledger so that all revenue and expenses are tracked separately for each unique funding source (whether it is county, regional, or statewide).

Studies on Impact

Interdisciplinary communication and collaboration in health care can help to optimize services, improve systems, and positively impact client outcomes (WHO, 2010). Specifically, research has indicated possible benefits for youth in care for significant mental health concerns, including trauma (Gathright et al., 2016). This is particularly important due to the prevalence of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and trauma. According to the CDC (2022), 61% of adults in a multi-state survey indicated that they had experienced at least one type of ACE. Of these individuals, 1 in 6 reported 4 or more ACEs. Exposure and reaction to multiple traumatic experiences is referred to as complex trauma (National Child Traumatic Stress Network, 2022). Because complex trauma is common in the populations served by Bethany (e.g. foster care, adoption, refugee), it is important that we deliver services that are comprehensive and effective. Research has established that Occupational Therapists (OT) play an important role in the treatment of complex trauma (Fraser et al., 2019). OTs offer specialized interventions to address trauma-associated sensory processing, social functioning, and activities of daily living difficulties (Castenada et al., 2013).

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Behavioral health services are eligible



Sustainability

Does not include a funding plan or fund availability after expending all the ARPA dollars.



Feasibility



S.E.E.D. of HOPE
GLOBAL

PROJECT #297

Healing the Wounds of Trauma Initiative

Identify the need for the proposed project

Working alongside a mental health provider, teaching in a middle school and coaching in a high school, it has come to our attention that there is a significant increase in anxious, depressed adolescents and adults due to the Covid-19 pandemic. There is a gap in the number of adolescents and adults requiring mental health treatment and the number of mental health agencies available to field new patients to accommodate the demand. According to a report by the Community Mental Health Association of Michigan (CMHA) the pandemic created significant adverse mental or behavioral health conditions such as anxiety, depression, traumatic stress disorder, and substance abuse. Seventy-two percent of parents state they have witnessed a decline in their child's emotional well-being since the onset of the global pandemic. Nearly half of parents surveyed indicated the pandemic increased their need to seek treatment for their child, yet the supply of mental health providers is not adequate to meet the need. According to research conducted by the University of Wisconsin Population Institute there is one service provider for every 270 citizens in Kent County. Waiting times for first time visits to health care providers are two-nine months in Kent County. Mental health hospitals and facilities are at capacity with long waiting times. According to the Citizens Research Council of Michigan 40% of people with behavioral health issues go untreated. Many due to the lack of access to care, but others choose to go untreated due to the fear of a leaked health record and the negative stigma associated with mental health. In fact, according to the 2022 Kent County Health Needs Assessment, one respondent offered this statement, "I don't want any kind of mental health labels like "depression" or "anxiety" or anything else left in my permanent medical record. You never know what can happen with those labels down the road. So even if that's what's happening, I'm not telling them." Because of this public health emergency, it is necessary to meet people's immediate needs for counseling. A person's cry for help usually comes after their suffering has gone on so long they can no longer bear the weight of the pain. When help is unavailable, they begin a downward spiral of despair and hopelessness, and the risk for suicide increases with each day they wait for care. 1 "Child and Adolescent Mental Health as a Result of COVID: a Michigan Perspective." Community Mental Health Association of Michigan, https://www.cmham.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/MDE-DHHS_COVID_One_Pager_Draft3-002.pdf. Accessed 15 July 2022. 2 Michling, Tim. "Michigan (Still) Falls Short on Mental Health Services - Citizens Research Council of Michigan." Citizen's Research Council of Michigan, Citizens Research Council of Michigan, 18 January 2022, <https://crcmich.org/michigan-still-falls-short-on-mental-health-services>. Accessed 15 July 2022. 3 Brummel, Maris. "Community Health Needs Assessment - 2020." Access Kent, Kent County Health Department Material Review Committee, <https://accesskent.com/Health/CHNA/pdf/FINAL-2020-CHNA-REPORT.pdf>. Accessed 15 July 2022

Brief Description

In response to the Covid-19 public health emergency & its negative impact on community mental health, the potential exists to build a better community through the Transformational Trauma Healing Initiative. We offer Individual & group counseling sessions to address & relieve trauma through the telling of personal stories, long term support groups, recognition of automatic neural pathways in the brain, & retraining healthier neural pathways to direct & reframe thought patterns for a healthier life. Conference/retreat style counseling sessions are necessary for those in deep crisis & for groups of healed women seeking to become mentors. Our mission is to stabilize, equip, empower & develop women. Stabilize - Move women from crisis mode into healing and wholeness & provide mental & emotional support in a community setting Equip - Provide practical tools to cope with anxiety, depression, deep pain, shame, guilt, & fear in order to navigate stressful situations with ease & confidence, give women a voice through storytelling, teach women to reframe their experiences & circumstances to see them as building character, personality & resilience. Empower - Walk alongside women as they take ownership of the skills taught & put them to use in their daily lives. Healed women will become mentors to walk alongside others desiring freedom from trauma because healed people, heal people. Develop - Transformational healing through the establishment of identity to ensure a thriving future.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$325,000

Maximum Cost: \$400,000

Submitter Info

Name: Wendy Cornelison

Organization:

S.E.E.D of Hope Global

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Mental Health

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

n/a

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$325,000

Maximum Cost: \$400,000

Submitter Info

Name: Wendy Cornelison

Organization:

S.E.E.D of Hope Global

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Mental Health

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

n/a

Long-Term Benefit

Healing the Wounds of Trauma Initiative provides a positive impact on community mental health for future generations. As hearts are healed, minds are renewed, voices are empowered, & confidence is restored, women will become healthier individuals/wives/parents/teens resulting in healthier families, & better job & school performance. Healthy families have less drug and alcohol use, violence, hopelessness, teen pregnancy, and unemployment, which all create a strain on government agencies

Intended Beneficiary

Women in need of mental health services who fall through the cracks due to the provider shortages as a result of the pandemic, women who cannot afford mental health care, & women who will not seek traditional methods of care in the medical community because of the stigma associated with mental illness and the fear of being "found out".

Estimated Cost

\$325,000-\$400,000

Project Management Experience

We have not managed this project county wide, but have led this effort, locally and internationally in Uganda and Dominican Republic with teams and larger groups.

Federal Funds Experience

This is our first time on this level.

Studies on Impact

Our research is personal experience as to how this has impacted those in the Dominican Republic and Uganda. There is no formal research that we are aware of.

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Behavioral health services are eligible



Sustainability

Does not include a funding plan or fund availability after expending all the ARPA dollars.



Feasibility



PROJECT #221

Mental Health Film Series

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$3,000

Maximum Cost: \$10,000

Submitter Info

Name: Chris Kotcher

Organization: Grand Rapids
Community Media Center (Grand
Rapids Cable Access Center)

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Mental Health

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

Funding from Grand Rapids
Film Society, through GRMC /
Grand Rapids Cable Access
Center.

Partnership

n/a

Identify the need for the proposed project

We've seen and heard the struggles of mental health increasingly in our community, and the pandemic has elevated the issue & conversation to new levels. The negative effects of poor mental health impact not only the individual, but also the homes and community around them. After the increased isolation of the pandemic, we recognize now more than ever that we need safe spaces for individuals to come together and connect so that we can remember we are not alone.

Brief Description

A series of film-screenings & discussions that focus on mental health. An opportunity for individuals to come out of isolation in a safe space for entertainment, conversation, and shared experience.

Long-Term Benefit

It is ongoing work for our community - facing & overcoming the challenges of mental health. To continue that work, we want to provide opportunities for conversation & understanding about those challenges - for ourselves, others, and the next generation. When appropriate, the discussions will be filmed and shared, to ongoingly provide resources & conversations with the community

Intended Beneficiary

Those struggling with mental illness, their families, friends, as well as anyone who wishes to understand more and join the conversation.

Estimated Cost

\$3,000 - \$10,000

Project Management Experience

Community Media Center's Elevating Voices project worked to raise the visibility of diverse voices by providing the access, training and tools necessary for individuals to tell their stories, right in the neighborhoods where they live and work. For this project, CMC worked with nonprofit organizations such as: Boys & Girls Club Grand Rapids, Disability Advocates of Kent County, Grandville Avenue Arts and Humanities, & Harrison Park Elementary. Prior to this, Elevating Voices teamed up with 12 Grand Rapids organizations for video storycollecting in our community.

Federal Funds Experience

Most recently, GRMC applied for and received funding from the Shuttered Venue Operators Grant, specifically for our Wealthy Theatre venue.



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$3,000

Maximum Cost: \$10,000

Submitter Info

Name: Chris Kotcher

Organization: Grand Rapids
Community Media Center (Grand
Rapids Cable Access Center)

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Mental Health

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact:  

Source of Funding

Funding from Grand Rapids
Film Society, through GRCMC /
Grand Rapids Cable Access
Center.

Partnership

n/a

Studies on Impact

"Health economics researchers at Grand Valley State University found more Michiganders have access to health care and health insurance, but mental health outcomes for residents have worsened. ... The report was written by Erkmen Aslim and Daniel Montanera, assistant professors of economics in GVSU's Seidman College of Business. 'We discovered that while people have better access to health insurance for primary care and routine checkups, mental health outcomes were worse,' Aslim said." Article: <https://grbj.com/news/health-care/report-mental-health-outcomes-for-michigan-residents-worsen-despite-more-access-to-health-care-insurance/> The data also showed that deaths from suicide had risen from one year to the next. With high numbers of those struggling with mental health (even when access to resources is available), there is a need to provide additional information & conversation via entertainment/events to raise awareness and help alleviate stigma of the issue that so many of us face. Referenced GVSU study: https://www.gvsu.edu/cms4/asset/8E18419A-D4DC-9B46-28A2EDA8270F04C0/for_posting_gvsu_2020_health_ck_final_single_pages_508.pdf

Guidehouse Ranking Notes

 **Eligibility**

*Behavioral health
services are eligible*

 **Sustainability**

*Does not include a
funding plan or fund
availability after
expending all the ARPA
dollars.*

 **Feasibility**



PROJECT #142

Healthy, Happy People in Parks

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$750,000

Maximum Cost: \$1,250,000

ARPA Request: \$1,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Stacy Bare

Organization: Friends of Grand Rapids Parks

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

Additional fundraising is currently ongoing, none has been secured yet.

Partnership

YMCA of Greater Grand Rapids, Hispanic Center of Western Michigan, Seeds of Promise, and Garfield Neighborhood Association; conversations of support have also occurred with the City of Grand Rapids Parks and Recreation Department, and additional neighborhood associations

Identify the need for the proposed project

The distribution of both paper and digital surveys at park and tree planting events in 2021 allowed FGRP to record data from 237 unique responses. In surveying park users and residents of Grand Rapids, we found that over 60% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that they visit parks for their mental health, with the majority of the remaining 40% responding as neutral. Continued surveying in 2022 has followed along these same lines. This indicates that most residents visit parks with the conscious intention of improving their mental health, but also that those who do not still recognize that park visits have some positive impact on their mental health. Residents also asked for more integrated mental and behavioral health support and services to be integrated into parks programming and activities.

Brief Description

The proposed project is a three-year pilot focused on integrating mental and behavioral health resources into the community by introducing mental health professionals into existing and new parks and outdoor recreation programming. Outcomes include reducing stigma around conversations related to mental health, improving access to resources, and overall improved mental health outcomes for participants. Six to ten events will occur from late spring to early fall each year in three Grand Rapids and two Kent County Parks.

Studies show that time outdoors improves mental health, increases feelings of connection, curiosity, sharing emotions, receiving new information, and other prosocial behaviors. By integrating mental health professionals into parks programming, we are establishing an easy, direct way for community members to engage in a low pressure environment. This reduces the stigma around mental health conversations and resources while simultaneously teaching participants about existing resources and how and where to access help. Participants benefit directly while also serving as ambassadors for mental health. The mental health professionals will give a brief introduction and overview of services at the event, and will be available to speak with participants before, during, and after the events. Ensuring events represent diverse interests and include good, healthy food supports strong rates of participation and promotes a healthy lifestyle and builds trust with residents

Long-Term Benefit

Benefits of the project include residents spending time outdoors and accessing a variety of mental and behavioral health services, which will result in stigmas around talking about mental health being lowered; mental health conversations and accessing mental health becoming commonplace in Kent County, leading to a healthier, happier County overall. This will ultimately reduce mental health crises among residents and ease budgetary needs long term for addressing mental health challenges.

Intended Beneficiary

Residents in neighborhoods and communities where parks that host the mental health programming take place as well as referred participants from neighborhood organizations or other mental health partners.



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$750,000

Maximum Cost: \$1,250,000

ARPA Request: \$1,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Stacy Bare

Organization: Friends of Grand Rapids Parks

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

Additional fundraising is currently ongoing, none has been secured yet.

Partnership

YMCA of Greater Grand Rapids, Hispanic Center of Western Michigan, Seeds of Promise, and Garfield Neighborhood Association; conversations of support have also occurred with the City of Grand Rapids Parks and Recreation Department, and additional neighborhood associations

*Partnership

Through this initiative, FGRP will partner with parks and recreation, cultural and art programs and mental health providers in Grand Rapids and Kent County, including Grand Rapids Parks and Recreation, Network 180, Mental Health Clinicians of Color and different Neighborhood and Downtown Associations. The neighborhood and community groups would help guide what kind of activities are needed, as well as support outreach and community engagement. The recreation, cultural, and arts programs would provide the activity. The mental health providers would provide the necessary professional mental health support. Fall and winter of each year would be used to conduct community outreach and engagement to ensure programming is meeting the needs of the community where programming is occurring.

Estimated Cost

\$750,00-\$1,250,000

Project Management Experience

While Friends of Grand Rapids Parks does not yet have experience managing county-wide projects, we have managed large city-wide projects and worked with many county residents as volunteers and recipients of education programs. We feel strongly that our experience managing large tree planting and maintenance programs city-wide will translate to the county-wide level.

Federal Funds Experience

FGRP has received federal funds for programming in the past, including funding from the Great Lakes Initiative and the National Fish and Wildlife Federation (NFWF). We are currently managing a NFWF grant, which will conclude at the end of 2022.

Studies on Impact

There are multiple studies which demonstrate the impact that the intersection of outdoor activities and mental health have on communities. Some of these studies can be found below or include articles that link to additional studies.

https://greatergood.berkeley.edu/article/item/why_do_we_feel_awesome

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/29927260/> <https://psycnet.apa.org/record/2017-48088-001>

<https://www.nature.com/articles/srep11610>

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2018/07/180706102842.htm>

<https://www.businessinsider.com/why-spending-more-time-outside-is-healthy-2017-7>

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3393816/>

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/21996763/> <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/22948092/>



Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$750,000
Maximum Cost: \$1,250,000
ARPA Request: \$1,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Stacy Bare
Organization: Friends of Grand Rapids Parks

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health
Project Theme: Parks and Rec.
Project Status: New Project
Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

Additional fundraising is currently ongoing, none has been secured yet.

Partnership

YMCA of Greater Grand Rapids, Hispanic Center of Western Michigan, Seeds of Promise, and Garfield Neighborhood Association; conversations of support have also occurred with the City of Grand Rapids Parks and Recreation Department, and additional neighborhood associations

Supporting Documentation

- [1. Letter of Support #1](#)
- [2. Letter of Support #2](#)
- [3. Letter of Support #3](#)
- [4. Letter of Support #4](#)
- [5. Pathways Nature Healing Program Slide Deck](#)

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Behavioral health services are eligible



Sustainability

Does not include a funding plan or fund availability after expending all the ARPA dollars.



Feasibility

Need more information to determine who the program is targeting and how it will reach them.



PROJECT #189

Fall out of Covid-19 Aftercare

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$1,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$1,500,000

Submitter Info

Name: Janathan Abney-Austin & Cherie Rucker

Organization:
The Sozo Safetynet Group

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Mental Health

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact:   

Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

GRAHHI and Bethel Empowerment Church, and other urban churches

Identify the need for the proposed project

As therapists and life/grief coaching the demand in services increased as the pandemic continued. The increase of trauma has left the marginalized population that has no mental health insurance desolated. The fall out of Covid-19 has left this population confounding and overwhelmed, by the many mental and physical challenges that they are facing. As the pandemic continues, complex trauma is a result compounding the stigma around mental health in the Black community.

Brief Description

This program hopes to address the gap of mental health services for uninsured individuals and the marginalized. We provide a cutting edge and innovative approach in mental health services. Our focus will be a transformational change and changing the trajectory of individuals recovering from the losses experienced by Covid-19.

Long-Term Benefit

This proposal will provide a paradigm shift in how emotional and mental health services are implemented in the Black community. The program will be transformational in how issues in cultural attitudes around mental health and Black communities they serve. They will not only provide a more innovative assistance, but they can also reduce prevailing stigmas that exist around mental health illness.

Intended Beneficiary

Black, marginalized individuals and families whom have found themselves displaced and unable to access the same care as their white counterpart with health benefits.

Estimated Cost

\$1,000,000 - \$1,500,000

Project Management Experience

None

Federal Funds Experience

None



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$1,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$1,500,000

Submitter Info

Name: Janathan Abney-Austin & Cherie Rucker

Organization:
The Sozo Safetynet Group

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Mental Health

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

GRAHHI and Bethel Empowerment Church, and other urban churches

Studies on Impact

We are not aware of any research studies that validate the effective of this type of project. This is what makes this initiative so innovative and cutting edge. There is a tremendous need for this program. It is said, "insanity is doing the same thing and expecting different results." Our program submits to coming to the table with a fresh perspective on how we can address the prevailing Covid-19 fall out which will last indefinitely. An African proverb says, "When spider webs unite, they can tie up a lion." This program seeks to provide a sustainable and transformational change in how emotional/mental health services are accessed and delivered to marginalized Black communities. Transformational change is to be irreversible and enduring.

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Behavioral health services are an enumerated use of funds. Would need to narrowly tailor the individuals or communities served.



Sustainability

Does not include a funding plan or fund availability after expending all the ARPA dollars.



Feasibility

18

PARKS AND RECREATION





PROJECT #97

Vibrant Parks and Outdoor Spaces: By Community, For Community

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$1,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$1,000,000

ARPA Request: \$500,000

Submitter Info

Name: Steff Rosalez

Organization: Grandville Avenue Arts & Humanities

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

\$464,800 - City of Grand Rapids Parks and Recreation, \$40,000 - Spectrum Health Vibrancy Grant

Partnership

Roosevelt Park Neighborhood Association, Grand Rapids Public Schools, City of Grand Rapids Parks and Recreation Department, and Dwelling Place of Grand Rapids. We also have multiple business and design partners doing discounted or pro-bono work for this project.

Identify the need for the proposed project

Our neighbors ask for it all the time - better and safer outdoor spaces! Our organization has been working to identify change at systemic and institutional levels and work directly with our neighbors to tackle some of the "bigger" projects that impact our neighborhood's health and overall neighborhood vibrancy. Having high-quality and safe outdoor spaces for youth is one of the things we hear consistently from our neighborhood residents, but also, neighbors want to be involved in the process when things are developed in their neighborhood. Many new developers are coming in, and the threat of gentrification is looming, so the need to honor our neighbors and their collective wisdom during any development is front and center. Last year, we set out to lead the community engagement process for designing and building two neighborhood parks, one privately owned but there for public use (the Cook Arts Center playground) and one publicly owned by the City of GR (the Plaza Roosevelt Green Space - official name TBD). We have partnered with our neighbors, the City of Grand Rapids Parks and Rec. Department, Grand Rapids Public Schools, and the Roosevelt Park Neighborhood Association, to develop two park concept plans after an intense year of community engagement. The concept development work is wrapping up, and now, we are at hoping to make the neighborhood visions come to fruition, ensure the concept plans become a reality, see that the artistic and cultural components are included and that our neighbors continue to be active participants in all levels of decision-making. After these two outdoor spaces are funded and built, we planned to use the same process and all that we learned to renovate the outdoor space at our Cook Library Center. This space is currently used for a variety of events, outdoor markets, and gatherings, but it is also used by neighborhood youth as a small soccer field, an open space to play outside, and more. It is private property, but like our Cook Arts Center playground, we encourage the neighbors to use it and enjoy it. It is currently in very rough shape, so we are including it in this proposal.

Brief Description

We want to develop three high-quality outdoor spaces to be used by neighborhood youth and families. Our focus is to improve the neighborhood's quality of life and vibrancy with a specific focus on youth and outdoor spaces. We plan to improve green space infrastructure while ensuring the involvement of neighborhood residents in the development, design/cultural elements, and decision-making, ensuring neighborhood residents feel a sense of ownership and pride in their neighborhood. Two of the three spaces are already in the concept design phase (Cook Arts Center playground and Plaza Roosevelt Green Space) so funds would allow us to "make it happen!" and for our neighbors to see their visions come to life. The third space is highly utilized throughout the year so the need to improve it has been identified, but we would be starting "at the beginning" so to speak, with the design and engagement process. It would be an incredible opportunity to take what we learned from the first two parks and design and build out our third and final space.

Long-Term Benefit

The long term health benefits of green infrastructure in cities are becoming more well known - longer life expectancy, fewer mental health problems, less cardiovascular disease, better cognitive functioning in children and the elderly, and healthier babies. It also helps to mitigate air pollution, heat and noise levels, and provides opportunities for physical exercise and social interaction. Children in particular appear to benefit from green space the most, across numerous studies.

Intended Beneficiary

Youth, families, and all those who live in SW Grand Rapids. (This is where the parks will be located, but all would be welcome.)



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$1,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$1,000,000

ARPA Request: \$500,000

Submitter Info

Name: Steff Rosalez

Organization: Grandville Avenue
Arts & Humanities

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

\$464,800 - City of Grand Rapids
Parks and Recreation, \$40,000 -
Spectrum Health Vibrancy Grant

Partnership

Roosevelt Park Neighborhood
Association, Grand Rapids Public
Schools, City of Grand Rapids Parks
and Recreation Department, and
Dwelling Place of Grand Rapids. We
also have multiple business and
design partners doing discounted
or pro-bono work for this project.

Estimated Cost

Approximately \$1 million (\$500k in ARPA Funds, another \$500k funds already acquired)

*Source of Funding

Since this project is already in progress, GAAH has some funds from a Spectrum Health Healthier Communities grant that has supported the first portion of engagement and design work on two of the parks. The City of Grand Rapids Parks and Recreation department has also already has set aside approximately \$450,000 for the development of one of the spaces, the Plaza Roosevelt Green Space (DNR funds, parks millage, City of GR capital funds, and acquisition funds raised by Friends of GR Parks). In order to complete the project, the approx. \$500k from Kent County ARPA would allow us to complete the project in its entirety - build out all three parks while supporting the artistic and cultural components and community engagement processes.

Project Management Experience

Our organization is very used to working on large community projects. We have done large scale art exhibitions, events, and even lead a community project that won ArtPrize! We have also worked with Kent County on other projects to engage the community, and we have done extensive work within our neighborhood to do community centered projects that engage residents in a wide variety of activities. While we don't typically engage the entire county, we are adequately equipped to invite and accept other members of the county to work with us on this project as needed, especially working in partnership with the City of GR, GRPS and our neighborhood association.

Federal Funds Experience

We have worked with federal funds numerous times, and currently receive funding from different federal funds that we manage for other programs, including the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities. During the first year of the pandemic, we also received CARES Act funding.

Studies on Impact

There is extensive research that validates the effectiveness on this type of project, from environmental organizations, nonprofits, and government greening initiatives. This type of project is also proven to decrease and prevent community violence. The CDC says: "Modify the physical and social environment. These approaches prevent youth violence and crime by enhancing and maintaining the physical characteristics of settings where people come together in order to foster social interaction, strengthen connectedness, and increase collective efficacy (e.g., shared trust among residents and willingness to intervene). Examples of this work include increasing lighting, managing accessibility to buildings and public spaces, street cleaning, increasing security, abandoned building and vacant lot remediation, creating green space, and sponsoring community events that bring residents together. These approaches can also be applied in school and other settings where young people frequently interact. These approaches are often led by governmental and nongovernmental community partners and may include youth and adult residents." (CDC Prevention of Youth Violence Packet: <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/yv-technicalpackage.pdf>)



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Supporting Documentation

1. [Budget Estimate / Equipment Quote](#)
2. [Letters of Support](#)
3. [Plaza Roosevelt Funding Chart and Breakdown for Neighborhood Committee](#)
4. [RFQ and Selected Consultant Bid \(Viridis Design\)](#)
5. [Community Engagement Materials and Findings](#)
6. [Neighbor and Resident Engagement Presentation](#)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$1,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$1,000,000

ARPA Request: \$500,000

Submitter Info

Name: Steff Rosalez

Organization: Grandville Avenue
Arts & Humanities

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

\$464,800 - City of Grand Rapids
Parks and Recreation, \$40,000 -
Spectrum Health Vibrancy Grant

Partnership

Roosevelt Park Neighborhood
Association, Grand Rapids Public
Schools, City of Grand Rapids Parks
and Recreation Department, and
Dwelling Place of Grand Rapids. We
also have multiple business and
design partners doing discounted
or pro-bono work for this project.

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

*Greenspace funding is
eligible in
disproportionately
impacted communities
and all of these locations
appear to be within a QCT*



PROJECT #110

Building Connections, Building Communities

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$6,806,316

Maximum Cost: \$7,002,316

ARPA Request: \$1,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: John Morrison

Organization: West Michigan Trails

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 76% or greater

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

Public funding for this project is currently \$4,031,735 (59 percent) and includes: City of Grand Rapids; DGRI; Natural Resources Trust Fund; and MDOT TAP. Private funding is currently \$468,000 (7 percent) and includes West Michigan Trails, foundations, businesses, and individuals. Pending private funds are more than \$800,000 (12 percent). Private funds for this project should be able to match ARPA funds.

Partnership

The City of Grand Rapids

Identify the need for the proposed project

Improving community access to the Grand River has been a goal of the City of Grand Rapids' for at least 20 years. Increasing visibility and access to the Grand River and expanding greenspace and recreation was addressed in the City's Master Plan in 2002. The 2015 GR Forward plan identifies creating an outdoor adventure city and establishing Grand Rapids as the hub in a regional river trail system enhancing access to the Grand River. And the 2017 Parks and Recreation Master Plan specifies major goals including building a Grand River waterfront and using the river's various tributaries and trails to create a connected network of public spaces. The proposed project – River Edges Trail between Leonard and Ann Streets – is an important component toward these goals, connecting riverside trails in downtown Grand Rapids to Riverside Park and then subsequently to hundreds of miles of non-motorized trails to the north and west of the City.

Brief Description

The City of Grand Rapids is completing a trail segment between Leonard and Ann Streets, connecting the City's river trails system to Riverside Park and hundreds of miles of regional non-motorized destination trails to the north and west.

Long-Term Benefit

Once completed, residents and visitors will have a safe pathway to engage in the river environment. This portion of the trail is difficult to complete because the project includes three costly trail underpasses at Ann Street, Leonard Street, as well as a railroad crossing. The new trail will provide passage through these complicated and potentially dangerous intersections creating a safer trail for all to enjoy. This project also completes a downtown connection to hundreds of miles of non-motorized

Intended Beneficiary

This trail project benefits West Michigan residents who access and/or enjoy the Grand River in the City of Grand Rapids and visitors exploring the City and its trails. It also benefits residents of surrounding neighborhoods that will have several direct access points to the trail for recreation and/or commuting along the City's riverside trail system.

Estimated Cost

\$6,806,316.00

Project Management Experience

The City of Grand Rapids is managing and leading this project. West Michigan Trails is formally partnered with the City to aid in fundraising.

Federal Funds Experience

West Michigan Trails is not an ACT 51 agency and does not typically apply for Federal Funds. We do, however, have significant experience in private fundraising and the reporting involved there. We also understand there are more stringent and complicated requirements for Federal grants and are prepared to take on that responsibility.

Studies on Impact

n/a



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$6,806,316

Maximum Cost: \$7,002,316

ARPA Request: \$1,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: John Morrison

Organization: West Michigan Trails

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 76% or greater

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

Public funding for this project is currently \$4,031,735 (59 percent) and includes: City of Grand Rapids; DGRI; Natural Resources Trust Fund; and MDOT TAP. Private funding is currently \$468,000 (7 percent) and includes West Michigan Trails, foundations, businesses, and individuals. Pending private funds are more than \$800,000 (12 percent). Private funds for this project should be able to match ARPA funds.

Partnership

The City of Grand Rapids

Supporting Documentation

- [1. Letters of Support](#)
- [2. Plaza Sketch](#)
- [3. Leonard Sketch](#)
- [4. Leonard to Ann Site Plan](#)
- [5. River Edges Trail Sketch](#)
- [6. WMT Brochure](#)

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

This trail falls within a QCT so recreation uses of funds are eligible

PROJECT #144

Wyoming City Center Bridge and Trail Activation



Identify the need for the proposed project

Wyoming has been working for more than two decades to combat the deleterious impacts the 28th Street corridor has created for the community and public involvement began as early as 2000 with the development of the first Downtown Plan. More recently, the Wyoming Planning Commission and City Council adopted the Wyoming [re]Imagined Master Plan. The pedestrian bridge and non-motorized trail investments epitomize the recommended goals and visions outlined in the community's master plan. Additionally, the plan's cross-cutting theme of "Equity and Inclusivity" is demonstrated in multiple components of the larger City Center project as well as the Phase I components, particularly in the provision of equitable nonmotorized routes that eliminate gaps in the existing system and reduce resident dependence on the automobile, especially in underserved and housing cost burdened neighborhoods.

The master plan adopted in March 2021 was informed by robust public engagement and included an updated 28th Street sub area plan with recommendations for the City Center. Public engagement activities included: online and in-person mapping activities; community questionnaire (Spanish and English); focus groups; community workshops; eight in-person open houses (Spanish translation provided); virtual open house; and online feedback form. Every effort was made to engage community members from all neighborhoods in Wyoming. As documented in the adopted master plan, one of the community's stated goals was to develop a walkable City Center. Following is an excerpt from the plan: "Continue developing a City Center for Wyoming at 28th Street SW and De Hoop Avenue/Michael Avenue SW. A long-standing desire of the community is to develop a vibrant City Center that creates a focal point of activity for the City. This City Center should be a walkable, mixed-use environment that contains community-oriented uses, such as a community center or fitness center, and gathering spaces such as public plazas and green space. The City's Turn on 28th Street Corridor Sub Area Plan establishes a phased plan for this area, which should continue to be implemented. This will include efforts to revitalize or redevelop Rogers Plaza as the economic and community anchor of the corridor. For more detailed discussion of 28th Street SW and De Hoop Avenue/Michael Avenue SW, see the "28th Street SW Special Area Plan."

Brief Description

The Wyoming City Center project is a multi-phased, public-private development that includes public investment in non-motorized infrastructure and private investment in a mixed-use development. The public investment will provide two new pedestrian bridges, 4.6 miles of new trails, and civic space. The private development will offer workforce housing, market rate housing, Class A commercial space, and office space. This project facilitates the safe crossing of M-11, which is known locally as 28th Street and is a state trunkline highway. The first phase of this project includes a pedestrian bridge that provides passage over 28th Street and 3.1 miles of new nonmotorized trails that create a linkage to regional destinations, including north to Grand Rapids and south to Byron Township. This project addresses long-standing inequities in the community by creating new non-motorized trail connections between underserved neighborhoods in a qualified census tract and city greenspaces, employment destinations, schools, and daily amenities. It also revitalizes an aged and largely vacant commercial corridor and satisfies a priority of the community by delivering a downtown center while providing much needed affordable and market rate housing units. The City of Wyoming is requesting \$10 million to invest in this transformative public infrastructure project.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$23,870,000

Maximum Cost: \$23,870,000

ARPA Request: \$10,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Nicole Hofert

Organization: City of Wyoming

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

City has allocated 10,000,000 for project. City has also received 803,192 in Carbon Reduction Program Funds for trails.

Partnership

MDOT; Private Developer
(Magnus Capital)



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$23,870,000

Maximum Cost: \$23,870,000

ARPA Request: \$10,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Nicole Hofert

Organization: City of Wyoming

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

City has allocated 10,000,000 for project. City has also received 803,192 in Carbon Reduction Program Funds for trails.

Partnership

MDOT; Private Developer
(Magnus Capital)

Long-Term Benefit

The expanded trail network promotes improved health by offering safe, high-quality trails connecting parks, recreational amenities, healthy food options, revitalized public spaces, and a county-wide trail network. A benefit-cost analysis for the USDOT RAISE grant showed a \$138 million net benefit, including the Safety, Facility and Vehicle Amenities, Health, and Other Benefits. The project also improves the look and feel of the corridor, defines a City Center, and assists economic redevelopment.

Intended Beneficiary

The communities in the qualified census tract at the north end of the project site will benefit most from these new, safer connections to the resources and amenities near the project site. However, all City of Wyoming residents, businesses and visitors will directly benefit from this transformative investment and the larger metro region and Kent County will also see value from the expansion of the trail network.

Estimated Cost

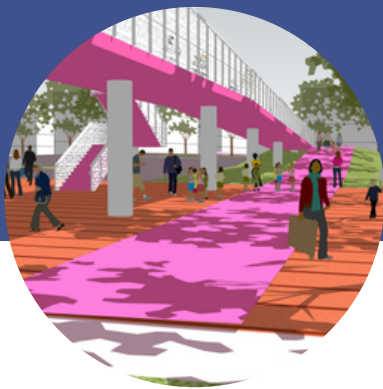
Total project cost is: \$23.87 million- this amount funds the first two phases of the public infrastructure project, including two pedestrian bridges and 4.6 miles of non-motorized trails. Phase I (pedestrian bridge and 3.1 miles of trails) costs \$14.61 million and is set to be obligated this fiscal year and constructed in Spring 2023. Phase II (pedestrian bridge and 1.5 miles of trails) is \$9.25 million and is set to be obligated in FY 2023 with construction in 2024.

*Source of Funding

The City of Wyoming has committed \$10 million in local funds. Wyoming is committed to the realization of this project and has to-date invested approximately \$45 million in property acquisitions and building and infrastructure improvements related to the development of the City Center. Magnus Capital, a partnering private developer, has already invested \$62.9 million into property directly adjacent to the project location. The City received \$803,192 in Carbon Reduction Program Funds (allocated for 2025 and 2026) for Phase II trails.

Project Management Experience

The project team consists of several city staff members who collectively have over 80 years of experience managing complex public and private construction and infrastructure projects. These projects have ranged from locally funded capital improvements to multi-million-dollar federally-funded projects with reporting requirements. Our team also includes the city's ARPA specialist, who has managed all ARPA reporting since the program's inception.



(Page 3)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$23,870,000

Maximum Cost: \$23,870,000

ARPA Request: \$10,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Nicole Hofert

Organization: City of Wyoming

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

City has allocated 10,000,000 for project. City has also received 803,192 in Carbon Reduction Program Funds for trails.

Partnership

MDOT; Private Developer
(Magnus Capital)

Federal Funds Experience

The City of Wyoming has extensive experience working with federal funds and federal funding requirements. Examples of recently completed projects that included federal funding are: Plaster Creek Trail (project cost of \$1.3 million); Inter Urban Trail Rehab (project cost \$575,000); 44th/US 131 Interchange (project cost \$19 million). The city's federally funded projects using STP/CMAQ/TAP/TIP or other similar funding methods averages \$3million per year.

Studies on Impact

The 2018 Physical Activity Guidelines Advisory Committee Scientific Report prepared for US DHHS finds moderate scientific support for the claim that greater availability of nonmotorized infrastructure has an impact on activity transport and finds greater support in projects that provided a safe route to school. The report also finds moderate scientific support for the claim that great availability of nonmotorized infrastructure has an impact on recreational physical activity. The City Center project provides trail connections between a Qualified Census Tract and a county-wide trail network, which makes both active transport and recreational physical activity viable and attractive for community members. Notably, this report reflects research that was done prior to the pandemic, when the health benefits of active transport may have been less apparent and less urgent. During the pandemic, the bus systems limited bus capacities, restricted access to bus stations, and altered routes and schedules. US CDC recommended social distancing that made carpooling and public transport more difficult. Greater access to nonmotorized infrastructure provides opportunities for households with limited vehicle access to travel safely during a pandemic.

Supporting Documentation

1. [Letters of Support](#)

2. [Bridge Rendering](#)

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

*This project is in a QCT
so park/greenspace
funding is eligible*



PROJECT #240

Franklin Alleyway Activation (738 MLK [Franklin] St)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$200,000

Maximum Cost: \$450,000

ARPA Request: \$30,000

Submitter Info

Name: Dione Boles

Organization:

Franklin Eastern Business District

Project Overview

Funding Group: Infrastructure

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

We are seeking grant funding from the Fifth Third Bank Foundation in the amount of \$105,000. The Southtown CIA will provide \$20,000 in design costs.

Partnership

Partner organizations within the project are the City of Grand Rapids, Southtown Corridor Improvement Authority, and WMEAC who will help facilitate the project's collaborative design, community listening sessions, as well as implementation and final construction of the project.

Identify the need for the proposed project

Franklin Alleyway (738 MLK [Franklin] St) is identified in the Southtown Business Area Specific Plan (BASP) as an opportunity site for public gathering space or redevelopment. The City of Grand Rapids' Strategic Plan, as well as the BASP and the Vital Streets Master Plan, have shown the localized need for streetscape improvements in the Southtown community, and have outlined goals to increase public greenspace and green infrastructure. Underinvested business districts such as Franklin & Eastern are lacking streetscape features and public amenities that factor into the Social Determinants of Health and Economic outcomes. This district is a high priority for equitable improvements, as it is historically underfunded and the neighborhood desires to be on the level of other business districts. Therefore, activating and greening the alley within this business district will create a sense of place, afford community-led events and promote small, locally-owned businesses while also providing stormwater capture to help improve water quality in the Grand River. This project will focus on equitably improving the environment and business corridor for Grand Rapids Neighborhoods of Focus in Southtown.

Brief Description

Green infrastructure as a placemaking opportunity in business district improvements works to build a climate resilient community. We identified the Franklin Alleyway within the Franklin & Eastern Business District to repurpose and revitalize with nature-based solutions. The project will involve replacing degraded pavement with permeable pavers, greenspace (trees and native plants), lighting and pedestrian seating. The opportunity also includes activating an underutilized lot adjacent to other small businesses to be used as public gathering space for outdoor eating and recreation. Initial design renderings of project are available upon request.

Long-Term Benefit

The range of benefits include pedestrian and traffic safety, reduced stormwater run-off to urban streams and the Grand River, climate resilient practices that will benefit human health and wellness, and an improved social economy. Providing public spaces for outdoor gatherings (i.e. block parties, pop up shops and markets) increases pedestrian traffic to local businesses and offers an alternate revenue stream for business associations and corridor improvement authorities.

Intended Beneficiary

This sustainable equity work will benefit residents and businesses within Grand Rapids Neighborhoods of Focus (32% of city population, around 66,000 people), where neighborhoods have a high occurrence of poverty, low educational attainment and lack of public greenspaces relative to other areas in the region. Demographically, residents in these neighborhoods are 66% Black/African American and 12% Hispanic/Latinx. The majority of small businesses are owned and operated by People of Color. The City's Third Ward was historically underinvested and is considerably far behind other neighborhoods. As part of the City's Economic Development initiative, the Southtown Corridor Improvement Authority (CIA), includes the Franklin and Eastern Business District (F&E) and is adjacent to the Baxter Neighborhood (~2,500 pop.) and Southeast End (~8,400 pop.).



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$200,000

Maximum Cost: \$450,000

ARPA Request: \$30,000

Submitter Info

Name: Dione Boles

Organization:

Franklin Eastern Business District

Project Overview

Funding Group: Infrastructure

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

We are seeking grant funding from the Fifth Third Bank Foundation in the amount of \$105,000. The Southtown CIA will provide \$20,000 in design costs.

Partnership

Partner organizations within the project are the City of Grand Rapids, Southtown Corridor Improvement Authority, and WMEAC who will help facilitate the project's collaborative design, community listening sessions, as well as implementation and final construction of the project.

Estimated Cost

\$200,000- \$450,000

Project Management Experience

Green infrastructure as a placemaking opportunity in business district improvements works to build a climate resilient community. We identified the Franklin Alleyway within the Franklin & Eastern Business District to repurpose and revitalize with nature-based solutions. The project will involve replacing degraded pavement with permeable pavers, greenspace (trees and native plants), lighting and pedestrian seating. The opportunity also includes activating an underutilized lot adjacent to other small businesses to be used as public gathering space for outdoor eating and recreation. Initial design renderings of project are available upon request.

Federal Funds Experience

WMEAC is currently managing one grant through the US Department of Agriculture (Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production), multiple State-funded (federal pass-through) projects involving green infrastructure, sustainable and environmentally friendly practices.

Studies on Impact

US EPA has guidance on how to incorporate green infrastructure into urban development projects, such as installing permeable pavement in alleyways & parking lots. The State of Michigan and City of Grand Rapids also have guidelines for installation and maintenance of green stormwater infrastructure practices that mitigate water quality issues as well as other environmental health risks related to urban development (i.e. urban heat island effect, air quality). A multitude of research has been conducted that supports the effectiveness of implementing green stormwater infrastructure. Upon request, we can provide a comprehensive list of primary literature and other documents to support this project.

Supporting Documentation

- [1. Letter of Support #1](#)
- [2. Letter of Support #2](#)
- [3. Preliminary Visualizations](#)

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

This location is in a QCT so greenspace/recreation uses of funds are eligible



PROJECT #270

Kent County Parks & Trails Development/Improvement

Identify the need for the proposed project

The Kent County Parks Department will celebrate the 100th anniversary of its first park in 2024. While the area has changed considerably over the past century, what has endured is the county's amazing natural resources and a desire among residents to maintain a strong connection to the outdoors. Kent County has one of the largest parks departments in the State of Michigan encompassing 42 parks, greenspaces, and regional trails totaling 7,354 acres. Parks range in size from 2 to 1,400 acres. Since 1990, the Kent County Parks Department has added over 3,000 acres under management. Further, the County manages a trail system that features four regional connectors spanning over 100 miles. The parks are geographically dispersed throughout the county. The County has carved out a niche of larger parks focused on rustic, open, and natural spaces. Many of the county parks are designed for more passive outdoor recreation (e.g., camping, hiking, observing and photographing nature, picnicking, swimming, cross-country skiing, bicycling, running/jogging, horseback riding, and fishing) requiring limited amenities. The County's outdoor spaces greatly enhance the quality of life of residents, making it an attractive place to live, work, and locate a business. Without question, the culture of outdoor recreation within the area is a key contributor to Kent County being one of the fastest growing areas in Michigan. It is also a contributor to the regional economy. The County's parks system serves approximately 1.4 million visitors annually, 25 percent of whom travelled from outside of Kent County. In 2019, the Kent County Parks Department conducted an economic impact study of the parks and trails. The study found that the County Parks system generates \$33 million in annual economic activity, \$14.7 million of which is generated by nonlocal visitors. Additionally, 317 jobs are sustained through the economic activity attributed to the Kent County Parks system (Glupker, et. al., 2019). When layering the economic impact with the social and quality of life benefits of outdoor recreation, the County parks provide tremendous value to residents. Additionally, the Kent County Parks system enhances the health and well-being of residents. The 2020 Kent County Community Health Needs Assessment found that, although almost half of residents live within a half mile of a park, inactivity rates are on the rise, particularly among middle and high school age youth. Not surprisingly given this trend, obesity rates have been on the rise for almost two decades going from 19.6 percent in 2002 to 30.8 percent in 2020. Youth obesity increased at a faster rate than adult obesity over that same period. These realities led the Kent County Health Department to conclude that there was a "need for affordable, safe exercise and recreation opportunities in the winter months, particularly for youth and older adults (Brummel, 2020)." Outdoor recreation is one part of the solution to the decrease in activity rates and increase in obesity among Kent County residents. Public parks can provide social forms of activity and exercise residents are seeking at no cost to them, outside of their desired equipment and apparel. The Kent County Parks Department can play a role in increasing activity rates among residents. With these benefits in mind, the Kent County Parks Foundation (KCPF) has worked closely with the Kent County Parks Department and numerous other stakeholders to identify opportunities for parks and trails improvement, expansion, and development. Thinking forward to 2024, in April 2021, the KCPF, in partnership with Kent County, retained the services of Kennari Consulting to facilitate a process to identify county-wide priorities around parks, trails, and outdoor recreation leading to a recommendation for a transformational project or projects that could be completed in celebration of the Kent County Parks Department Centennial. This process also took into account the five-year master plan that would start in 2022. In preparation of this process, Kennari Consulting ensured that its data and information gathering efforts would be useful going into the master plan. Kennari Consulting interviewed 17 Kent County Commissioners, staff from 17 local units of government and one multi-jurisdictional recreation authority, and 20 stakeholders representing non-profit organizations. Kennari also reviewed Kent County-wide, regional, and municipal parks, recreation, and trail plans to identify overarching priorities.

(continued on next page)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$61,566,608

Maximum Cost: \$61,566,608

Submitter Info

Name: Sam Moore

Organization:

Kent County Parks Foundation

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

West Michigan Mountain Biking Alliance, Downtown Grand Rapids Inc, City of Grand Rapids, Plainfield Township, Cascade Township, Ada Township, Vergennes Township, Lowell Township, Caledonia Township, Cannon Township, West Michigan Trails & Greenways Coalition, and Grand River Inc



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$61,566,608

Maximum Cost: \$61,566,608

Submitter Info

Name: Sam Moore

Organization:
Kent County Parks Foundation

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life
Project Theme: Parks and Rec.
Project Status: New Project
Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

West Michigan Mountain Biking Alliance, Downtown Grand Rapids Inc, City of Grand Rapids, Plainfield Township, Cascade Township, Ada Township, Vergennes Township, Lowell Township, Caledonia Township, Cannon Township, West Michigan Trails & Greenways Coalition, and Grand River Inc

Identify the need for the proposed project (continued)

As a result of this process, Kennari identified several overarching priorities, which include: • Need to link recreation resources by trail or other method • Maximizing water resources including the Grand River watershed • Increasing accessibility within parks for those with limited mobility and population groups who lack access • Coordinated development of Non-Motorized Trails that connect to regional pathways • Continuing to acquire land and preserve open spaces Ultimately, Kennari Consulting identified two key project priorities for a Centennial campaign, the acquisition and enhancement of the Cannonsburg Ski Area and the 280 acres of natural land that surround the site and development of a regional trail from downtown Grand Rapids to the City of Lowell. In addition to these projects, the Kent County Parks Department has completed master plans for the other priority parks projects included in this proposal. These master plans were completed with input from stakeholders and designed in alignment with local outdoor recreation priorities. WORKS CITED Glupker, C., Isely, P., Manning, J., Bilan, I., & Cowie, J.M. (September 2019). Economic Impact Study: Kent County Parks. Seidman Research Office of Grand Valley State University. Brummel, M. (2020). 2020 Kent County Community Health Needs Assessment. Kent County Health Department. Retrieved from: <https://accesskent.com/Health/CHNA/pdf/FINAL-2020-CHNA-REPORT.pdf>.

Brief Description

The KCPF, in partnership with the Parks Department, is pursuing funding to complete over \$61.5 million in parks and trail development projects that will touch every part of the County. The proposed projects are: Grand Rapids to Lowell Trail: 23 miles of new trail connectors that will close gaps through Plainfield, Cascade, Ada, Vergennes, and Lowell. Cannonsburg Ski Area: Kent County submitted a grant to the DNR to acquire 280 acres, including the Cannonsburg Ski Area. The grant requires a 25% match. The County is in the process of finalizing plans for site enhancements. Brewer Park Development: A new access drive will be constructed to the park. Johnson Mountain Bike Trailhead: Heated restrooms and 5.7 miles of mountain bike trails will be developed, including an adaptive trail for individuals with physical limitations. Thornapple Riverbend: Develop parking, trails, river access, restrooms, revenue generating shelters, and habitat restoration. Lowell Regional Park: Develop trailhead with heated restrooms for hiking, equestrian and mountain biking trails, revenue generating shelters, habitat restoration, and connections to regional parks. Chief Hazy Cloud: Develop Trailhead with heated restrooms for paved, hiking, equestrian, mountain biking trails, river access, and a bridge connection with Roselle Park. Land Acquisition: Acquisition of two sites allowing for expansion of Thornapple Riverbend and Two Rivers Parks.

Long-Term Benefit

The proposed projects will enhance community health as more residents have an opportunity to recreate, reducing obesity, increasing activity, and improving mental health. The expanding Kent County parks system will enhance the region's draw as an outdoor recreation destination. These investments will greatly increase the economic impact of the parks system, leading to more jobs, greater investment, and more residents choosing Kent County as their home.

Intended Beneficiary

The proposed investments will be significant enhancements of the Kent County Parks system. Just as we are enjoying the benefits now of investments started one century ago, future generations will benefit from these parks and trails. Additionally, visitors to the region will benefit as outdoor recreation tourism increases. Finally, local businesses will benefit from increased tourism and the ability to attract talent to the region, drawn by the amazing parks and trails.



(Page 3)

Estimated Cost

\$61,566,608.00

*Source of Funding

The KCPF and Kent County Parks Department plans to raise an additional \$56.5 million to complete the proposed projects. These funds will be raised from local government partners, foundations and corporations, and state and federal government. Two significant pending requests that have been submitted are a \$7.5 million acquisition grant submitted to the Michigan DNR Natural Resources Trust Fund for Cannonsburg and a \$7 million Congressionally-Directed Spending Request advanced by Senator Debbie Stabenow.

Project Management Experience

The KCPF has partnered with the Kent County Parks Department since 1999. The organization has enjoyed great success in helping secure funding for the County's parks and recreation priorities. The largest success in the history of this partnership is without question Millennium Park. The KCPF managed a fundraising campaign to raise the \$25 million needed to develop the new park. The 1,400 acre park is one of the largest urban parks in the United States. The park includes trails, a beach, a splashpad, boat rental, a bandshell, and events pavilion. This project is an example of what we can accomplish as a community if we work together to achieve a common goal.

Federal Funds Experience

While the KCPF does not have experience administering federal funds, it is likely these funds would be retained and administered by Kent County.

Studies on Impact

As previously mentioned, Kent County commissioned an economic impact study of its parks system in 2019. This study concluded that the parks system generates \$33 million in annual economic activity and sustains 317 jobs. By investing in enhancement and expansion of the County park and trail system, including key connectors into Grand Rapids, that economic impact will increase substantially. However, the economic impact is just one outcome, there are numerous studies that demonstrate the impact of parks and trails on the health and well being of residents. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has detailed the health benefits of parks and trails, concluding that parks increase physical activity, improve mental health, and reduce obesity, thereby reducing a major risk factor impacting cancer, diabetes, heart disease, stroke, joint and bone disease, and depression. The CDC overview with links to relevant studies can be viewed at: https://www.cdc.gov/healthypaces/parks_trails/#:~:text=Parks%20and%20trails%20can%20promote,flood%20plains%20and%20steep%20slopes.

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

Some parks are eligible due to location. Other parks would need to be funded through revenue replacement.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$61,566,608

Maximum Cost: \$61,566,608

Submitter Info

Name: Sam Moore

Organization:

Kent County Parks Foundation

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

West Michigan Mountain Biking Alliance, Downtown Grand Rapids Inc, City of Grand Rapids, Plainfield Township, Cascade Township, Ada Township, Vergennes Township, Lowell Township, Caledonia Township, Cannon Township, West Michigan Trails & Greenways Coalition, and Grand River Inc



PROJECT #119

49507 Boys & Girls Skating Troop and Arena

Identify the need for the proposed project

The need was discerned from recent survey data and local resident input, including a youth who lives above a local non-profit.

Brief Description

Construct an outdoor skating rink near the block of Madison and Hall St. in the 49507 zip code.

Long-Term Benefit

The long term benefits would include the designation of space in 49507 to engage more diverse members of the community for multicultural exercise and social activity.

Intended Beneficiary

The entire community would benefit from this, and an annually scheduled "Skate Night" from 49507 to downtown.

Estimated Cost

100000

Project Management Experience

More than 20 years of experience leading county-wide projects.

Federal Funds Experience

More than 50 years of experience working with federal funds.

Studies on Impact

https://books.google.com/books?id=97uz8ynB_5oC&pg=PA133&lpg=PA133&dq=introducing+elite+sports+into+poor+communities&source=bl&ots=z4VCuQXFH7&sig=ACfU3U0Vv0bKfO0rDtKYba7ARo79m-071Q&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKewj0kKyzjvf4AhX2ADQIHx80BVoQ6AF6BAGmEAM#v=onepage&q=introducing%20elite%20sports%20into%20poor%20communities&f=false

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$100,000

Maximum Cost: \$100,000

ARPA Request: \$60,000

Submitter Info

Name: Regenail Thomas

Organization: Seeds of Promise

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

Through a unique and close partnership with the GRPD, we have access to various grants and donations. We've already received a \$10K donation from Old National Bank, and are hosting monthly P.E.A.C.E. social fundraisers. \$40000 committed.

Partnership

Grand Rapids Police Department, Wyoming Police Department, Boys & Girls Club, Food Co-op, GVSU, GRCC, Job Corps

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

This location is within a QCT so recreation uses of funds are eligible



Sustainability

Will need funding for operating skating rink and opening it each season



Feasibility



PROJECT #16

Investing in the Midtown Neighborhood

Identify the need for the proposed project

The board members came together and brainstormed what were our biggest needs to help grow our neighborhood association and community programs/initiatives.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$50,000

Maximum Cost: \$50,000

Submitter Info

Name: Stephanie Kelsey

Organization: Midtown
Neighborhood Association

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 76% or greater

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Brief Description

Midtown Neighborhood Association had low funding opportunities during the pandemic resulting in fewer community programs (\$20,000 ask). Our office's technology, specifically internet, computer, computer programs, and phone need updating (\$5,000 ask). We would also use dollars to fund our pedestrian and bike safety project (\$9,000 ask), our non-partisan voting initiative (\$1,000 ask), and hire a part-time helper for our Executive Director (\$20,000 ask).

Long-Term Benefit

Updating our technology will help us reach our neighbors more effectively and create a more efficient work flow for our team. Creating safer pedestrian and bike lanes will improve our community's mental and physical health and create better infrastructure for those without a vehicle. Helping grow our nonpartisan voting initiative will help more neighbors' voices be heard. Part-time help would immensely help our ED get more projects completed.

Intended Beneficiary

Midtown Neighborhood Association and the residents of Midtown

Estimated Cost

\$50,000+

*Source of Funding

Specifically, we do have \$36,000 in funding for our Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Project. From our ED: "OHSP (Office of Highway Safety Planning) Grant I am thrilled to share with you that we did receive the funding for the grant which was written regarding pedestrian and cyclist safety education. I had inquired about our status and this is the follow-up email I received which I thought would be great to share: "Good afternoon, Erin, Excellent timing for your email. I'm happy to inform you that the proposal for the FY23 Grand Rapids Midtown Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety project has been approved in the amount of \$36,000 405(h) federal grant funds. With the minimum local match requirement of \$9,000, the total project will be \$45,000."

Project Management Experience

No county-wide projects, but we lead projects that are neighborhood and City focused.

Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

n/a



(Page 2)

Federal Funds Experience

Our City grants are from the Department of Housing & Urban Development. Most of our funding is federal.

Studies on Impact

Transportation Research Board and the NCHRP Research Report 932 have handy information on how work like our Pedestrian & Bicycle Safety project better integrate health considerations into transportation processes.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$50,000

Maximum Cost: \$50,000

Submitter Info

Name: Stephanie Kelsey

Organization: Midtown
Neighborhood Association

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 76% or greater

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Other Funding Source

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

n/a

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

This entity just falls within a QCT. Could potentially use pedestrian and bike project as responding to health impacts. Eligible for non-profit support. Any campaign is not eligible.

PROJECT #56

Lower Grand River Water Trail



Identify the need for the proposed project

During the COVID lockdown, residents of Kent County began to explore recreational opportunities in their back yards. The Grand River is an important asset to the County and provided paddlers an experience that was close to home. However, many were frustrated with the lack of information available about how to safely paddle, where to get in and out of the river, and how to access general information about the river, such as its water quality. We saw a need to provide this information to the users of the river and we are now in the midst of creating a Lower Grand River Water Trail development Plan that will answer these questions and showcase the Grand River as this valuable resource in the County.

Brief Description

The Lower Grand River watershed is the 92-mile stretch of river from the eastern edge of Ionia County down to Grand Haven, where the river flows into Lake Michigan. The Upper Grand River reach (in Jackson County) and the Middle Grand River Reach (Ingham and Clinton Counties), have already completed and are beginning to implement their Grand River Water Trail Development Plan. this proposed project will entail completing the Lower Grand River Water Trail Development Plan (Ionia, Kent, and Ottawa Counties) and begin to implement its recommendations, such as installing signage, creating a user-friendly app, and building more access site to enable the paddler to have a 252-mile seamless river experience.

Long-Term Benefit

The long-term benefit of establishing the Grand River Water Trail is all about connections. The Grand River is the longest river in Michigan and connects all the communities adjacent to the river, as everyone lives downstream from someone else. Offering recreational opportunities in and along the Grand River gets people outside and engaged, which has been proven to enhance one's physical and mental well being. Communities that provide access points on the river will also realize economic benefit

Intended Beneficiary

River users and communities with connections to the river

Estimated Cost

\$750,000 - \$1,250,000

Project Management Experience

For the Lower Grand River Organization of Watersheds (LGROW), which is an agency of the Grand Valley Metro Council (GVMC), many of our projects span the entire 3,000 sq. mi. Lower Grand River Watershed, which includes all or parts of 9 counties in West Michigan. We also facilitate stormwater permit compliance for 23 communities, spanning Kent and Ottawa Counties. GVMC has also managed and lead several projects that have required collaboration and coordination of multiple counties in West Michigan and around the State.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$750,000

Maximum Cost: \$1,250,000

Submitter Info

Name: Wendy Ogilvie

Organization:

Grand Valley Metro Council

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

Local Foundations, Michigan Department of Natural Resources grants, local communities

Partnership

Ottawa County, Kent County, Ionia County Parks Departments, outdoor equipment providers,



(Page 2)

Federal Funds Experience

GVMC and LGROW have applied for and administered several grants with federal funds. The funds have been awarded from the US Department of Agriculture (Natural Resource Conservation Service), US Environmental Protection Agency, US Fish & Wildlife Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and US Forest Service, to name a few.

Studies on Impact

Yes - see the following links: Economic Argument for Water Trails -

<https://www.river-management.org/assets/WaterTrails/economic%20argument%20for%20wa>

Trails as Resource Connections in Your Community - Koo, Jayoung, (2016).

Agriculture and Natural Resources Publications. 117.

https://uknowledge.uky.edu/anr_reports/117

Getting Out of the Classroom and Into Nature -

<https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fpubh.2022.877058/full>

The Effect of an Outdoor Recreation Program on Individuals With Disabilities and their Family Members -

<https://outdoorrecreation.wi.gov/Documents/Research%20Library%20Page%20files/US%20- And many more>

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$750,000

Maximum Cost: \$1,250,000

Submitter Info

Name: Wendy Ogilvie

Organization:

Grand Valley Metro Council

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Other Funding Source

Local Foundations, Michigan Department of Natural Resources grants, local communities

Partnership

Ottawa County, Kent County, Ionia County Parks Departments, outdoor equipment providers,

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

Recreation uses of funds are only eligible in disproportionately impacted communities. Only parts of the Grand River runs through a QCT, so not all of the project would be eligible.



PROJECT #154

Richmond Park Fun For All

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$150,000

Maximum Cost: \$150,000

Submitter Info

Name: Julie Green

Organization:
Mitten Foundation Inc

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

We have a 2-1 match agreement from the City of Grand Rapids parks millage that will be used to meet the total goal of \$150,000 for this project.

Partnership

This project has been developed with input from Disability Advocates of Kent County, Lori's Voice, Friends of Grand Rapids Parks, Grand Rapids Parks and Recreation, and The City of Grand Rapids residents, who completed our survey or attended the community input meetings for park improvements.

Identify the need for the proposed project

Mitten Foundation Inc. board members were discussing the impact of inclusive play for differently-able children, and determined that the Richmond Park neighborhood could benefit from a universally accessible play space. We used the Grand Rapids Parks and Recreation 2017 Strategic Master Plan survey, attendance at and input from the Grand Rapids Parks and Recreation community forums for Richmond Park, and a survey we created and distributed with the help of Grand Rapids Parks and Recreation.

Brief Description

The Richmond Park Fun For All Project upgrades one of Grand Rapids' oldest parks to increase accessibility, safety and enjoyment for all residents of Kent County. This project will replace the wood chip playground surface –proposed under the 2021 park renovation plan- with a poured-in-place rubber surface which allows children of all abilities to play safely, helps adults with mobility challenges be more involved with children at play, and will make Richmond Park one of three universally accessible playgrounds in the city. Richmond Park is currently home to a fully accessible zero-depth entry pool, an accessible fishing platform, and a new concrete path around the pond. The addition of a universally accessible play space will make Richmond Park the most welcoming and inclusive Grand Rapids city park, achieving the Richmond Project's goal of 'Fun For All'. As of 2020 there are 8,922 children in Kent County who have ambulatory, cognitive, self-care, hearing or vision difficulties, and 10.7% of Grand Rapids households include someone with a disability. The Richmond Park Project will provide a safe and accessible playground for all of those who live near and visit this park.

Long-Term Benefit

Benefits of this project include a child in a wheelchair using a park for the first time, the value of a community coming together, and the positive economic factors that result from a supportive, inviting neighborhood. This ideal surface for wheelchairs is safer and requires minimal maintenance. Traditional materials compact with traffic, require replenishing every 1-3 years, and exclude citizens. This surface never compacts or shifts and is ideal for wheelchairs.

Intended Beneficiary

The intended beneficiaries are the differently-abled community, the residents of Grand Rapids West Side who will be able to enjoy an upgraded and accessible park, as well as the larger Kent County community.

Estimated Cost

Total projected cost is \$150,000. Mitten Foundation Inc, through fundraising, has collected \$25,000+ for this project as of June 2022.

Project Management Experience

We do not have any experience leading county-wide projects.

Federal Funds Experience

We do not have experience working with federal funding.

Studies on Impact

2017 City of Grand Rapids Parks and Recreation Strategic Master Plan Survey.



(Page 2)

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$150,000

Maximum Cost: \$150,000

Submitter Info

Name: Julie Green

Organization:
Mitten Foundation Inc

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

We have a 2-1 match agreement from the City of Grand Rapids parks millage that will be used to meet the total goal of \$150,000 for this project.

Partnership

This project has been developed with input from Disability Advocates of Kent County, Lori's Voice, Friends of Grand Rapids Parks, Grand Rapids Parks and Recreation, and The City of Grand Rapids residents, who completed our survey or attended the community input meetings for park improvements.

Eligible under non-profit support. Additional information will be needed if the proposal moves forward in the process.



PROJECT #140

Kent County Community Forest: 5,000 New Trees

Identify the need for the proposed project

Friends of Grand Rapids Parks (FGRP) has been planting trees in Grand Rapids to address deficiencies in the urban forest canopy since 2012 with the goal to ensure every neighborhood has at least 30% urban tree canopy coverage. Since at least 2019, residents of Kent County communities outside of Grand Rapids have sought individual and neighborhood support from FGRP for education, technical resources, and best practices in tree planting. This project will allow FGRP to rapidly accelerate our goal of planting 10,000 new trees in targeted neighborhoods and kick starting tree planting in Kent County communities that also need to get to 30% urban forest canopy coverage. University of British Columbia Forestry Professor Cecil Konijnendijk van den Bosch, writing for the IUCN Urban Alliance, highlights the importance of the 30% benchmark – and links to several journal articles that describe how this level of urban forest canopy supports cooling, better microclimates, mental and physical health, while also reducing air pollution, noise and supporting improved social health. This article is the first one included in the evidenced based section of the questionnaire.

Brief Description

FGRP, in partnership with neighborhood leaders in Grand Rapids and communities across Kent County, will plant and maintain 5,000 new trees. The project is anticipated to start in the spring of 2023 and finish in the fall of 2026. This project will improve the overall quality of life of county residents, support improved stormwater management, improve air quality, and provide mental and physical health benefits to Kent County residents. Eighty percent or more of all trees will be planted by local community volunteers, organizations, and companies. This is necessary so future tree plantings can be largely self-sustaining. 2,500 of the new trees will be planted in Grand Rapids as part of a larger 10,000 tree initiative to bring all neighborhoods to the 30% urban forest canopy goal. The remaining 2,500 tree planting sites will be identified in collaboration with communities in Kent County to maximize benefit of the tree canopy. Each tree planted will be watered and maintained for the first two years after planting. The industry standard for new trees is a 30% mortality rate, yet FGRP has achieved a 10% or lower mortality rate over the last ten years. Watering teams throughout the summer months double as employment and forestry workforce development opportunities for youth and young adults between the ages of 14-22, with possibilities of upward mobility as well as preparation for careers in forestry. Lastly, tree plantings create cross-county collaboration.

Long-Term Benefit

Calculations using iTreeEco show the planting of 5,000 new trees over a ten-year period will intercept 1,750,000 gallons of stormwater; avoid 375,000 gallons of runoff; and provide 13.5 acres of new shade after the planting, growing to an estimated 85-95 acres. Every 1,000 trees can be sold as carbon credits to create revenue for maintaining and expanding the tree canopy. Physical and mental health benefits, improved air quality, lower crime, and property value will compound over time.

Intended Beneficiary

Residents on city streets where trees are planted will benefit most directly, followed by the expanded neighborhood, community, city, and county.

*Partnership

Tree planting itself happens through engagement with different volunteer groups from the community. Current partners included businesses, church and religious groups, committed individuals, book clubs, Scout Troops and Packs, and even a retirement community. Different Neighborhood Associations in Grand Rapids and municipal improvement organizations, if not the municipalities themselves throughout the county, help determine the when, where, and how the tree planting occurs and are full partners in the work.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$2,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$2,500,000

Submitter Info

Name: Stacy Bare

Organization: Friends of Grand Rapids Parks

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)



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Estimated Cost

\$2,000,000-\$2,500,000

*Source of Funding

FGRP has secured the following funding for the tree planting project, and will continue to seek new sources of funding from local foundations, corporate sponsors, and public funding sources. Wege Foundation: \$200,000; National Fish and Wildlife Federation: \$375,000; Downtown Grand Rapids Inc.: \$80,000 renewed annually, Uptown Neighborhood Association: \$40,000 renewed annually; City of Grand Rapids, \$75,000 renewed annually, annual corporate sponsorships averaging \$100,000.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$2,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$2,500,000

Submitter Info

Name: Stacy Bare

Organization: Friends of Grand Rapids Parks

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Project Management Experience

While Friends of Grand Rapids Parks does not yet have experience managing county-wide projects, we have managed large city-wide projects and worked with many county residents as volunteers and recipients of education programs. We feel strongly that our experience managing large tree planting and maintenance programs city-wide will translate to the county-wide level.

Federal Funds Experience

FGRP has received federal funds for programming in the past, including funding from the Great Lakes Initiative and the National Fish and Wildlife Federation (NFWF). We are currently managing a NFWF grant, which will conclude at the end of 2022.

Studies on Impact

There are several studies which demonstrate the significant impact that urban forestry has on communities. Some of these studies can be found below:

<https://iucnurbanalliance.org/promoting-health-and-wellbeing-through-urban-forests-introducing-the-3-30-300-rule/>

<https://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/compass/2018/01/11/urban-forests-stormwater-management/>

<https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2021-11/bmp-urban-forestry.pdf>

<https://www.americanforests.org/article/the-mental-benefits-provided-by-urban-forests/>

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0169204615000286>

<https://www.nature.com/articles/srep11610>

<https://www.vibrantcitieslab.com/guide/identify-benefits-of-your-urban-forests-for-climate-and-health/>

<https://bipartisanpolicy.org/blog/urban-forests-the-gateway-to-a-healthier-economy-environment-and-community/>

https://files.wri.org/s3fs-public/carbonshot-federal-policy-options-for-carbon-removal-in-the-united-states_1.pdf

Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Greenspaces are eligible, but trees must be planted in disproportionately impacted communities



Sustainability

Project ends in fall of 2026



Feasibility



PROJECT #222

Invasive Species Control to Protect Green Spaces, County Parks and Quality of Life in Kent County

Identify the need for the proposed project

For ten years, Kent Conservation District has been an active member of the West Michigan Conservation Network (an invasive species cooperative) and a leader in using State dollars to address highly aggressive, high priority, and early detection invasive species. We have also been a leader in community education on the topic— hosting workdays, education events, and outreach. While surveying in our community we have found the overwhelming need for invasive species control efforts on county land, Kent County Parks and other public spaces, which are being engulfed by bittersweet vines and other noxious invasive plants that wreak havoc on our waterways, buffers and natural areas, which provide solace and many ecosystem services. These damages will cost landowners and county parks millions to address but are largely preventable. In addition to further control efforts, there is also a need for further surveillance efforts and outreach to create a conscious public that can detect invading plants and prevent damaging outbreaks. The Kent Conservation District has aligned its invasive species control efforts with the Kent County Parks' master plan and maintenance system goals for developing and enhancing the parks. By partnering with our county park system, we are helping to fulfill Goal 5E of their master plan: to expand partnerships for managing invasive species with adjacent landowners and conservation organizations. KCD wishes to expand the amount of work they are doing with the county parks in 2022-24. The public has submitted thousands of reports of invasive species in Kent County, but KCD has only been able to respond to a fraction of those inquiries. With more funding we will be able to triage the most important species and sites and better meet the most urgent needs in the county. By taking action to address the threat invasive species pose to our economy and ecosystems, our region will become a national leader in its commitment to sustainability, setting standards for environmental health and community quality of life.

Brief Description

Park managers in Kent County do not have sufficient funding for the control of several prioritized early detection invasive species moving into our open spaces. These natural areas must not become degraded as they offer residents, especially evident during this pandemic, places to be active as well as be restored. The negative impact on parks by invasive species is significant. The Kent Strike Team would be funded to control prioritized invasive species such as bittersweet vine (considered a biological pollutant that can grow 70 feet tall and take down a mature tree) before they cause damage and negatively affect property values. These invasive vines taking down our trees in our county parks is cause for alarm. The longer action is delayed in our various communities, the more destructive these invasives will become, and the more difficult they will be to eradicate. The Kent Conservation District Strike Team has become experts in controlling early detection invasive species with limited funding. We have the vehicles, equipment, trained professionals and relationships with our park and township staff to maximize treatment dollars. The district is working to secure additional funding to build capacity to treat more lands at lower cost to the landowner, pay for treatment in high quality areas which are frequently used by the public, expand invasive control education for the benefit of residents of the county, and maintain our staff more permanently—to better serve the county.

Long-Term Benefit

By taking action to address the threat prioritized invasive species pose to our economy and ecosystems we fulfill Goal 5E of the County's master plan, save exorbitant future costs of control, and maintain our Kent County's nationally recognized commitment to sustainability. We help to prevent further introductions of early detection invasive species, ensuring that high quality greenspaces are left intact to provide diverse ecosystem services (flood control, recreation, habitat, property values).

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$25,000

Maximum Cost: \$75,000

Submitter Info

Name: Jessie Schulte

Organization:
Kent Conservation District

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

County Parks and Township
Greenspace/park management,
nonprofits



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$25,000

Maximum Cost: \$75,000

Submitter Info

Name: Jessie Schulte

Organization:
Kent Conservation District

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

County Parks and Township
Greenspace/park management,
nonprofits

Intended Beneficiary

Community, local residents, (impacting recreation, property values, county green space managers (a strong working relationship is already in place with county park managers and Dan DeLoof, Parks Superintendent, County and Township Supervisors, etc. The public has submitted thousands of reports of invasive species in Kent County, but Kent Conservation District Strike Team has only been able to respond to a fraction of those inquiries. With more funding we will be able to triage the most important species and sites and build our treatment capacity for these stakeholders. These natural areas must not become degraded as they offer residents, even especially as became evident during this in a pandemic, places to be active as well as be and holistically restored. The benefits of public access to parks include better health, decreased stress, increased memory, better sleep, greater self-awareness, community connections and gratitude.

Estimated Cost

25,000 - 75,000

*Source of Funding

During the treatment season, the \$100,000 annually funded strike team is run in part by a native tree/plant sale (\$15,000 yr.) and through support from the West Michigan Conservation Network (seven county cooperative funded in part by Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program, MISGP -\$10,000 yr). COST-SHARE: As State funding is being divided into smaller amounts, the KCD Strike Team was able to treat hundreds of unique invasive species sites by collecting cost-share from concerned landowners, county park systems (\$6,000), game areas (\$7,000), right-of-way sites (\$4,000), and other areas. The Wege Foundation funds (\$30,000 yr.) are a critical building block for the district's invasive species program. It funds the all-season Conservation Coordinator position and staff support when no grants are available. Funds allow the coordinator time to write grants, develop other funding sources, provide trainings, educate landscapers, prepare park contracts, estimate cost-share and plan out treatment season to maximize efficiency and sustainability.

Project Management Experience

Kent Conservation District was established in 1947 to protect the county's natural resources. We have experience in successfully implementing county wide grants (such as our Michigan Agricultural Environmental Assurance Program, MAEAP) and administering USDA NRCS Farm Bill Program dollars across the county. Our invasive species strike team is recognized as a county leader in the treatment of invasive species. The district has been part of a regional effort to control invasive species since 2006. Through our partnerships, an impressive amount of work has already been completed in Kent County (including working with the road commission and county parks). We already have a strong vision and a strategic plan. A state funded grant with the West Michigan Conservation Network (WMCN) for treatment of early detection invasive species throughout the county was reapplied for through the DNR offices and secured to assist with a county-wide effort of control. The Wege Foundation assisted tremendously in the past years, launching KCD's efforts to build a committee and local government relationships. State funds only cover early detection species, which tends to shift focus over time. As KCD has worked to have local units of government adopt best management practices, we are training public works employees, and uniting more partners in invasive species control in Kent County. Numerous homeowners living near high quality habitat or in underserved neighborhoods in the city could not either afford to, or do not know how to control their unwanted invasive species. The strike team staff has worked to provide outreach to underserved populations, implementing our Site Prioritization Protocol across the county.



Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$25,000

Maximum Cost: \$75,000

Submitter Info

Name: Jessie Schulte

Organization:
Kent Conservation District

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

County Parks and Township
Greenspace/park management,
nonprofits

Federal Funds Experience

Kent Conservation District has been awarded and successfully managed two EE EPA grants and a National Fish and Wildlife funded agricultural engineer (SOGL). We currently administer two National Association of Conservation District grants (USDA funded). Our District's Conservation Technical Assistance grant administers USDA NRCS Farm Bill Program dollars across the county

Studies on Impact

There are numerous research studies, published journal articles and State supported documents on both the economic and ecological benefits and the successful treatment techniques of controlling invasive species such as bittersweet vine (our target species). Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment, Functional eradication as a framework for invasive species control, Stephanie J Green, Edwin D Grosholz, First published: 29 October 2020 <https://doi.org/10.1002/fee.2277>

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

May be eligible if they provide evidence that these invasive species prohibit use of the parks. If that is true, the parks that this project affects must be in QCTs

PROJECT #186

Improvements, Enhancements and Preservation of Greenwood Cemetery, a Kent County historical treasure



Identify the need for the proposed project

Through a comprehensive strategic planning process by friends and supporters of Greenwood Cemetery.

Brief Description

The Friends of Greenwood Cemetery is a nonprofit volunteer organization dedicated to improvement and beautification to Greenwood Cemetery. We work with many varied community groups and resources. Our mission is to preserve and promote the the historical character of Greenwood Cemetery for enjoyment and appreciation of the living, future generations, and the peaceful repose of the departed. We seek to improve the cemetery with focus on the following items: Create a new entranceway; refurbish the existing infrastructure; develop a cultural education center including computerized database and computers; improve signage and directional markers; repair/refurbish badly damaged historical monuments, including many original Kent County founders. Also, we wish to enhance and improve the overall landscape to make it more sustainable. We believe these items of improvement will be transformational in scope and have a great impact on the citizens of Kent County and the City of Grand Rapids. In addition, many of these improvements can be utilized by other historical cemeteries in Kent County. A detailed strategic plan has been completed and is available for review upon request.

Long-Term Benefit

The Greenwood Cemetery is a living library and a museum of historical information. These enhancements and improvements will allow all future generations of Kent County citizens to access the information and enjoy the peaceful park grounds

Intended Beneficiary

All current and future citizens of Kent County

Estimated Cost

\$255,000.00

Project Management Experience

Individual member of the Friends of Greenwood Cemetery have extensive experience in managing large scale community projects.

Federal Funds Experience

There is some experience with federal funding. Somewhat less experience with federal funds than with state and local funds.

Studies on Impact

Our data is centered on local information

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$255,000

Maximum Cost: \$255,000


Submitter Info

Name: Beanca J Zwarensteyn

Organization:
Friends of Greenwood Cemetery

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life
Project Theme: Parks and Rec.
Project Status: New Project
Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

Friends of Grand Rapids Parks,
and Parks and Recreation
Department City of Grand
Rapids



(Page 2)

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$255,000

Maximum Cost: \$255,000

Submitter Info

Name: Beanca J Zwarensteyn

Organization:

Friends of Greenwood Cemetery

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

Friends of Grand Rapids Parks,
and Parks and Recreation
Department City of Grand
Rapids

Eligible under non-profit support. Additional information will be needed if the proposal moves forward in the process.



PROJECT #25

Grand Rapids Public Museum West Entry and Gathering Space

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$15,900,000

Maximum Cost: \$15,900,000

Submitter Info

Name: Karen Wilburn

Organization:
Grand Rapids Public Museum

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life
Project Theme: Parks and Rec.
Project Status: New Project
Matching Funds: 76% or greater

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

The GRPM is undertaking a Capital Campaign for the project. Private sources have been secured and additional public funding has been requested.

Partnership

City of Grand Rapids

Identify the need for the proposed project

The Museum's strategic plan has identified an expansion as part of the strategy to expand its engagement with the community. Additionally, within their own masterplans, GR Forward, River for All, and GR City Parks and Recreation have all identified the Museum as an opportunity site for growth. Specifics of the Museum's expansion and redesign have been informed by these community plans, large scale community involvement and through hundreds of participants in the Museum specific visioning process.

Brief Description

The Grand Rapids Public Museum (GRPM) currently sees over 360,000 visitors per year through ticketed admissions, events and rentals. Demand for the exhibitions and programs the Museum offers is high, with capacities tested frequently. An intuitive, welcoming point of entry is key to the Museum serving more people in the community in the most accessible way. The GRPM will complete a capital project to create a new grand entrance for the public and an interactive space for school groups. The entrance will be fully accessible and built with universal design to welcome the public. The redesign will convert the current drive through drop off into usable space that welcomes large groups and allows the public to flow past unimpeded. The primary function of the space is creating room for groups to gather, facilitate lunches and act as a home base for them for the day. When not used by school groups, this space can be used by Museum guests and rental events, including weddings, showers, birthday parties, private parties and corporate events. Technology will be an integral part of the experience in this space, providing easy wayfinding as well as becoming part of the educational experience for school groups.

Long-Term Benefit

Museum use has increased by over 258% in the past ten years and currently the GRPM does not have room to accommodate this increased demand. This expansion will allow the Museum to double the number of annual school student visits from 30,000 to 60,000. Out of school experiences are increasingly shown to benefit education systems and those ties to curriculum improve learning and benefit the region. This community gathering space will also be available for public programming and events.

Intended Beneficiary

Kent County students. Every district in the county has sent students to the Museum over the past 3 years.

Estimated Cost

\$15.9M total project (\$2M requested from County)



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$15,900,000

Maximum Cost: \$15,900,000

Submitter Info

Name: Karen Wilburn

Organization:

Grand Rapids Public Museum

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 76% or greater

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Project Management Experience

The GRPM has partnered with the City of Grand Rapids Engineering Department to facilitate the construction contract portion of this project. The City will ensure appropriate permits, bid processes and regulation are followed as well as coordinate with other projects in the downtown region.

Federal Funds Experience

The GRPM has a long history of successful administration of federal grants for the purpose of enhancing the arts and humanities within the West Michigan region. Recent grants administered include: NEH Digital Projects grant for \$100,000; IMLS Museums for America grant for \$30,000 for Magic Lantern project; and NEH Planning grant for \$40,000 for researching collection storage options.

Studies on Impact

Through an economic impact study completed by Grand Valley State University this project was shown to create 6-9 additional permanent jobs and will have an economic output of \$43 Million and 221 jobs during construction.

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Eligible under non-profit support. Additional information will be needed if the proposal moves forward in the process.



Sustainability

The museum could operate itself and expenses incurred later



Feasibility

Source of Funding

The GRPM is undertaking a Capital Campaign for the project. Private sources have been secured and additional public funding has been requested.

Partnership

City of Grand Rapids



PROJECT #37

Johnson Park Mountainbike Trail System

Identify the need for the proposed project

There are no mountainbike trails in Kent County south of the City of Grans Rapids. Our membership has identified this as a priority to us. Mountain Bikers would like to be able to connect to trails by riding to the trail, not driving.

Brief Description

7-8 miles of natural surface trails suitable for adaptive, beginner, and intermediate mountain bikers.

Long-Term Benefit

- Johnson Park will be recreationally connected to downtown Grans Rapids. - As demonstrated In Bentonville, AR. Trails are an investment that increases the livelihood and prosperity of the local economy. - People continue to seek out type 2 fun health activities - adaptive off-road cyclists do not have a variety of choices or local opportunities to ride off-road - Trail use increased during Covid. Trail use has not decreased. User conflicts are becoming frequent.

Intended Beneficiary

Trail users from the county and outside of the county.

Estimated Cost

\$450,000-\$500,000

Project Management Experience

We have built and financed all of the mountain bike trail projects in Kent County. Notably, Luton Park, Merrell Trail, and Wahlfeld Park. We are currently working with Spectrum Hospital and the City of East Grand Rapids on two new projects.

Federal Funds Experience

None presently, but we have worked with grants and private donations.

Studies on Impact

There are published studies by the International Mountain Bike Association (IMBA.com) and the American Trails Organization (Americantrails.org) that explain the positive economic impact of trails. The CDC has published reports regarding the health benefits of trail use from exercise and not driving to the trail.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$450,000

Maximum Cost: \$500,000

Submitter Info

Name: Nate Phelps

Organization: West Michigan Mountain Bike Alliance

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

We have identified a group of private donors

Partnership

West Michigan Mountain Bike Alliance

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

Recreation uses of funds are only eligible in disproportionately impacted communities. This is not in a QCT. Eligible under revenue replacement as a government service. Additional information will be needed if the proposal moves forward in the process.

PROJECT #236

The Grand Rapids Children's Museum: Renovated and Refreshed



Identify the need for the proposed project

"Wonderful destination for kids! I have been going to this museum since I was a little girl, now I bring my own kiddos here to play and run free!" - Abbie Vida For the past 25 years, the Grand Rapids Children's Museum (GRCM) has been an iconic building in the heart of downtown Grand Rapids. We opened and transformed this area when many people would never venture to the corner of Fulton and Division. We've continually pushed the boundaries on what it means to be a community neighbor, asset, resource, and advocate for the power of play. We continue to serve more families every year and increase our reach to underserved communities. To continue serving Grand Rapids as a learning leader and advocate for the purpose and power of play, the Museum must address some serious building issues and respond to the changing needs perpetuated by the COVID-19 pandemic and our environment. Historically, we have struggled to raise funds for these infrastructure projects. Community foundations prefer to fund programs and direct services over infrastructure. As such, ARPA funds create a unique opportunity to help maintain and upgrade this staple in the community:

- 1) The Museum's 27,000 square foot building has not undergone any major upgrades since its original renovation 25 years ago. ARPA funds will be used to make major upgrades and repairs to the physical structure. Our heating and cooling system is very vulnerable in its current state. Our windows have also not been upgraded, creating energy-efficiency issues and raising our heating and cooling expenses. Our roof is 25 years old and is actively leaking into the building and our insulation. The entire building and all of the exhibits contained inside are at risk. This issue has already cost big dollars in repairs to drywall, carpet, and exhibits. Not only is this expensive, but it also causes us to close to the public for days at a time for repairs creating a roadblock to providing consistent, reliable service to our community. This is a mission-critical upgrade as we prepare to bring national exhibit rentals into our space.
- 2) The Museum entrances currently do not meet the ADA-accessible needs of all of our guests and employees nor do they meet today's standards for security and emergency alarms. Inclusion and Safety are core values at the GRCM, making these needs mission-critical as well.
- 3) COVID-19 has intensified the need for sanitation and sterilization and commercial washing stations. It is imperative that GRCM is a safe place for children to engage in developmental play and as such, we are adding a commercial washing station so manipulatives can be swapped out during operating hours to provide a continuous cycle of washing, sanitizing and drying. The station will provide an efficient way to incorporate post-COVID-19 protocol into a daily routine at the Museum so we can continue to live our mission.

Brief Description

The GRCM has maximized every inch of our 27,000 square foot space since its original build out 25 years ago. After two-plus decades and millions of hands-on interactions, the existing space needs attention. The ARPA funds will be distributed over three categories: deferred building maintenance, entrance improvement, and COVID safety. To reap the benefits of age-appropriate play in spaces that inspire, one must first be able to safely access that space. Currently, our building has active leaks, an unreliable HVAC system, and energy-inefficient windows. We are not able to properly provide or serve the one in five Americans who have some form of disability due to the current state of our entrance. And we are still adjusting our building to accommodate our COVID-related sanitation processes. We advocate for children to be creative, forward-thinking, and mindful. We hold ourselves and our facilities to the same standard. As we renovate, we have a responsibility to meet not only the social and environmental needs of today but of tomorrow as well.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$1,931,000

Maximum Cost: \$1,931,000

Submitter Info

Name: Maggie Lancaster

Organization:
Grand Rapids Children's Museum

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: Existing Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$1,931,000

Maximum Cost: \$1,931,000

Submitter Info

Name: Maggie Lancaster

Organization:
Grand Rapids Children's Museum

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: Existing Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Long-Term Benefit

Prior to the pandemic, GRCM served over 200,000 guests and hosted over 500 programs in 2019 and we are well on our way to reaching those numbers again. These upgrades will allow us to continue our services to the children of our community consistently and well into the future. As a result, GRCM will continue to be a central piece of our city's tourism as well as improve the lives of our community members through access to developmental play in a post-COVID world!

Intended Beneficiary

"I purchased the membership about 6 months ago and we love visiting the museum! My kiddos 9, 3 and 1 really enjoy the shopping area. The employees are super nice!! If you haven't visited I highly recommend." - Chelsea Markham Children in our community will benefit the most from this project. GRCM is our community's leader and primary advocate for the purpose and power of play. We have been inspiring young minds and preparing the next generation of leaders since opening our doors nearly 25 years ago, welcoming almost 4 million individuals to explore, create and tinker through carefully curated experiences that bring tangible expression to learning. Everything we do is guided by our mission statement: We are an environment for play. We advocate for the value of play. We build minds through play. This mission is supported by our statement of core values: Play is essential for healthy development. Play has the power to transform. Play benefits all ages. Play benefits families. Everyone has the right to play. The American Academy of Pediatrics confirmed in a 2018 study that play nurtures a child's healthy cognitive, social, emotional, and physical skills development. Children from low-income households are most at-risk for missing out on these invaluable, beneficial growth opportunities their peers are experiencing, with limited financial resources to provide experiential learning opportunities. This is a critical issue for West Michigan as approximately 41% of Kent County residents earn less than \$30,000 per year and 20% of children live in poverty (2019 Census data). We are excited to continue to serve the families in our community for years to come! Beyond improving the Quality of Life for our community, this project will also benefit Community Health and Economic Innovation and Workforce Development: Community Health - Several studies demonstrate the impact STEAM and developmental play has on the physical, mental, and emotional health of both children and adults. The aforementioned American Academy of Pediatrics study confirmed that "play provides a singular opportunity to build the executive functioning that underlies adaptive behaviors at home; improve language and math skills in school; build the safe, stable, and nurturing relationships that buffer against toxic stress; and build social-emotional resilience...The health benefits of play involving physical activity are many. Exercise not only promotes healthy weight and cardiovascular fitness but also can enhance the efficacy of the immune, endocrine, and cardiovascular systems. Play decreases stress, fatigue, injury, and depression and increases range of motion, agility, coordination, balance, and flexibility. Play not only provides opportunities for fostering children's curiosity, selfregulation skills, language development, and imagination but also promotes the dyadic reciprocal interactions between children and parents, which is a crucial element of healthy relationships. Through the buffering capacity of caregivers, play can serve as an antidote to toxic stress, allowing the physiologic stress response to return to baseline." Economic Innovation and Workforce Development - Workforce development begins early in life. Spaces like the GRCM, where children can explore, tinker, and create, are foundational for the economic health of our nation. Study after study confirms this. A 2018 study of middle schools in New York City "found that students who completed the Young Engineers Program under STEAM demonstrated a greater interest in technical career fields, increased confidence in their ability to do math and an increased belief that learning science can be useful to solve problems later in life."



(Page 3)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$1,931,000

Maximum Cost: \$1,931,000

Submitter Info

Name: Maggie Lancaster

Organization:

Grand Rapids Children's Museum

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: Existing Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

*Partnership

Our building is over 100 years old and is not only attached to several businesses (the Civic Theater, 616 apartments, 2 restaurants, 3 businesses) that rely on us in our building structure ecosystem. A fire, water issues, anything that affects us, affects our neighbors who are literally structurally attached. Additionally, the improvements will help the economy of our community. All of our quotes are from local vendors who not only work in the community but also spend their money in our community.

Estimated Cost

Roof Installation: \$216,000 New HVAC System: \$157,000 Front Entrance ADA and Security Renovation: \$702,000 Replacing all windows: \$540,000 COVID sanitation station installation: \$216,000 Project management costs: \$100,000 Total: \$1,931,000

*Source of Funding

The GRCM has established incredible lifelong relationships within the private and public sector. Only 3% of our funding comes from city, state and federal funding, so the other 97% comes from the private sector. We are confident of our ability to leverage private companies, individuals, and foundations for financial and in-kind purposes. However, foundations prefer to fund direct services and programs. Historically, we rely on these relationships to help us bring new exhibits, programs, and outreach initiatives rather than our infrastructure needs.

Project Management Experience

GRCM has experience with leading and managing the day-to-day of large scale projects. Our CEO, Maggie Lancaster, has been in this position as CEO for six years, leading many large events across the community and has several years of prior experience serving as a board member and/or event committee chair for several non-profit organizations. Our COO, Erin Crison, has 16 years of experience in leading nonprofits and with federal grants. Both of these gritty women ran a 2 million dollar business through COVID, was shut down by mandates and tough health decisions for 15 months, took on the brunt of the racial riots the night of May 31, wrote, submitted and was forgiven for PPP1, PPP2 and SVOG grant, all while opening the museum stronger than ever. Erin and Maggie have also strategically brought board members on to assist with project managing: Steve Huizinga, CEO of Allied Mechanical, Michael Rodriguez, Project Manager at John Grace Restoration, and current Board President, John Parker, Vice President of Project Development at EV Construction. This combination of honest, hardworking, dedicated people will not only get the job done, but they will also do so with a great amount of integrity.

Federal Funds Experience

GRCM has experience in managing the compliance requirements of federal grant dollars. In fact, much of the funding GRCM receives comes with strict requirements such as the funding we receive annually from the Michigan Arts and Culture Council. Erin Crison, our COO, has over 16 years in nonprofit management at many organizations that receive federal funding including the YMCA of Metropolitan Washington, Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Holland, and Boys & Girls Clubs of Grand Rapids Youth Commonwealth. She has set up our system to ensure all the many and varied compliance requirements are met. Due to the availability of COVID-related funds, approximately 25% of GRCM's funding in the last two years was federally sourced.



(Page 4)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$1,931,000

Maximum Cost: \$1,931,000

Submitter Info

Name: Maggie Lancaster

Organization:

Grand Rapids Children's Museum

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: Existing Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Studies on Impact

Kathy Hirsh-Pasek, Helen Shwe Hadani, Elias Blinkoff, and Roberta Michnick Golinkoff. A new path to education reform, 2020. Molly A. Schlesinger, Brenna Hassinger-Das, Jennifer M. Zosh, Jeremy Sawyer, Natalie Evans & Kathy Hirsh-Pasek. Cognitive Behavioral Science behind the Value of Play, Journal of Infant, Child, and Adolescent Psychotherapy, 2020. Dr. Kathy Hirsh-Pasek: Teaching Adults the Importance of Play, 2017. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x7gdbVegH8I> Erin Albanese. Envisioning classrooms of tomorrow, 2019. "This place is amazing for the younger people in our world. Be aware of busy times, and bring your patience if visiting during a busy time, but I've never encountered anything but friendly people there and lots of young people living their best lives. This is one of my favorite places. For decades, whenever I was entertaining a child, this was my first go to. Started with my kids, now my youngest grandchild is my main guest of honor. I've taken kids, grandkids, friends, cousins, niece, nephews, etc. This is THE place for kids to be kids!" - Katherine "Katy" McGarity

Guidehouse Ranking Notes

 **Eligibility**

 **Sustainability**

 **Feasibility**

The HVAC and COVID sanitation station installation are the only parts of this proposal that are eligible



PROJECT #301

Lowell Area Community Pool

Identify the need for the proposed project

The YMCA has been an active community wellness organization in the Lowell area since 1959 and works closely with community members, agencies, schools, and organizations to meet current and emerging needs. With programs for all ages, abilities, and backgrounds, the YMCA has a long-standing relationship of service to the Lowell and Vergennes communities. In its early years, some of the programs provided to the community were through the King Memorial Pool. The pool originally opened on June 12 of 1961 and was a collaborative project from its inception. The King Fund provided for the pool, which was owned by the city and operated by the YMCA of Greater Grand Rapids. After 30 years of service, the pool's infrastructure aged and the cost of the plumbing repairs outpaced the city's interest and ability to invest. While a difficult and debated issue for the area residents at the time, the city determined funding from reserves or increased city taxes were not the best pathway forward. The pool was closed in 1992. Since those early years, the YMCA has enriched individual, youth, and family health in the area by providing health wellness services. These decades of impact have included local childcare programs, and wellness offerings like Taekwondo, cancer recovery programming, and more. The YMCA responded to members and supporters seeking more youth and senior programming, day camp and childcare options, and community space by purchasing the former site of the Impact Church in 2019. The effort to expand the footprint of the Lowell Y storefront initiated the launch of a capital campaign in 2020 to raise renovation funds to transform the church site into a community hub. It was a successful, broadly supported campaign. The new Y site, known as the Litehouse Family YMCA triples the square footage of the current storefront location by repurposing the former church into a community hub. It is scheduled to open in September of 2022 and represents just one of the efforts that the community passionately supported during campaign conversations. As that project's fundraising goal was met and exceeded through grants and donations from local businesses, organizations, and donors. In these conversations, community members often spoke about the need for a pool for swim lessons and drowning prevention programming that the church site could not provide. Community groups agreed that significant need remains for an aquatic asset. Local volunteers known as Lowell's Community Center Committee raised support for a survey of 950 residents for community wellness needs. Among the top results of the December 2020 study, was the desire for a pool. Respondents most desired spray and splash elements, fitness classes like aerobics, swim classes, and both organized classes and open swim and play time. It is through the proposed Lowell Area Community Pool project where decades of community presence, formal and informal research, donor and resident feedback, drowning prevention research, and community engagement opportunity align.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$4,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$4,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Lacey Dixon

Organization:

YMCA of Greater Grand Rapids

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

City of Lowell, Lowell Area Schools, Lowell Community Center Committee, Lowell area businesses and organizations

Brief Description

The YMCA of Greater Grand Rapids in partnership with the City of Lowell and Lowell area community support organizations seek the restoration and expansion of the former King Memorial Pool site into a viable, sustainable community aquatic resource for generations ahead. The focus of the Lowell Area Community Pool will welcome and serve community members of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds through a membership model with financial accessibility to those facing financial barriers. The offerings on site will include family and open swim, Safety Around Water (SAW) drowning prevention classes, swimming lessons, water aerobics, and CPR and lifeguard certification. The elements of the project will include a lap pool and family pool, additional spray features, locker rooms, and snack shack. A zeroentry pool and portable pool lift will create accessibility to a broad range of pool patrons.



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$4,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$4,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Lacey Dixon

Organization:

YMCA of Greater Grand Rapids

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

City of Lowell, Lowell Area Schools, Lowell Community Center Committee, Lowell area businesses and organizations

Long-Term Benefit

The long-term benefit of the Lowell Area YMCA Pool to the community is a consistent resource for drowning prevention education and aquatics wellness programming. The pool will provide an accessible space for recreation with opportunities for all ages, backgrounds, and abilities to gather, grow, learn, and thrive.

Intended Beneficiary

The YMCA will be the service provider of the pool and manage the programs offered through trained local staff and those that benefit from the revitalization will be residents and visitors to the Lowell area. With structured program offerings and open swimming, the resource will be an accessible, approachable asset for years to come. Whether skilled swimmers or those in need of skill development, the individuals in attendance at the pool will find an area or activity that meets their needs. The proposed project includes a zero-entry pool and a portable lift or ramp for the main pool that eases entry for all patrons. Additional features, including a slide, spray elements, renovated bathhouse, and snack shack, will attract families to frequent this community resource. A membership model for the pool will provide a revenue generation model that helps support the ongoing operations of the pool and its long-term success. The membership would be open to anyone and financial assistance would be provided through donors to the YMCA to help individuals overcome any financial barriers to their participation in these vital drowning prevention and wellness services.

Estimated Cost

\$255,000.00

*Source of Funding

In addition to a gift provided by the American Rescue Plan Act, the YMCA and the Lowell Community Center Committee will raise additional capital and operational support for financial assistance to patrons through a capital campaign. The volunteer fundraisers and YMCA staff will work together to complete formal applications to area community and private foundations as well as approach potential donors throughout the area for support. The individual community members, families, and past swimmers at the former pool will be invited to contribute to the revitalization and renovation of the historic pool site into a modern, multi-faceted community aquatics project.

Project Management Experience

With more than 150 years of local experience, the YMCA of Greater Grand Rapids today has eight facility locations including its resident camp and Ionia pool. The five fitness and wellness centers of the organization have successful aquatics programs focused on drowning prevention, recreation, and the celebration of community. In addition to Y facilities, the Y offers more than 40 childcare locations and countless community engagement programs and sites where fitness and nutrition education occurs in areas identified by community residents, donors, and needs assessments. In each of these examples, projects impacting multiple sites within the county are successfully led.



(Page 3)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$4,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$4,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Lacey Dixon

Organization:

YMCA of Greater Grand Rapids

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Federal Funds Experience

The YMCA of Greater Grand Rapids has been a recipient of federal funds for more than 15 years. During this time, we have undergone annual single audits to ensure that we are effective and responsible fiduciaries for the funds we have been awarded. We have operated as a recipient and a pass-through entity for federal funding. Our organization has several staff dedicated to the oversight of our federal funds to ensure that we comply with the compliance rules guiding our awards. Our staff is specifically versed in the Code of Federal Regulations Part 200 and understand how its contents apply to any federal funding our organization receives.

Studies on Impact

The framework for Lowell Area Community Pool is supported by evidence-based research that points to the impact of swimming lessons for the prevention of drowning. A few examples of the research that supports swimming lessons and the value of community pools include: The National Institute of Health research indicates that swimming lessons can reduce the risk of drowning for children 1-4 by 88 percent: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov> The Center for Disease Control stresses that drowning is a major public health issue that can be prevented:

<https://www.cdc.gov/drowning/prevention/index.html> According to the National Safety Council, drowning deaths continue to be the second leading cause of preventable death through ages 15: <https://www.nsc.org/home-safety/tools-resources/seasonal-safety/drowning> Aquatic exercise for the elderly provides better physical function improvements, reduction of fall risk than land exercise: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8430467/> <https://academic.oup.com/biomedgerontology/article/51A/5/M233/578800?login=true>

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Potentially eligible under support for non-profits.



Sustainability

Run by YMCA



Feasibility

Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

City of Lowell, Lowell Area Schools, Lowell Community Center Committee, Lowell area businesses and organizations



PROJECT #75

Transforming Premier Athletic and Tennis Center into SW Kent County Community and Tennis Center

Identify the need for the proposed project

The owner of Ramblewood Apartments(owner of our property and facility) gave us notice on February 25, 2022, that he was going to close the facility on May 27, 2022, and bulldoze it to make room for more apartments. After talking with the President, Bob Lenz, from Peak Management in Royal Oak, MI, he agreed to offer us the option to purchase the club as a non-profit for \$3,000,000 by December 31, 2022. We also have an additional need for \$500,000 during this campaign. We have contracted with a proven fund-raising consultant Keith Hopkins, to help us in this 6 month campaign. He estimated our campaign costs(including his own) to be approximately \$100,000. Our General Manager has shown us a list of key maintenance items and repairs that need to be worked on for a cost of \$250,000, in addition to keeping \$150,000 for operating funds.

Brief Description

When our Save Premier team joined the non-profit organization, West Michigan Community Tennis, we realized that we had a huge challenge of purchasing the club and property, but also the great opportunity to transform our tennis and athletic facility into a community and tennis center which will provide our community with tennis and life skills. This new sense of purpose has challenged our leadership team to dream new dreams where our volunteer members would be able to enjoy the facilities, interact with friends, and work with our underprivileged youth, especially from our Wyoming Community. The possibilities have just started to develop as we plan to work with students from the Wyoming Schools' After School Program"Team 21", to teach tennis, and help with after school mentoring and homework. We have reached out to Wyoming Public Schools, Godfrey-Lee, Godwin, Potter's House, St. John Vianney, and Vanguard Academy to invite them to our Monday Madness Tennis Events starting this July. We will also be reaching out to Grand Valley University to find out how they can partner with us at our facility to begin the development of new programs for students. One small start is the offer to use their vans to transport students to our facility.

Long-Term Benefit

The first and foremost benefit of this project will allow our facility to stay open. 500 tennis , 1,000 Silver Sneakers, 12 High School Boys' and Girls' team, 300 Students taking drills, plus Grand Valley University and Grace Christian University Men's and Women's teams using our facility today. We also have over 500 apartment residents that use the facility for basketball, weight training, cardio and fitness, along with pickleball. We can build on the development of GR Boys and Girls Clubs, GRPS

Intended Beneficiary

Several thousand current tennis and athletic members and thousands of community members to serve.

Estimated Cost

We are asking for \$1.75 million toward our \$3.5 million capital campaign

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$3,500,000

Maximum Cost: \$3,500,000

ARPA Request: \$1,750,000

Submitter Info

Name: Jack Ponstine

Organization: West Michigan Community Tennis. EIN 81-1036416

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

We have created a capital campaign fundraising team led by Keith Hopkins to raise the funds to purchase the facility and property by December 31, 2022.

Partnership

USTA, USTA Junior Tournaments, Boys and Girls Clubs of GR, GRPS Loop, Wyoming Schools Team 21



(Page 2)

Project Management Experience

Our partnership with West Michigan Community Tennis has experience with large projects, and we have the capacity to draw on our membership skill sets.

Federal Funds Experience

Our team has had years of experience working with some federal funding through the Silver Sneakers program, from Medicare and are confident we will be able to provide accurate reporting.

Studies on Impact

The USTA has many studies of the benefits for students and adults that are part of a tennis community. We also have been learning from a club in Washington DC that we will be following their outline as we move towards the Community and Tennis Center.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$1,750,000

Maximum Cost: \$3,500,000

Submitter Info

Name: Jack Ponstine

Organization: West Michigan Community Tennis. EIN 81-1036416

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

We have created a capital campaign fundraising team led by Keith Hopkins to raise the funds to purchase the facility and property by December 31, 2022.

Partnership

USTA, USTA Junior Tournaments, Boys and Girls Clubs of GR, GRPS Loop, Wyoming Schools Team 21

Guidehouse Ranking Notes

 **Eligibility**

 **Sustainability**

 **Feasibility**

Eligible under non-profit support. Additional information will be needed if the proposal moves forward in the process.

PROJECT #9

West Michigan Sports Complex



Identify the Need for the Proposed Project

The West Michigan Sports Complex has become a critical asset to the West Michigan Sports Commission in attracting sporting events and tournaments. In 2021, of the 76 events that the WMSC led or supported, 21 were at the complex. In 2021 alone, the Complex has generated \$4.7 million in economic activity. However, there is opportunity to grow that impact by addressing some capacity limitations with the existing site. Investing in sports tourism has a measurable economic impact on our region. The proposed investments will lead to an annual increase of 200 travel baseball and softball teams to the region (a 30% increase), generating an annual economic impact of \$1,203,800 of additional direct visitor spending.

Brief Description

The WMSC is proposing an \$11 million expansion and enhancement of the West Michigan Sports Complex to address opportunities that will increase visitor spending, expand girl-specific sport parity and accommodate a growing sport aimed at a higher percentage of senior participants. The proposed project includes the following:

- A new championship girl's fastpitch softball field for youth travel softball and collegiate softball. The field will feature artificial turf, grandstands, lighting, covered dugouts, and a press box.
- Two flexible-use diamond sports fields for youth travel softball and baseball as well as softball. The fields will have covered dugouts and bleachers
- New stand-alone concession building
- Stand-alone restroom facility
- 12 new pickleball courts.

Long-Term Benefit

Youth sports have been an important fabric of the American experience and they have a significant impact on communities. Youth and amateur sports enhance the local economy, enrich our quality of life, and have a significant impact on both children and adults. Not only do sports promote health and wellness, but they also help build confidence, self-esteem, dedication, teamwork, and problem-solving skills. Additionally, youth and amateur sports build strong families.

Intended Beneficiary

Local restaurants and businesses benefit as families dine out after a game or visit the local downtown and commercial centers. Ask any local business owner, and they will tell you that Main Street businesses see a boost when the local sports fields are full. Organized sports leagues and vibrant commercial areas are symbiotic in that they benefit each other for the betterment of their community.

Estimated Cost

WEST MICHIGAN Sports Complex Expansion Project Budget \$11million

Project Management Experience

The West Michigan Sports Commission (WMSC) was founded in 2007 to attract and strategically grow a diverse range of youth and amateur sporting events. In terms of attraction, the WMSC provides expertise in preparing proposals and negotiating with organizations. In 2014 the initial phase of the West Michigan Sports Complex opened after purchasing land from Kent County and working with Plainfield Twp. on a land use agreement for their ultimate development of Premier Park.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$500,000

Maximum Cost: \$500,000

Submitter Info

Name: Mike Guswiler

Organization:

West MI Sports Commission

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 76% or greater

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

State/Federal funds, local corporate/philanthropic donations and grant funds.

Partnership

Experience Grand Rapids
West MI Miracle League
Rockford Pickleball



Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$500,000

Maximum Cost: \$500,000

Submitter Info

Name: Mike Guswiler

Organization:
West MI Sports Commission

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life
Project Theme: Parks and Rec.
Project Status: Expanded Project
Matching Funds: 76% or greater

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

State/Federal funds, local corporate/philanthropic donations and grant funds.

Partnership

Experience Grand Rapids
West MI Miracle League
Rockford Pickleball

Federal Funds Experience

Youth sports have been an important fabric of the American experience and they have a significant impact on communities. Youth and amateur sports enhance the local economy, enrich our quality of life, and have a significant impact on both children and adults. Not only do sports promote health and wellness, but they also help build confidence, self-esteem, dedication, teamwork, and problem-solving skills. Additionally, youth and amateur sports build strong families.

Studies on Impact

Launched in 2013 by the Aspen Institute Sports & Society Program, Project Play released a report that amounts to the first national framework on how to provide all children access to quality, affordable sport activity. Sport for All, Play for Life: A Playbook to Get Every Kid in the Game, a unifying document aggregating the most promising opportunities to emerge from two years of roundtables with 250+experts, offers a model based on the values of health and inclusion, with eight strategies for the eight sectors that touch the lives of children. The first-ever National Youth Sports Strategy was introduced in 2019 by the U.S. Department of Health and human services, with recognition of the Sport for All, Play for Life report as a key resource for increasing youth sports participation. The federal government began to collect annual data on organized youth sport participation, and set an inter-agency goal of 63.3% of students participating on a sports team by 2030. For leading those efforts, the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion was recognized as a Project Play Champion.

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

Individuals or communities served is not clear or does not align with Treasury guidelines' definition of 'impacted' or 'disproportionately impacted'. Eligible under revenue replacement as a government service.



PROJECT #287

Grand River Edges Trail Benches

Identify the need for the proposed project

Disability Advocates of Kent County (DAKC) reviews design plans for the City of Grand Rapids' parks and trail projects. DAKC recommends spacing benches every 200 feet, which provides respite options for people with limited stamina or balance-related disabilities.

Brief Description

The Grand River and its banks have been envisioned in City plans since the 1923 Master Plan and constructed in unconnected segments over the decades. Recently, the City completed the 2019 River For All design guidelines for development of the riverfront. It recommends specific design criteria and amenities to create a cohesive riverfront that feels unified even if developed in separate phases over time. The City is also preparing to build a segment of riverfront trail in 2023 that will close a significant gap between Leonard and Ann streets, which will connect downtown Grand Rapids to Cadillac via the White Pine Trail State Park. The City of Grand Rapids proposes installing about 80 benches approximately every 200 feet along the Grand River Edges Trail from Fulton Street through Riverside Park so that people with limited stamina or balance-related disabilities can use the trail. As far as possible, the benches will be installed on concrete pads that include 4'x4' companion seating for people in wheelchairs or strollers. Existing benches will not be replaced, but the project adds additional benches to decrease the distance between seating. Due to existing constraints such as limited width or other barriers, the spacing between benches may vary but will come as close as possible to the target of 200 feet. This project ensures that the existing River Edges Trail and upcoming trail construction in downtown Grand Rapids will have the seating needed to welcome all users.

Long-Term Benefit

The project will improve opportunities for people with limited stamina or balance-related disabilities to use about 4 1/3 miles of riverfront trail in downtown Grand Rapids. These amenities will also make the trail a pleasant experience for people of all abilities who may use the trail for recreation or non-motorized transportation to reach destinations such as work, school, healthcare, shopping, parks, and transit.

Intended Beneficiary

People with limited stamina or balance-related disabilities, as well as all residents and visitors such as children, adults, elderly, and commuters.

Estimated Cost

\$235,500.00

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$235,500

Maximum Cost: \$235,500

Submitter Info

Name: Tim Burkman

Organization: City of Grand Rapids

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

The Grand Rapids Parks Millage will provide up to 26% in local match.

Partnership

n/a



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$235,500

Maximum Cost: \$235,500

Submitter Info

Name: Tim Burkman

Organization: City of Grand Rapids

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

The Grand Rapids Parks Millage will provide up to 26% in local match.

Partnership

n/a

Project Management Experience

Incorporated in 1850, the City of Grand Rapids is the second largest city in Michigan with a population of 198,917 within about 45 square miles. Grand Rapids is a full-service city providing a wide range of public services including development services, planning, engineering, drinking water, sewer, wastewater treatment, street maintenance, traffic safety and parking, trash and recycling, parks, recreation, forestry and cemeteries, fire, police, and so forth. These functions are fully supported by administrative/central service departments. The Grand Rapids Parks Department has extensive experience managing capital improvement projects. In the past eight years, the Department has managed 77 park improvement projects totaling \$36,120,072, including splashpads, restrooms, picnic shelters, and many other amenities. The Department employs a licensed civil engineer dedicated to overseeing these projects. This employee has eight years of experience with the City of Grand Rapids and has coordinated dozens of projects for the City's 79 parks in the past six years. The Engineering Department employs 37 staff and performs project services for road maintenance and reconstruction, sidewalks, utilities, city facilities, and vital streets (complete streets + green infrastructure). The department also provides support for permitting, surveying, city GIS data, and asset management. Over the past three fiscal years, the department has initiated 286 new Capital Projects and awarded 148 projects with a total value exceeding \$260.4 million. The Engineering Department's internal structure supports the award and management of projects of any size. It utilizes a web-based bidding system, Accela for permitting, and Microsoft Project to manage engineering projects. The Department is experienced in managing projects with multiple funding sources. The City maintains a financial system that includes fund accounting and assigns codes to track grants. This allows proper tracking of project details and prevents commingling of funds. Staff tracks time worked by project. Engineering's own accounting staff audit each disbursement by funding source in compliance with the OMB Uniform Administrative Requirements (2CFR 200).

Federal Funds Experience

The City has extensive experience managing federal funds including EPA, FEMA, EDA, DOE, HUD, and FHA. The Engineering Department has a full-time staff person to support grants.

Studies on Impact

n/a

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

Only parts of this project are eligible with park/greenspace funding because only part of the trail goes through a QCT

One time expense



PROJECT #59

Cannon Township Public Park: SLCC Golf Course Re-Development

Identify the need for the proposed project

AMENDMENT NOTE: Based on Cannon Township Board approval on August 22, 2022 of the Developer's Preliminary Site Plan and Zoning Ordinance Amendment, the originally submitted ARPA proposal (dated July 4, 2022) is amended in this document to reflect the current situation – specifically, that the original request to fund a land purchase (17.2 acres) is now removed. This amended request is simplified and asks only to fund the planning and development of the public park itself.

Silver Lake Country Club (SLCC) was sold to a Developer - SLCC Holdings, LLC - approximately 3 years ago. SLCC Holdings purchased approximately 174 acres of land located in Cannon Township in Kent County and will build homes on a portion of that property. The Developer agreed to include in his Site Plan, land (135.6 acres) to be designated as open space for a park. A generous donation of \$1.3 million is being made to Kent County Parks Foundation specifically to acquire this portion of the land (135.6 acres) from the Developer. That public park is ultimately to be owned by and operated by the Kent County Parks Department. Even though the land for the public park is now secured as "open space in perpetuity", there is no budget for Kent County Parks Department to create the actual park facilities. The public needs and wants to make use of a local park. Throughout the COVID pandemic, residents have been more restricted than ever in terms of ways to engage in recreation and social interactions. This has ranged from limited availability or complete shut-down of gym facilities, sporting events, dining out, church services, family gatherings, etc. Doing things outdoors continues to be the safer alternative. The public park was conceived as an outlet – one that supports healthy lifestyles and provides convenient access to recreation for local residents. It helps no one if the park land itself has no funding and cannot be developed.

Brief Description

PARK FACILITIES: Secure ARPA funds for donation to KCPD for the specific purpose of planning and developing the park facilities at this location as a passive recreation, natural resource-based park (e.g., walking trails, dog walking, jogging, bird watching, cross-country skiing, snow shoeing) requiring minimal facilities (e.g., parking, restrooms, trails). The location of the public park is shown in green in the diagram below. (See supporting documentation)

Long-Term Benefit

Positive Impact on Property Values: Passive recreation type parks have been consistently shown to have a positive impact on property values. This is good for current homeowners who may want to sell their homes. And this is good for the Township as the assessed value of the home increases. **Preserve Natural Assets:** One key to enhancing Cannon Township as a livable community is to retain the natural assets of hills, woods, wetlands, scenic vistas and ponds as valued resources – consistent with the Vision for Cannon Township as articulated in the Township Master Plan **Support Healthy Lifestyle and Recreational Opportunities:** In support of a healthy lifestyle and recreational opportunities for all residents, this conveniently located park will be easily accessed by more than 5000 local residents living within 3 miles. **Connectivity of Recreational Areas:** This particular park has the potential to be connected to Pando; with the trail that begins at Cannon Township Hall leading to Townsend Park and northward toward the City of Rockford; and with Silver Lake neighborhoods directly. This is consistent with the Township Master Plan that envisions promoting trail connections between developments and open spaces to allow for greater accessibility and safety for non-motorized forms of transportation.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$1,500,000

Maximum Cost: \$1,500,000

Submitter Info

Name: Karen Alexander

Organization: Silver Lake Estates Condo Association (SLECA)

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

Kent County Parks Department (KCPD) which will directly receive the ARPA funds.



Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$1,500,000

Maximum Cost: \$1,500,000

Submitter Info

Name: Karen Alexander

Organization: Silver Lake Estates
Condo Association (SLECA)

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life
Project Theme: Parks and Rec.
Project Status: New Project
Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

Kent County Parks Department (KCPD) which will directly receive the ARPA funds.

Identify the need for the proposed project

Local residents will benefit immensely from the peaceful aesthetic that will be preserved. Retaining a country, open space ambiance is consistent with the stated goals of the Cannon Township Master Plan. It is a big driver of why residents purchased here in the first place. Local residents will benefit from a health standpoint with easy, safe access to walking trails surrounded by nature. Anyone can participate to "move more". Throughout the COVID pandemic, residents have been more restricted than ever in terms of ways to engage in recreation and social interactions. This has ranged from limited availability or complete shut-down of gym facilities, sporting events, dining out, church services, family gatherings, etc. Doing things outdoors continues to be the safer alternative, now and in the foreseeable future. The public park was conceived as an outlet – one that supports healthy lifestyles and provides convenient access to recreation for local residents.

Local residents will be assured that wet lands and ground water feeding the multiple lakes in the area will not be put at risk due to septic sites originally proposed by the Developer on this property.

Estimated Cost

Park Planning & Development cost estimated at \$1,500,000. This amount is for a parking lot, restrooms and trails consistent with what is considered a passive recreation and natural resource-based park (e.g., Luton Park). Expected activities include trail walking, dog walking, bird watching, cross-country skiing, snow shoeing, jogging.

*Source of Funding

Donor funding comes from Jim and Shirley Balk. The Balks came forward to donate \$1.3 million to Kent County Parks Foundation (KCPF) to acquire a portion (135.6 acres out of 174 acres) of the former SLCC land from the Developer. As of the date of this Amended Proposal (9/11/22), Kent County Parks Foundation is the lead to complete paperwork and receive this land from the Developer. Kent County Board of Commissioners will formalize acceptance of the land by vote. Ultimately, ownership and operation of the park land is anticipated to transfer to Kent County Parks Department by end of 2022.

Project Management Experience

All planning, development and management of the park will be done by Kent Count Parks Department. KCPD has extensive experience in planning, developing and managing parks throughout the county. This is what they do. Silver Lake Estates Condo Association (SLECA) will not be managing or leading the project.

Federal Funds Experience

Silver Lake Estates Condo Association does not have direct experience working with Federal funds. Kent County Parks Department, however, who will be managing the project has experience working with Federal funds. To make sure that Federal funds are used properly, regular financial status reports will need to be filed. Transaction records must be rigorously kept as they are subject to basic audit requirements to make sure that Federal dollars have been spent properly on legitimate costs.



Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$1,500,000

Maximum Cost: \$1,500,000

Submitter Info

Name: Karen Alexander

Organization: Silver Lake Estates
Condo Association (SLECA)

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life
Project Theme: Parks and Rec.
Project Status: New Project
Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Studies on Impact

Parks are of great value to local residents – both in terms of property values (economics) and quality of life.

1. Americans' Use and Perceptions of Local Recreation and Park Services: A Nationwide Reassessment; National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA); 2016 Report
The above 2016 report summary concludes that local parks remain at the core of what defines a healthy, prosperous and connected community, and nothing related to technological advances and demographic shifts has altered that view. Americans do not view their local park and recreation system as a luxury, but instead as a vital part of what makes their neighborhood a vibrant, dynamic community. Investment in public parks aids in the progress for greater conservation, health and wellness, while also bringing economic prosperity.
2. Assessing The Effect Of Parks On Surrounding Property Values Using Hedonic Models And Multilevel Models; University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee; I-Hui Lin; August 2016 Thesis & Dissertation

The above 2016 dissertation indicates that it is important that park officials and designers consider ways of limiting negative consequences and maximizing positive ones in effort to ensure that such spaces add as much as possible to neighborhood quality of life. To generate maximum benefit from the park, appropriate park design will specifically fit the local demand of both users and non-users. While park users are more likely to evaluate a park according to whether the facilities in the parks meet their recreation demand, nonusers are more likely to appreciate a park if there is a pleasing view from their window.

Supporting Documentation

[Park Facilities](#)

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

Kent County Parks Department (KCPD) which will directly receive the ARPA funds.

Individuals or communities served is not clear or does not align with Treasury guidelines' definition of 'impacted' or 'disproportionately impacted'. May be eligible under revenue replacement as a government service. Additional information will be needed if the proposal moves forward in the process.

PROJECT #196

The Grand Agricultural Center of West Michigan, Raising Barns, Building Youth Campaign



Identify the need for the proposed project

The need for this project was identified by our board of directors through long term strategic planning for the Kent County Youth Fair and considering our trend in moderate growth despite limited facilities and space. As our vision began to grow for the new fairgrounds, we consulted with agriculture industry partners, business and community leaders that spoke to the many needs that could be met for our county through the new concept. Ultimately, we decided to make the big vision a reality by naming the campus The Grand Agricultural Center of West Michigan.

The Grand is our transformational solution to meet the needs of youth and exponentially expand agriculture education opportunities to all citizens in Kent County. Given that agriculture is the second largest industry in Michigan and considering the unique qualities of our newly acquired property, we understand the need we can meet beyond the fair. The Grand will become a significant tourism anchor that our state will take great pride in and with the crown jewel, the indoor Exhibition Arena, it will be a premier facility in the Midwest and hub of activity for equestrian competitions and agricultural shows. The new campus will be one of the biggest agriculture industry and community endeavors in recent history in Michigan benefiting youth by expanding our mission to the urban core, providing research and education opportunities, and enhancing quality of life through increased recreation for park lovers and trail users by connecting trailways. Since 1935, the Kent County Youth Fair has been located along the Flat and Grand Rivers in Lowell on property owned by the city. As the fair has grown, our space has shrunk. When the Youth Fair first opened, it operated on 60 acres of land. As the city has grown, this area has been needed for other purposes. Today, the Kent County Youth Fair has access to 19 usable acres which is made available on a year-by-year basis by the City of Lowell.

Unfortunately, it is simply not enough space for us to safely host our Youth Fair at the current level, let alone address the numerous requests for expansion or hosting other events of regional interest throughout the year. Much of the current fairgrounds is located in the 100-year floodplain. A major rain event can significantly interfere with hosting scheduled events. Building additional structures or spreading out further is not an option. There is not enough parking. Parking for everyone is in the field. Without the generosity of neighbors and the side streets, there would not be enough parking for all visitors. Accessibility is an issue. There is no accessible parking and no paved pathways except the roads. Barn aisles are narrow, and most have raised entryways making it difficult for anyone with mobility issues or stroller. There is no accessible seating area in any of the arenas. We don't have enough space for all the livestock shows. We wedge into narrow gaps between barns, and we gather under overhangs. The dog show rents space off-site, and the horses cannot complete their competitions in a timely manner. Spectator seating is a premium with most people forced to stand. The facilities are outdated and inadequate. We do not have enough indoor or family restrooms. There is a lack of proper storage for the large amount of expensive equipment that sits outside exposed to the elements year-round. We've long outgrown the barns, and all are outdated. Many were built in the 1940's and most need repairs or major renovation. Currently, sheep, goats and alpacas operate out of tents, poultry uses additional tents, having outgrown their barn, swine overflows into the dairy barn, cramping the cows and limiting exhibitors for both, beef needs additional room with nowhere to go and horse stalls are too small for modern needs so many people choose not to participate. For so many years, we've made do. But we've run out of creative solutions and band-aid fixes to meet the overwhelming demand for our programs. The Kent County Youth Agricultural Association (KCYAA) which runs the Youth Fair, has a visionary master plan to build an entire campus worthy of our state's rich history as an agricultural leader. It will finally give us a permanent home. It will attract new audiences and shows to our area and positively impact our local and regional economy.

(continued on next page)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$37,482,200

Maximum Cost: \$37,482,200

ARPA Request: \$11,300,000

Submitter Info

Name: Kristi Caine

Organization: Kent County Youth
Agricultural Association

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$37,482,200

Maximum Cost: \$37,482,200

ARPA Request: \$11,300,000

Submitter Info

Name: Kristi Caine

Organization: Kent County Youth
Agricultural Association

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Identify the need for the proposed project (continued, part 2)

While the Youth Fair is the heart and soul of our organization, a new campus will meet an even greater community need, serving an exponentially larger and broader audience. In 2018, we raised nearly \$4 million to purchase the former Deer Run Golf Course. It is close to the I-96 Lowell exit giving it high visibility and easy accessibility. We will repurpose the 140-acre property to build a new state-of-the-art fairgrounds and exhibition arena creating a campus with flexibility in its purpose. Construction has already begun on the new site. The KCYAA is in a strong financial position for future development with no debt incurred at this time.

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT + OPPORTUNITY The Kent County Youth Fair is unique amongst fairs in that it specifically serves youth, one of only a few youth fairs in the state. While other county fairs are struggling to thrive, we have seen steady, moderate growth. This project will serve a need to further nurture interest in agribusiness and develop leaders in all industries year-round, especially for young women who are underrepresented in science and agribusiness but make up 65% of our Youth Fair participants. The Grand will also fill a need to develop career paths and life-defining skills that focus on ensuring that underserved populations – including rural youth, urban youth, and females – all have ample opportunity to participate and thrive. This project will ensure that an increasingly diverse group of young people has the opportunity to build leadership and STEM skills relevant to many industries but will be particularly helpful in creating a pipeline for careers in Michigan's agricultural sector which is currently dominated by an aging workforce. There continues to be significant interest in developing the farm-to-table movement, growing a healthy local food system, and expanding knowledge about food sourcing. The Grand will be a resource where all can learn about and experience agriculture, whether as a young person competing in an equestrian competition, as a family experiencing farm animals at the Youth Fair, as girls building STEM skills that lead to careers in agribusiness, or as young people with diverse abilities building workforce readiness skills. Through year-round programming we will build on existing relationships with MSU Extension and Future Farmers of America and explore partnerships with Grand Valley State University, the USDA, school districts beyond Lowell and agribusiness leaders across the state. We have garnered interest for funding future programming from potential partners such as DTE Foundation and ChoiceOne Bank. We will both develop and offer programs, as well as be a host location. We will exponentially expand access to agriculture and all it teaches through ways that make sense and are both collaborative and responsive to community needs and interest.

REGIONAL TRAILWAY CONNECTOR: Since 2004, the Lowell Area Recreation Authority has been working diligently on the east side of Kent County to develop, construct, operate and maintain 126 miles of trail and trail connections. They've been able to connect 6 parks, downtown Lowell and the scenic rural surrounding areas. Together with LARA and Kent County Parks, we have identified the need for a regional railway connection for the enjoyment, health and leisure of trail enthusiasts from Kent County and beyond. Connecting our communities with access to trail systems and green space will be a tremendous benefit to the quality of life for all residents in our county, especially those living within the cities, through this public space enhancement. In considering the unique location of the new KCYAA property and our plans for campgrounds with amenities and equestrian trails on our site, The Grand will be that connection to the North Country Trails and the more than 800 acres of developing Greenway Park of Kent County. Additionally, there have been preliminary talks with the City of Grand Rapids for connecting to their trail network and further talks with LARA for expansion of equestrian trails.

(continued on next page)



(Page 3)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$37,482,200

Maximum Cost: \$37,482,200

ARPA Request: \$11,300,000

Submitter Info

Name: Kristi Caine

Organization: Kent County Youth
Agricultural Association

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Identify the need for the proposed project (continued, part 3)

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: There is high demand for a space that is uniquely suited for hosting large events, especially those with an agricultural and equestrian focus. We will positively impact our economy by meeting the needs of area families, as well as driving new organizations to our area from around the state and the country. Through The Grand, we will keep dollars in our community and state, and draw new revenue to us. Part of the interest in this project is a desire to help current businesses thrive and bring new ones to the area. Ultimately, The Grand will be an impetus for new business development and growth, most particularly for small businesses and entrepreneurs. Like Millennium Park on the west side of the county, The Grand will define Kent County's eastern border as a new destination location, transforming a once overlooked area into an important economic driver. It will enrich the lives of residents by providing a new venue to host educational, entertainment, and cultural programming. Visitor spending will impact both our county and state economy, especially as we reclaim business lost to other states specifically in the equine industry and invite others from around the state and region to host their events in our community.

LOCAL AND NATIONAL IMPACT As you well know, Covid has had a significant impact on our communities, businesses, and non-profits. Our costs to complete our project have increased 30-40% in many areas. Supplies and laborers are in high demand and have caused us delays. Despite these increased costs unexpected delays, we do what farmer's do best, we keep working hard. Covid has put an overwhelming strain on finances for small businesses and families who are the typical donors for non-profits. Non-profits like the KCYAA are those doing good in our neighborhoods, the community partners and builders. Funders are guarded and cautious, yet our efforts continue. In agriculture, Covid has had a crippling effect on commodities and the availability of supplies and goods. Families need to understand agriculture, know their food sources and be able to find local food supplies. The importance of agriculture to our county, state and nation cannot be understated. According to <https://www.farmprogress.com/government/agriculture-crucial-security-risk-variety-threats>, "Perhaps now, more than any time in our history, agricultural industries are at risk from a variety of threats that have the potential to severely disrupt our economy and food supply, and cause great harm to our public health sector," said Tammy Beckham, Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine at Kansas State University, in testimony at a House Agriculture Committee hearing. "There is a declining number of people working in agriculture production. This is concerning." According to House Agricultural Committee Chair K. Michael Conoway, (R) Texas, "Agriculture and national security are intertwined in many different ways – whether it is insuring that food is available to meet nutritional needs for both those within our own borders and those around the world, or insuring that food coming into our borders is disease and pest-free, or guaranteeing that farmers and ranchers have the needed policy tools in place to continue producing food and fiber." Ranking Committee Member Collin Peterson, (D) Minn, echoed Conoway's sentiments. "A strong agriculture sector and stable food supply are critical to national security. Agriculture has an important role to play when it comes to our country's national security interests – something I don't think a lot of people really understand." Conoway noted that "the ongoing transitions in the way American farmers produce food, in addition to the growing volume of food imported from countries with less regulation and oversight, emphasizes the importance of vigilance for both homegrown food and imported products." A 2017 USDA Census of Agriculture shows that Kent County farms 157,466 acres of land, making them a respectable contributor to the state's agriculture production. Michigan is a leader in the farming industry which makes us uniquely qualified to address the national need for food security locally and across the nation. The Grand will play a vital role in providing networking opportunities and agriculture education to prepare and protect Kent County families for the future.

(continued on next page)



(Page 4)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$37,482,200

Maximum Cost: \$37,482,200

ARPA Request: \$11,300,000

Submitter Info

Name: Kristi Caine

Organization: Kent County Youth
Agricultural Association

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Identify the need for the proposed project (continued, part 4)

YEAR-ROUND EVENT SPACE The Grand will be one of only three campuses in Michigan capable of hosting large-scale agricultural events and equestrian shows and competitions year-round. It will be flexible enough to serve many other functions, including being a viable option for events, trade shows, and conventions that require a smaller footprint and a more affordable option than other venues. In addition, West Michigan is home to dozens of equestrian clubs that do not have the facilities they need. Many clubs are forced to leave the state, traveling to Ohio, Illinois, and Indiana to show, a major economic loss for our county due to lack of adequate facilities. The equestrian community is vast and diverse, and so are their shows. Our campus will be designed to host amateur and youth development programs, which have a high demand for this type of space and are currently lacking local venue options. Our revenue projections show that meeting the needs identified in the horse industry will provide sustainable revenue for The Grand. In Michigan, the horse industry contributes \$1.6 Billion to our economy. We are the 12th largest state in terms of horse population with 30.5% of Michigan households containing a horse enthusiast. The Grand will bring valuable horse industry tourism and recreation dollars right here to Kent County.

Brief Description

The Grand is a \$37 million campaign repurposing a former golf course into a multi-purpose public space and premier youth, family, and visitor entertainment and educational venue with agriculture, arts, and cultural opportunities. It will include a campground with amenities and regional railway connections for pedestrians and equestrians. This quality-of-life improvement will reach a broad, diverse audience with hands-on agricultural learning opportunities through year-round events and expanded programming. Phase 2 building priorities will get the fair onsite by August 2023. This phase kicked off in early 2020 and the very next week, Covid shut down the entire state. Our first year was spent building relationships, hosting on-site tours and sharing our vision as we engaged cautious donors in an historically uncertain time. Through hard work and diligence, we have raised over \$13.1 million to date. Capturing the hearts of our community, The Grand has developed into a remarkable public and private partnership with local and regional donors, state, and federal funds secured. The KCYAA requests ARPA funding from Kent County in the amount of \$11.3 million dollars for four key aspects critical to expanding our mission beyond the fair. • \$300,000 for capacity building staff for fundraising and program development • \$3 Million for the campground with bath houses and amenities • \$3 Million for sitework including railway connections • \$5 Million for the Indoor Exhibition Arena

Long-Term Benefit

The Grand will share our legacy of service to youth, making programming available to all citizens of our county. It will be the regional connector for the Kent County Greenway and North Country Trail system including camping amenities and equestrian trails. It will be an impetus for economic development and capture tourism dollars for Kent County for generations to come. The Grand is the perfect project with the right vision to help us make all residents proud to call Kent County home.



(Page 5)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$37,482,200

Maximum Cost: \$37,482,200

ARPA Request: \$11,300,000

Submitter Info

Name: Kristi Caine

Organization: Kent County Youth
Agricultural Association

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Intended Beneficiary

The Grand will benefit all citizens of Kent County including youth, park and trail users. It will become the permanent home of the Kent County Youth Fair and is initially projected to host 125,000 visitors annually and over 300,000 when complete. Currently, we showcase over 800 youth exhibitors and 50,000 visitors annually from across the county and state. Through The Grand, we will invest in both education and economic opportunities, locally, regionally, and across the state. First and foremost, The Grand will be a place of learning and engagement for the youth and residents of our county and surrounding areas. More of our children will have opportunities to learn about and participate in agricultural-focused programming. We will grow into a field trip destination that will benefit our area, its inner-city schools and youth organizations. This project will ensure that an increasingly diverse group of young people can access free or low-cost programs and the opportunity to build crucial leadership and STEM skills that are important in all industries, but key for future participation in Michigan's dynamic world of agri-business. Through our programs, we will help establish a pipeline for agricultural careers at a time when there is great interest in the farm-to-table sector, growing a healthy local food system, expanding knowledge of where our food comes from, and understanding the national importance of food security. Whether helping young children make a link between the milk for their cereal and the cow standing before them or having deeper conversations on preserving the integrity of the food sold in stores to the carbon footprint it takes to get it there, The Grand will be positioned as an educational resource for the people and asset for Michigan's robust agricultural industry. Building The Grand Agricultural Center of West Michigan will positively impact our economy and our county. We will turn a large vacant property into a vital economic center with ample greenspace for residents and visitors that will drive people to our area from around our state and our country. The Grand will be that one central place that will serve multiple functions and reflect our state's status as the second most diverse agricultural producer in the nation. We believe this project has the potential to be one of the best things for our county and state and could put us as a national leader in the agriculture industry

*Partnership

Yes! The KCYAA has been actively engaging many different constituent groups over the years as they looked to find a permanent home that not only met their needs but filled the gap for suitable space for others, especially those focused on agricultural events and equestrian competitions. These conversations have continued as a final site was selected and the Master Site Plan developed. The Board of Directors and committee members have worked with primary partners including Kent County Parks, Lowell Township, Lowell Area Recreation Authority, City of Lowell, neighbors, municipalities, government organizations, as well as the many Youth Fair volunteers, families, and attendees seeking input and feedback throughout the process. The team continues to work with different interest groups and organizations to ensure the final designs of the various structures can serve multiple purposes for maximum use, including renewed conversations with the Lowell Area Recreation Authority about its master plan and the North Country Trail that will have a trailhead across the southwest corner of the property. We want the campus to be a true community asset and therefore remain open to conversations about the potential for collaborations or partnerships. PROGRAM PARTNERS With strong ties locally and in the immediate area, we look forward to extending our partnerships throughout the county as we expand programming opportunities on the new campus. Current partners include: Boy Scouts City of Lowell Davenport University Elliott's Amusements Flat River Outreach Ministries Future Farmers of America Impact Church Kent County 4-H Kent County Farm Bureau Kent County Sheriff's Department Kent County Parks Kent District Library Lions Club Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce Lowell Area Recreation Authority & Equestrian Trailways Lowell Area Schools Lowell Fire Department Lowell Township Love INC Mel Trotter North Kent Connect Salvation Army St. Cecilia Music Center Versiti WGVU In addition, we have garnered support and interest through tours and meetings with local, county, state and federal government officials including: Mark Anderson, Lowell Area Recreation Authority Vice Chair Representative Thomas Alberts County Commissioner Chair, Mandy Bolter Representative Tommy Brann Senator Winnie Brinks County Commissioner Ben Greene Jerry Hale, Lowell Township Supervisor County Commissioner Carol Hennessy Senator Mark Huizenga County Commissioner Diane Jones Lisa Posthumus-Lyons, Kent County Clerk Peter MacGregor, Kent County Treasurer U.S. Representative Peter Meijer Representative Bryan Posthumus U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow



(Page 6)

Estimated Cost

\$37,482,200.00

*Source of Funding

This project is a strong public and private partnership, a collaborative effort with secured federal and state funds, private local and regional donors, corporate donor gifts and grant awards. Atwood Corporation Caledonia Farmers Elevator Caledonia FFA Campau Corner Cedar Springs FFA Chemical Bank ChoiceOne Bank CoBank Peter C. & Emajean Cook Foundation Consumer's Energy Foundation Corteva Greenstone Farm Credit Services Gordon Food Service Great Lakes Utility & Concrete Construction Jacob Heglund Realty Land O' Lakes Inc Foundation Litehouse Foods, Inc Lowell Area Community Foundation King Milling Company Korff Foundation Lowell FFA Meijer Foundation Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development Michigan Economic Development Corporation Michigan Quarter Horse Association Matching Challenge Morrison Family Foundation Morrison Industrial Equipment Company Network for Good Pinkney Hill Meat Company Portland Federal Credit Union Pridgeon & Clay U.S. Federal Grant Steve & Amy VanAndel Foundation Warner, Norcross & Judd The Wege Foundation West Michigan Tree Service 32 Private Donor Gifts Several In Kind Donors

Project Management Experience

For over 80 years, the board of directors of the Kent County Youth Agricultural Association have diligently and effectively coordinated the Kent County Youth Fair and multiple off-season events from our fair grounds. We are members of the Michigan Association of Fairs and Exhibitions. We have a board of directors, two part time paid staff positions (Executive Director and Grounds Manager) who are also supported by volunteer superintendents and engaged participants representing the variety and diversity of agriculture in our region. From dogs, livestock, rabbits and horses to crops, animal science, performing arts, robotics, fine arts and so much more, the strength of our organization is reflected by its membership. Realizing the magnitude and scope of this legacy project, we are engaged in the long-term planning process to build a committee with agriculture leaders, funding, and community partners to ensure the success of The Grand as we scale up to new heights. We have completed revenue projections for The Grand to evaluate and affirm its sustainability entirely through facility rental, camping revenue and large-scale agriculture exhibitions with rental of the indoor exhibition arena. Our board of directors represent communities across the entire county and are a diverse representation of occupations and skill sets. 2022-2023 Senior Directors: Bill Zaske, KCYAA Board President, Architect/Project Manager at Fishbeck Jennifer Wilber, KCYAA Board Vice President, Teaching Assistant at Potters House Christian School Dr. John Schut, KCYAA Board Secretary, Agriscience Teacher and Future Farmers of America Advisor at Caledonia Community Schools Kendra Diekevers, KCYAA Board Treasurer, Accounts Payable at High Grade Materials Joe Beukema, Marketing Specialist at Mason Lawn and Snow Martin Canfield, Project Superintendent at Rockford Construction Company Morgan Doyle, KCYF Interim Executive Director and Commercial Credit Analyst at GreenStone Farm Credit Services Linnea Hurley, Teacher at Sparta Area Schools Sydney Gladding, Licensed Veterinary Technician at Family Friends Veterinary Clinic Moss McCauley, Owner/Partner at Tumbleweed Dairy LLC and Dairy Genetic Consultant at Central Star Cooperative Mark Pyper, Service Writer at Excel Mobil Repair Matt Weldon, MANAGER / Water Distribution for Plainfield Township Water Dept Junior Directors – Youth representing their peers with full voting rights and responsibilities within the board of directors. Kendra Lloyd Keegan Meebert Mallory Rozema Kylie VanHouten The Raising Barns, Building Youth Campaign is in the capable hands of a visionary group that has the connections, passion, commitment, and knowledge to make this project a success. Key Campaign Cabinet members include: Mark Anderson, Lowell Township Trustee, Lowell Area Recreation Authority, co-owner Terra Verde Landscape Services Jon Bieneman, Teacher at Lowell High School, former President KCYAA Jim Bossard, Former Chief Executive Officer at ChoiceOne Bank Dave Hildenbrand, Consultant at Kelley Cawthorne, Former State Senator and State Representative Shelley Irwin, Host and Producer of The WGVU Morning Show Jason Lamoreaux, Auctioneer/Owner at Lamoreaux Auction and Appraisal Renee McCauley, Farmer, Board Member at American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture, and Kent County Farm Bureau, KCYAA Dairy Superintendent Dick Posthumus, Former Lieutenant Governor of Michigan Dr. John Schut, KCYAA Board Secretary, Agriscience Teacher and Future Farmers of America Advisor at Caledonia Community Schools Kris Woroniecki, American Quarter Horse Association Show Manager, Michigan Quarter Horse Association Executive Secretary/Treasurer Bill Zaske, Board President; Architect and Project Manager at Fishbeck Kristi Caine, Campaign Coordinator, current 4-H Leader, former 4-H member and youth fair participant and former KCYAA board member Our Construction Ad Hoc Committee is skilled in project management with industry experts working with our general contractor, Wolverine Building Group: Mark Anderson, Committee Co-Chair, Owner at Terra Verde Landscape, Lowell Township Trustee, Lowell Area Recreation Authority Dave Hildenbrand, Committee Co-Chair, Consultant at Kelley Cawthorne, former State Senator, former State Representative Greg Ford, Construction Coordinator at Kamminga & Roedvoets Steve Vander Zeil, Owner of Vander Zeil Machinery Sales Matt Weldon, Manager – Water Distribution for Plainfield Township Water Dept Joel Huizinga, Project Manager at Stedfast Construction Tom Oesch, Owner of Swiss Lane Dairy Farm

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$37,482,200

Maximum Cost: \$37,482,200

ARPA Request: \$11,300,000

Submitter Info

Name: Kristi Caine

Organization: Kent County Youth Agricultural Association

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)



(Page 7)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$37,482,200

Maximum Cost: \$37,482,200

ARPA Request: \$11,300,000

Submitter Info

Name: Kristi Caine

Organization: Kent County Youth Agricultural Association

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Federal Funds Experience

The KCYAA recently received \$2.1 million dollars in federal funds for this project in collaboration with U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow for our wastewater management facility. We have developed a strong relationship with Senator Stabenow and her office staff and also have the full support of U.S. Representative Peter Meijer. Through the addition of our Campaign Coordinator position, we are prepared to provide accurate and detailed reports in a timely manner. In addition, we are in the process of completing a financial audit with Hungerford Nichols.

Studies on Impact

Yes, the following research studies and articles document and define the benefits and development of youth through agriculture education, the economic impact of the county fair on its community, and agriculture and national food security threats:

<https://extension.uga.edu/about/our-impact/impact-stories/impact-statement/9663/junior-livestock-show-projects.html#:~:text=Youth%20livestock%20projects%20develop%20students,leadership%20and%20decision%20making%20skills.>

<https://extension.umn.edu/news/benefits-youth-gain-showing-livestock>

<https://academic.oup.com/af/article/11/2/64/6276830>

https://trace.tennessee.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=5520&context=utk_gradthes

<https://newsroom.unl.edu/announce/beef/4656/26839>

https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/what_impact_does_the_county_fair_have_on_american_communities

<https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/159604883.pdf> <https://4-h.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/4-H-Study-of-Positive-Youth-Development-Full-Report.pdf>

<https://bearworks.missouristate.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=4449&context=theses>

<https://www.farmprogress.com/government/agriculture-crucial-security-risk-variety-threats>

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

Eligible but a project of this scale may not be deemed 'proportional to the harm of COVID'



PROJECT #282

John Ball Zoo Education Center & Front Entry Plaza

Identify the need for the proposed project

John Ball Zoo, one of West Michigan's most beloved institutions, is one of the most visited cultural attractions in Michigan. The Zoo strives to be a leader in conservation, education, and sustainability as it provides an accessible "Zoo for All" who visit. Investing in longterm quality of life improvements and attractions, and better access for all of the guests of both the Zoo and park, creates the type of Kent County attraction guests want to visit, enjoy, work for, and live near. Funding from ARPA resources would dramatically affect the Zoo's ability to develop the educational opportunities, attractions, and guest experiences to compete with comparable Zoo experiences far into the future. Seeking out opportunities which would have longterm impact not only on the animals and people we serve, but on our local economy as well, is important to John Ball Zoo. A 2022 Zoo Advisors report on the Economic Impact of John Ball Zoo from its nonprofit start in 2014 through 2022, shows an impact in the region of over \$578 million. Other report details include: nearly 600,000 yearly visitors, 64% who visit from outside Kent County. More than 175,000 visitors spend at least one overnight in Kent County. The Zoo currently has a \$92 million dollar yearly economic impact in Kent County. Each \$1 million dollars invested in capital projects at John Ball Zoo results in \$1.62 million dollars of Total Economic Impact within Kent County, supports 8.33 Jobs and provides \$0.18 million dollars of Tax Revenue for the area.

Education is one of the main focuses of John Ball Zoo, and creating a permanent Education Center will allow us to serve well over 40,000 students through our education engagement along with the over half a million visitors we host each year. It allows us to develop the long-term ability to host the community for place-based classes and camps, provide meeting rooms, and host experiences where KISD students and guests alike can encounter animals with our skilled animal team. It also expands many possibilities for our education, medical, and research-related community partnerships to share and engage the community in our knowledge hub and to contribute to STEM and STEAM programs. Developing the Education Center & Front Entry Plaza also allows for the transforming of our guest services areas and adding four unique animal habitats at the front of the Zoo. Continuing to build exhibits that draw visitors to Kent County, as well as expand our guest support areas provides the ability to increase the Zoo's earned revenue to support the Zoo Community and County assets.

This opportunity would have long-term impact not only on the animals and people we serve, but on the local economy as well. The impact of a \$60-million-dollar Education Center & Front Entry Plaza investment at John Ball Zoo will generate an additional \$97.2 million dollars of Total Economic Impact, support 500 Jobs, and provide an increase of \$10.8 million dollars in Tax Revenue. This investment will also drive significant new visitors to John Ball Zoo. Every additional 100,000 Visitors to the Zoo will generate another \$12.5 million dollars of Total Economic Impact each year, support 108 Jobs, and provide an increase of \$1.7 million dollars in Tax Revenue each year.

As an organization whose mission is to inspire our guests to participate in the conservation of wildlife and the natural environment, John Ball Zoo strives to be a leader in education and sustainability as it provides an accessible "Zoo for All" who visit Kent County. Developing this project will expand the Zoo's capacity to attract guests to Kent County and positively reinforce the Zoo's ability to remain an economic driver for the area. The Zoo has enjoyed rapid growth over the last five years, moving from the bottom 25% of Zoos in the United States to the top 25% of Zoos based on size and operating budget. An investment in John Ball Zoo is an investment in the future of Kent County.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$60,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$60,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Kelli Smith

Organization: John Ball Zoo

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$60,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$60,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Kelli Smith

Organization: John Ball Zoo

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Brief Description

John Ball Zoo provides quality visitor experiences, which include educational engagements throughout the year. The Education Center building with outdoor and indoor learning spaces will create the long-term ability to host the community for place-based classes and camps, provide meeting rooms, and offer opportunities where KISD students and guests alike can encounter animals with our skilled animal team. The Education Center building would also allow for many possibilities with our education, medical, and research-related partnerships to share and engage the community in our knowledge hub, and to contribute to STEM and STEAM programs. This is an incredible opportunity to support the more than 40,000 students who attend Zoo classes each year. John Ball Zoo focuses on attracting visitors to the area by providing exciting programming and engaging experiences. Building out the Front Entry plaza around the Education Center in inclusive, accessible ways will include the addition of four unique animal habitats as well as expanded guest support areas. These improvements and additions will transform and solidify the Zoo's ability to increase earned revenue to support the Zoo community and County assets well into the future.

Long-Term Benefit

Zoo operations and visitors generate a Net Economic Impact over \$92M each year in Kent County. Developing new habitats, guest service amenities, and education spaces drives visitors to the Zoo and other area businesses, and contributes new jobs to the workforce for the city, region, and state. A \$60M Education Center & Front Entry Plaza investment would generate an additional \$97.2M of Total Economic Impact, support 500 Jobs, and an increase of \$10.8M in Tax Revenue each year in Kent County.

Intended Beneficiary

The pandemic has highlighted how critical engaging in nature is to health and quality of life, making access to wildlife and the natural environment pivotal to our approach to our community health, both physically and economically. John Ball Zoo supports quality of life of the community by offering educational, recreation, and nature engagement opportunities in the Zoo and park for families, friends, and individuals. Inviting wooded areas, hiking and biking trails, water features, and picnic and play areas support the well-being of our community. Studies show the positive impact of parks and zoo spaces on the health of those engaging with animals and nature, and the Zoo's free, accessible 110-acre park as well as free Zoo admission to underserved communities assures these benefits are accessible to all in our state. The economic health of Kent County would also benefit greatly through these transformational, sustainable projects at the Zoo. John Ball Zoo plays an important role in the economy of Kent County by attracting over half a million visitors a year, many who spend money on food, lodging, retail, other types of entertainment, or transportation, all which create a dynamic economic impact, increase tax revenue, and support job development. The Education Center and Front Entry project would provide long-term quality of life improvements to our community, developing and maintaining family and visitor entertainment and education attractions whose impact will be experienced long into the future. The existence and quality of attractions to the area create long-term benefits for our community. Having a vibrant Zoo is part of having a thriving community and economy. John Ball Zoo works hard to support our conservation-focused mission, and to care for this county asset at the heart of our community. The Zoo's vision and commitment to this community resource extends to future generations of visitors, wildlife and wild places.



(Page 3)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$60,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$60,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Kelli Smith

Organization: John Ball Zoo

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

*Partnership

John Ball Zoo partners with the following organizations in our community: Grand Rapids Public Schools KISD Friends of the Parks Kent County Parks Grand Valley State University Michigan State University Reciprocal Partnerships for the 2022 season include: Grand Rapids Art Museum Kent District Library Grand Rapids Children's Museum Grand Rapids Public Museum

Estimated Cost

\$60,000,000.00

*Source of Funding

John Ball Zoo is dedicated to caring for this community resource by matching a portion of the funding to amplify the ARPA fund impact. This will be achieved through working with our donors, the community, and State and Federal Appropriations to help fill the gap for these Zoo projects.

Project Management Experience

John Ball Zoo has a successful history of developing and executing successful large-scale projects on our campus and an experienced team of partners familiar with our goals and mission. Allmon Forrester, Director of Facilities, Planning, and Sustainability, will lead the Zoo's efforts to assure finished products are completed on time and budget and ensure quality control for workmanship as this will be a community asset well into the future. Mr. Forrester has been with John Ball Zoo since 2000. He holds degrees in Horticulture and Landscape Architecture, with over 35 years of experience in facilities and construction, and oversees the maintenance, building and grounds, master planning, sustainability, security, and owners' representative for capital projects at the Zoo. He has been a professional member of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums since 2001 and Aquarium & Zoo Facility Association since 2007. He currently serves on the AZFA Board of Directors and is also a past President. He also serves on the Board of the West Michigan Sustainable Business Forum. John Ball Zoo has project experience working with the following companies: • GLMV Architecture has provided schematic design and rough estimate Plaza projects. • CLR Design provided design plans and a rough estimate for the Education Center.

Federal Funds Experience

John Ball Zoo has significant experience working with private and public grants and State and Federal funding programs. The Zoo has experienced leadership, fund development, grant staffing, and financial staff experienced with Federal funding guidelines, compliance, reporting, and Single Audit standards. John Ball Zoo's recent experiences with Federal funding are related to COVID relief funding programs. In 2021, the Zoo received Federal funding through the Shuttered Venues Operator Grant as part of the American Rescue Plan Act. The Zoo is in the process of completing the related Single Audit. In 2020 and 2021, John Ball Zoo obtained funding through the Paycheck Protection Program, funded through the Consolidated Appropriations Act. John Ball Zoo also claimed employer retention tax credits during 2021. In 2022, JBZ received awards from the Endangered Species COVID-19 Relief Funds by the American Rescue Plan Act (P.L. 117-2). These funds were administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Association of Zoos and Aquariums.



(Page 4)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$60,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$60,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Kelli Smith

Organization: John Ball Zoo

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Studies on Impact

In 2017, the Zoo asked the neighbors, neighborhood organizations, and businesses to help design the park to fit priority needs for strengthening their neighborhood's residential and economic experience. Over 4,000 households received invitations to attend workshops, voice their opinions, and brainstorm for a park which would reflect their diverse interests, and bolster the neighborhood economy and culture. The new park project was designed in response to their ideas. Engagement with the outdoors provides psychological, emotional, spiritual and even physical benefits, and extends to time spent in zoo spaces. Research shows that accredited zoos potentially offer direct health benefits which may positively impact risk factors associated with chronic disease, including decreased blood pressure and tension, and increased levels of happiness and energy. The ability to develop, transform, and sustain these community spaces far into the future, both within the Zoo and in the surrounding park, provides for a happier, healthier community. (Zoos and public health: A partnership on the One Health frontier. C. Robinette, L. Saffran, A. Ruple, S.L. Deem. One Health. Vol. 3. June 2017, pgs. 1-4). 2022 Zoo Advisor Report results available.

Guidehouse Ranking Notes

 **Eligibility**

 **Sustainability**

 **Feasibility**

Eligible under non-profit support. Additional information will be needed if the proposal moves forward in the process.



PROJECT #271

Grand River Greenway

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$175,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$175,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Andy Guy

Organization: Grand River Inc.

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 76% or greater

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Identify the need for the proposed project

The Grand River Greenway is the culmination of decades of planning with broad community and stakeholder engagement. The first reference in a community plan to revitalizing the Grand River Greenway corridor through Grand Rapids occurred in the 2002 City of Grand Rapids Master Plan which was developed through engagement with 2,500 residents. The River Revitalization effort was propelled in 2012 with the Green Grand Rapids Plan which identified as a priority reclaiming and reinvesting in a clean, accessible, beautiful, and green river. This Plan included various community engagement efforts involving 1,800 residents. The first plan that identified priority riverside properties for redevelopment was the 2015 GR Forward Plan, a unique community plan led by Downtown Grand Rapids Inc., the City of Grand Rapids and Grand Rapids Public Schools. The GR Forward Plan focused on creating an outdoor adventure city, establishing Grand Rapids as the hub in a regional river trail system, and enhancing neighborhood access to the river. Along the river from Millennium Park to the City of Walker, GR Forward identified some 28 riverfront "opportunity sites" or isolated, underutilized properties that could be transformed to higher and better use as new parks, recreational space, and mixed-used redevelopment opportunities. In 2019, the City of Grand Rapids, in partnership with numerous stakeholder organizations and groups, released the River for All Plan which included conceptual designs for the six opportunity sites. It also contained a design framework informed by work with diverse communities to ensure equitable development of riverfront to meet the needs of the community. The River for All planning process involved more than 15 public engagement events allowing residents and stakeholder groups to voice their priorities related to equitable riverfront development. At the County level, the Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas Master Plan was released in 2019 that included a comprehensive listing of parks and trails improvements. The Plan identified key improvements to riverfront parks, including Chief Hazy Cloud Park, Johnson Park, and Millennium Park. Concurrently, other local governments have been developing park and trail projects that are within the watershed, including Plainfield Township, Ada Township, Cascade Township, Lowell Township, and the City of Lowell. These plans demonstrate a progressively more detailed picture of the community priorities of riverfront parks and greenspace development with extensive resident engagement. As the Greenway project developed, partners sought to understand the community conditions that must be considered during planning. The Grand River watershed connects diverse neighborhoods which have disproportionately poorer health and lower socioeconomic outcomes. Forty-five percent of the residents in the neighborhoods along the Grand River are persons of color and one quarter of all residents in adjoining neighborhoods and 36 percent of youth live in poverty (American Community Survey, 2020).

The median household income within 2 miles of the river revitalization area is 35% lower than that of Kent County as-a-whole (HR&A Advisors, 2021). Additionally, according to the Kent County Health Department's Community Health Needs Assessment, prior to the pandemic, residents of color and those from lower socioeconomic backgrounds had higher levels of obesity, particularly among youth. There is insufficient data to determine whether rates of obesity are on the rise within the neighborhoods surrounding the Grand River in Grand Rapids. However, we know that inactivity is on the rise. Although Michigan has some of the highest activity rates in the United States, it has some of the lowest rates for Black residents (Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, 2022). Kent County discovered that youth inactivity has been steadily increasing year over year, particularly due to increases in watching TV and virtual gaming (Kent County Health Department, 2020). Promoting activity and providing greenspace that is connected by non-motorized trails for residents to enjoy will positively impact the neighborhoods surrounding the Grand River in Grand Rapids and lead to better health outcomes for residents.

(continued on next page)



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$175,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$175,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Andy Guy

Organization: Grand River Inc.

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 76% or greater

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Identify the need for the proposed project

Beyond the community health need for the proposed Grand River Greenway, there is a significant opportunity to boost the regional economy. Restoring the rapids through downtown and developing riverside parks and trails throughout Kent County will increase tourism to the area and traffic to area businesses. Additionally, these developments will incentivize more residential and commercial development along the river corridor, adding more retail and jobs to the region and increasing the density of key points along the river (e.g., Downtown Grand Rapids, Plainfield Township, Downtown Ada, and Downtown Lowell). In a 2021 analysis, HR&A Advisors conservatively concluded that the redevelopment of a select few opportunity sites along the river in Downtown alone would generate a one-time economic impact of \$150 to \$230 million and support 1,300 to 2,000 one-time jobs through construction. HR&A further concluded that there will be a \$8.2 to \$12.3 million annual economic impact after the projects are complete, supporting 100 to 140 jobs. This was just looking at a few sites. The impact of the full project will be much more significant. Additional benefits that have not been quantified, but are important, include increased ability of the County to attract and retain top talent seeking easy access to outdoor recreation opportunities, including specifically a vibrant urban riverfront environment. As the project moves closer to implementation, the various community partners collaborating in project planning concluded that a community organization with representation from a diverse range of stakeholders was needed to play a role in project implementation and ensure long-term sustainability of the Grand River Greenway. In 2022, Grand River Inc. (GRI) was established to fulfill this role as a convener and collaborator with the numerous project partners. GRI will help secure the financial resources for the development projects and for ongoing stewardship of the Greenway, including coordinating programming through the watershed. As detailed in this application, the Greenway investment will not only measurably improve quality of life across our community, but it will also help strengthen community health, improve and connect critical parks and trail infrastructure, catalyze economic growth, and improve public facilities and services to meet the growing needs of the residents of Kent County.

Brief Description

The Grand River Greenway represents a once-in-a-lifetime investment in Kent County. The transformation of the Grand River and its shoreline will have an impact that will be felt for more than a century. GRI, working with numerous partners, has identified transformational projects planned through downtown Grand Rapids and in neighboring Kent County communities along the Grand River, including Plainfield Township, Cascade Township, Lowell Township, and Ada Township. These projects build upon the planned restoration of the city's namesake rapids through downtown Grand Rapids and extend throughout Kent County. To date, \$175 million in projects have been identified, including six downtown Grand Rapids opportunity sites, a non-motorized trail running from the Kent County border to the west to Lowell Township in the east, trails connecting Grand Rapids neighborhoods to the river, and parks and trail projects in neighboring communities. Combined, these projects will provide hundreds of acres of park and greenspace that will include a variety of amenities, including boat and kayak access, outdoor seating, community gathering spaces, arts and culture venues, outdoor play features for all age groups, walk-up river access, camping, and public event space. Additionally, when completed, the Grand River Greenway will feature over 30 miles of new trail, connecting to other regional trail networks running along the Grand River to Grand Haven and north to Cadillac, among other destinations.



(Page 3)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$175,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$175,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Andy Guy

Organization: Grand River Inc.

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 76% or greater

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Long-Term Benefit

For over a century, Grand Rapids has turned its back to the river. Embracing the riverfront as a destination for recreation will change the face of the city. People will travel to Grand Rapids to enjoy the riverfront environment, benefiting local shops, restaurants, and hotels. Some who desire a vibrant urban environment will choose to live in our neighborhoods, further diversifying the community, and driving population growth and tax revenue.

Intended Beneficiary

There are numerous beneficiaries of the Grand River Greenway project. Residents of Kent County will benefit as they gain access to world-class river amenities that will greatly increase quality of life. These residents include those who have been historically excluded from public investments. They will also benefit from an increase in job opportunities that will be created as a result of Greenway investments. Additionally, regional business owners will greatly benefit from the project. Retail and restaurant businesses will benefit from increased tourism and density that will result. Other businesses will benefit as they will be able to attract more talent seeking a region with unique outdoor recreation opportunities.

*Partnership

City of Grand Rapids, Downtown Grand Rapids Inc., Kent County, Grand Valley Metro Council, Plainfield Township, Ada Township, Grand Action, Friends of Grand Rapids Parks, Kent County Parks Foundation, West Michigan Trails & Greenways Coalition, Plainfield Township, Cascade Township, Lowell Township, Ada Township, Grand Rapids Downtown Development Authority, and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

Estimated Cost

\$175 million

*Source of Funding

GRI, working with various governmental and non-profit partners, will bring together a multitude of funding sources to complete the project. In early 2022, Downtown Grand Rapids Inc. received an appropriation in the amount of \$55 million from the State of Michigan for the Grand River Greenway through their American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) allocation. Working with other stakeholders and partners, GRI will facilitate a collaborative decision-making process to determine how best to allocate these and other public funds received, taking into account the ARPA timing requirements, readiness of the project, other funds committed, and cadence of projects necessary to complete the full Greenway vision. An effort is underway to do a County-wide scan for projects that are on the Grand River and enhance the outdoor space within the Greenway. GRI and its partners will raise additional funds through philanthropy and other local, state, and federal government sources. This process will include municipalities along the river to ensure the fundraising effort is collaborative and comprehensive so that all the projects along the Greenway through Kent County are completed. GRI acknowledges that some of the partners listed on this application are also applying for direct funding support through the Kent County ARPA process. We continue to work with these partners to build a collaborative approach to development along the Greenway and believe there is value in considering these efforts holistically.



(Page 4)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$175,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$175,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Andy Guy

Organization: Grand River Inc.

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 76% or greater

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Project Management Experience

GRI is a public-private-community partnership organization established to transform the Grand River corridor in Grand Rapids and Kent County into a renewed recreational, social, environmental, and economic asset. The vision of GRI and its partners is that the Grand River is one of the nation's most exceptional recreational waterways, thriving as a healthy, natural resource and welcoming to all as a cultural destination for enjoyment and opportunity. The purpose of the organization is to unite community voices to work together to enhance the Grand River's ecological, economic, and social benefits and ensure the river corridor's legacy as the core of the region's enjoyment and prosperity. This includes a special focus on rehabilitating and expanding riverfront parks/greenspace and building a new recreational trail that connects residents more directly and safely to Grand River corridor's recreation assets. The organization will serve as a backbone agency to facilitate collaborative efforts and ultimately collective positive impact towards implementing the community's vision for transforming the Grand River into an exceptional and connected community asset. GRI's founding board leadership includes representation from Kent County, the City of Grand Rapids, the private sector, as well as individuals and organizations with a real interest in and passion for implementing the community's vision for transforming the Grand River corridor. While the Grand River Greenway will be the first major initiative implemented by GRI, the organization has drawn together organizations (previously listed) with broad experience in public projects that require a collaborative funding model.

Federal Funds Experience

GRI's Board includes leaders with significant experience receiving and managing federal funds, including leadership from Kent County and City of Grand Rapids. Importantly, the organization's Board and staff also brings proven experience utilizing federal and state funds to leverage additional local public and private funds to build capital stacks that deliver projects on-time and within budget. GRI, working in close partnership with Downtown Grand Rapids Inc, also has engaged the professional services of the firm Guidehouse to support the strategic use of federal funds to build the Grand River Greenway, as well as the compliance and reporting of expenditures using ARPA funds.

Studies on Impact

In 2018, a study was released by the National Library of Medicine that detailed the community health benefits of urban parks and trails. This study concluded that access to parks and trails have a measurable impact on mortality rates, obesity, and mental health. This is just one study of many confirming the health impact that the Grand River Greenway can produce (Kondo et. al., 2018). Over a half century, the City of Denver completed a restoration of the South Platte River and Cherry Creek in downtown, including riverside parks and trails, leading to a \$18 billion property value increase over three decades, \$64 million in additional property taxes and \$100 million in additional Denver School funding annually, and \$1.4 billion in additional annual economic impact. This project is not as substantial as that proposed by GRI. Kondo MC, Fluehr JM, McKeon T, Branas CC (2018). "Urban Green Space and Its Impact on Human Health. Int J Environ Res Public Health." National Library of Medicine. Retrieved from: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5876990/>. Doedderlein, J, Binnings, T (2017). "The Economic Impacts of Transforming Denver's South Platte River and Cherry Creek: 1965- Present." Retrieved from: <https://bit.ly/3AKOG3W>.

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

Only sections of this
located within a QCT are
eligible

Risk to 2026 completion



PROJECT #290

John Ball Zoo Expansion & Park Amenities

Identify the need for the proposed project

John Ball Zoo, one of West Michigan's most beloved institutions, is one of the most visited cultural attractions in Michigan. The Zoo strives to be a leader in conservation, education, and sustainability as it provides an accessible "Zoo for All" who visit. Investing in long-term quality of life improvements and attractions, and better access for all of the guests of both the Zoo and park, creates the type of Kent County attraction guests want to visit, enjoy, work for, and live near. Funding from ARPA resources would dramatically affect the Zoo's ability to develop the attractions, park spaces, and guest experiences to compete with comparable Zoo experiences far into the future. Seeking out opportunities which would have long-term impact not only on the animals and people we serve, but on our local economy as well, is important to John Ball Zoo. A 2022 Zoo Advisors report on the Economic Impact of John Ball Zoo from its nonprofit start in 2014 through 2022, shows an impact in the region of over \$578 million. Other report details include: nearly 600,000 yearly visitors, 64% who visit from outside Kent County. More than 175,000 visitors spend at least one overnight in Kent County. The Zoo currently has a \$92 million dollar yearly economic impact in Kent County. Each \$1 million dollars invested in capital projects at John Ball Zoo results in \$1.62 million dollars of Total Economic Impact within Kent County, supports 8.33 Jobs and provides \$0.18 million dollars of Tax Revenue for the area. John Ball Zoo know that giraffes are one of the top five most popular animals that draw visitors to zoos. They are highly active, visible, provide interactive feeding experiences, and offer a variety of educational opportunities. John Ball Zoo is the top visitor attraction in Kent County and serves over half a million guests per year, but the Zoo is dramatically underperforming its peer group market penetration due in great part to a lack of significant capital projects – specifically ones featuring large, megafauna animals. Guests are drawn to zoos with impactful animals and habitats, and choose to visit other Michigan zoos featuring these animals.

Funding from ARPA resources would dramatically affect the Zoo's ability to develop the experiences and attractions, such as giraffes, to compete with comparable Zoo experiences far into the future. Likewise, the Zoo and surrounding 110-acre park is an oasis in Kent County. Providing greenspace for recreation and relaxation, as well as expanding amenities in this free park would create additional opportunities for the community. Winding walking and biking pathways to connect to existing Kent County Trails and Millennium Park, reflection gardens, fountain, recreation courts, restrooms, entertainment spaces, and additional parking access make the park more inviting, usable, and support the mental and physical health on our community. As the Zoo strives to consistently provide quality animal care, and high-quality attractions for visitors, we need to continually improve our spaces and add sustainable experiences to drive visitors to the Kent County area. Investments to expand our megafauna animal habitats and provide improved park amenities, including parking and recreation areas, allow us increase our impact on the community in both recreational and economic ways. The potential impact of a \$40-million-dollar John Ball Zoo Expansion & Park Amenities Project investment will generate \$64.8 million dollars of Total Economic Impact, support 330 Jobs, and provide an increase of \$7.2 million dollars in Tax Revenue. This investment will also drive significant new guests to John Ball Zoo. Every additional 100,000 Visitors to the Zoo will generate another \$12.5 million dollars of Total Economic Impact each year, support 108 Jobs, and provide an increase of \$1.7 million dollars in Tax Revenue each year. As an organization whose mission is to inspire our guests to participate in the conservation of wildlife and the natural environment, John Ball Zoo strives to be a leader in education and sustainability as it provides an accessible "Zoo for All" who visit Kent County. Developing this project will expand the Zoo's capacity to attract guests to Kent County and positively reinforce the Zoo's ability to remain an economic driver for the area. The Zoo has enjoyed rapid growth over the last five years, moving from the bottom 25% of Zoos in the United States to the top 25% of Zoos based on size and operating budget. An investment in John Ball Zoo is an investment in the future of Kent County.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$40,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$40,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Kelli Smith

Organization: John Ball Zoo

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$40,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$40,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Kelli Smith

Organization: John Ball Zoo

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Brief Description

This expansion would include the addition of a giraffe habitat along with three other African species, infrastructure and pathways to support the exhibits, restrooms, and small café. One of the most popular megafauna animals, giraffes are a highly active and visible animal and an incredible draw. Giraffes offer major cultural and education opportunities, interactive feeding, and future options for multi-species habitats with the potential to bring added economic impact to the region alongside visitor enjoyment. The surrounding park is open to all visitors, free of admission. Enhancing these greenspaces provides more public options for enjoying recreation and quiet space for families, friends, and individuals. Expanding current surface parking, rerouting flow of traffic, and enhancing park amenities would support the Zoo's ability to be good steward of our environment and good neighbor to the business community and its residents. Park improvements include: • Sculpture gardens • Victorian gardens, fountain • Biking/walking pathways • Bike stations • Picnic pavilion • Restrooms • Band shell • Sport courts • Stormwater system • Parking expansion

Long-Term Benefit

John Ball Zoo operations and visitors generate a Net Economic Impact over \$92M each year in Kent County. Developing new habitats and park amenities drives visitors to the Zoo and other area businesses, and contributes new jobs to the workforce for the city, region, and state. A \$40M Zoo Expansion & Park Amenities investment would generate an additional \$64.8M of Total Economic Impact, support 330 Jobs, and an increase of \$7.2M in Tax Revenue each year in Kent County.

Intended Beneficiary

The pandemic has highlighted how critical engaging in nature is to health and quality of life, making access to wildlife and the natural environment pivotal to our approach to our community health, both physically and economically. John Ball Zoo supports quality of life of the community by offering recreation and nature engagement opportunities in the park for families, friends, and individuals. Inviting wooded areas, hiking and biking trails, water features, and picnic and play areas support the well-being of our community. Studies show the positive impact of parks and zoo spaces on the health of those engaging with animals and nature, and the Zoo's free, accessible 110-acre park as well as free Zoo admission to underserved communities assures these benefits are accessible to all in our state. The economic health of Kent County would also benefit greatly through these transformational, sustainable projects at the Zoo. John Ball Zoo plays an important role in the economy of Kent County by attracting over half a million visitors a year, many who spend money on food, lodging, retail, other types of entertainment, or transportation, all which create a dynamic economic impact, increase tax revenue, and support job development. John Ball Zoo Expansion & Park Amenities project would provide long-term quality of life improvements to our community, developing and maintaining family and visitor entertainment and education attractions whose impact will be experienced long into the future. The existence and quality of attractions to Kent County create long-term benefits for our community. Having a vibrant Zoo is part of having a thriving community and economy. John Ball Zoo works hard to support our conservation-focused mission, and to care for this county asset at the heart of our community. The Zoo's vision and commitment to this community resource extends to future generations of visitors, wildlife and wild places.

*Partnership

John Ball Zoo partners with the following organizations in our community: Grand Rapids Public Schools KISD Friends of the Parks Kent County Parks Grand Valley State University Michigan State University Reciprocal Partnerships for the 2022 season include: Grand Rapids Art Museum Kent District Library Grand Rapids Children's Museum Grand Rapids Public Museum



(Page 3)

Estimated Cost

\$40,000,000.00

*Source of Funding

John Ball Zoo is dedicated to caring for this community resource by matching a portion of the funding to amplify the ARPA fund impact. This will be achieved through working with our donors, the community, and State and Federal Appropriations to help fill the gap for these Zoo projects.

Project Management Experience

John Ball Zoo has a successful history of developing and executing successful large-scale projects on our campus and an experienced team of partners familiar with our goals and mission. Allmon Forrester, Director of Facilities, Planning, and Sustainability, will lead the Zoo's efforts to assure finished products are completed on time and budget and ensure quality control for workmanship as this will be a community asset well into the future. Mr. Forrester has been with John Ball Zoo since 2000. He holds degrees in Horticulture and Landscape Architecture, with over 35 years of experience in facilities and construction, and oversees the maintenance, building and grounds, master planning, sustainability, security, and owners' representative for capital projects at the Zoo. He has been a professional member of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums since 2001 and Aquarium & Zoo Facility Association since 2007. He currently serves on the AZFA Board of Directors and is also a past President. He also serves on the Board of the West Michigan Sustainable Business Forum. John Ball Zoo has project experience working with the following companies: • Progressive AE provided the parking and road reconfiguration in the park schematic design, and the Zoo would continue to use them if the project is funded. • Wolverine Building Construction provided the estimate and is a potential candidate for management of the construction phase of the Park Expansion. • GLMV Architecture has provided schematic design and rough estimate for the Zoo Habitat expansion.

Federal Funds Experience

John Ball Zoo has significant experience working with private and public grants and State and Federal funding programs. The Zoo has experienced leadership, fund development, grant staffing, and financial staff experienced with Federal funding guidelines, compliance, reporting, and Single Audit standards. John Ball Zoo's recent experiences with Federal funding are related to COVID relief funding programs. In 2021, the Zoo received Federal funding through the Shuttered Venues Operator Grant as part of the American Rescue Plan Act. The Zoo is in the process of completing the related Single Audit. In 2020 and 2021, John Ball Zoo obtained funding through the Paycheck Protection Program, funded through the Consolidated Appropriations Act. John Ball Zoo also claimed employer retention tax credits during 2021. In 2022, JBZ received awards from the Endangered Species COVID-19 Relief Funds by the American Rescue Plan Act (P.L. 117-2). These funds were administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Association of Zoos and Aquariums.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$40,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$40,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Kelli Smith

Organization: John Ball Zoo

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)



(Page 4)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$40,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$40,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Kelli Smith

Organization: John Ball Zoo

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Studies on Impact

In 2017, the Zoo asked the neighbors, neighborhood organizations, and businesses to help design the park to fit priority needs for strengthening their neighborhood's residential and economic experience. Over 4,000 households received invitations to attend workshops, voice their opinions, and brainstorm for a park which would reflect their diverse interests, and bolster the neighborhood economy and culture. The new park project was designed in response to their ideas. Engagement with the outdoors provides psychological, emotional, spiritual and even physical benefits, and extends to time spent in zoo spaces. Research shows that accredited zoos potentially offer direct health benefits which may positively impact risk factors associated with chronic disease, including decreased blood pressure and tension, and increased levels of happiness and energy. The ability to develop, transform, and sustain these community spaces far into the future, both within the Zoo and in the surrounding park, provides for a happier, healthier community. (Zoos and public health: A partnership on the One Health frontier. C. Robinette, L. Saffran, A. Ruple, S.L. Deem. One Health. Vol. 3. June 2017, pgs. 1-4). 2022 Zoo Advisor Report results available.

Guidehouse Ranking Notes

 **Eligibility**

 **Sustainability**

 **Feasibility**

May count as park/greenspace funding since it is located in a QCT

Risk to 2026 completion



PROJECT #45

Fans of Valley Field - Community Park

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$3,600,000

Maximum Cost: \$4,200,000

Submitter Info

Name: Steve Tibbe

Organization: Fans of Valley Field

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Identify the need for the proposed project

Valley/Sullivan Field is a community park on the west side of Grand Rapids that has been part of the people since the 30's. Rich in history and memories but poorly maintained. The baseball field is not "safe" for quality play, the stands are rotting and the roof is falling apart. There are no ramps for ADA accessible options. Poor lighting, restrooms, infrastructure. And an underused green space that could be activated to help the community thrive through arts, education, physical sport and business.

Brief Description

Restore the grand stands, improve the ball field, modify entrance options, add lighting, recycle stations, and build a community pavilion and bandshell that would double as an ice rink in the winter months (there was one of these there in the past!).

Long-Term Benefit

The neighbors will have a space to enjoy and be proud of. A safe space to gather and grow connections. Providing business opportunities for local establishments to serve and grow around this focal point. Bringing in other local artists to support them as well as drawing in crowds as a tourist destination for baseball and entertainment will help local hotels, bars, restaurants thrive around the influx of business.

Intended Beneficiary

The residents of Grand Rapids will benefit today and for generations to come.

Estimated Cost

3,600,000 - 4,200,000

Project Management Experience

The FOVF board and committee members have been involved with the park for decades and we have a wide variety of members with experience in the funding, planning, endowment, construction and management of a space like this.

Federal Funds Experience

Our fundraising committee has work with federal funding projects for most of their professional career. Over 80 years combined.

Studies on Impact

Community engagement meetings with local neighbors and partners, visiting and sharing resources with the group restoring the Hamtramck stadium in Detroit. Input from architectural and construction firms.

Source of Funding

Millage from the parks and private donors from Fans of Valley Field

Partnership

City of Grand Rapids Fans of Valley Field Grand Rapids Public Schools West Grand Neighborhood Association OCBA Landscape Architects Integrated Architecture



(Page 2)

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Unclear on the location. If in a QCT this would be eligible.



Sustainability

Lacking guaranteed funding after 2026 though partners were identified



Feasibility

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$3,600,000

Maximum Cost: \$4,200,000

Submitter Info

Name: Steve Tibbe

Organization: Fans of Valley Field

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

Millage from the parks and private donors from Fans of Valley Field

Partnership

City of Grand Rapids Fans of Valley Field Grand Rapids Public Schools West Grand Neighborhood Association OCBA Landscape Architects Integrated Architecture



PROJECT #141

Community Wellness with Blues Gym

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$250,000

Maximum Cost: \$250,000

Submitter Info

Name: Tiffany Clarke

Organization: Clarke Grant Writing

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

Blues Gym has community support and donors including Steelcase, Raymond Jones, BCF Wealth Strategies, Lettinga & Associates, the Keller Foundation, Mieras Family Shoes, Chamer's Dental, Dr. Derrick Lado, Supermarket Mercado Michoacan, Solomn Law and more

Partnership

Law Enforcement (Grand Rapids & Kentwood), Area Businesses, Grand Valley State University

Identify the need for the proposed project

Blues Gym started in 1999. Since opening, there has been a consistent flow of youth showing up in need of healthy relationships, coping with anger and bullying, and in need of a place to belong. Youth in poverty and youth of color are disproportionately engaged in the criminal justice system and community violence. They disproportionality experience discipline from the education system. Blues gym has what youth need to reduce their risk factors, reduce community wide violence, which will be demonstrated in this proposal.

Brief Description

Blues Gym opened in 1998 on Plainfield, as a response to increased community violence in the greater Grand Rapids area. Since opening, the gym has seen consistent growth, displaying an increased demand to get youth off the streets and engage in positive youth development opportunities. Blues Gym is now a critical part of the community, serving over 400+ youth each week. Blues Gym doesn't only serve the youth that come each week, it also serves as a positive diversion outlet that community professionals can refer to when they encounter youth making poor decisions in the community. This is why the Gym gets so much support from law enforcement, churches, parents, schools, and politicians. Specifically, the following activities will occur: 1) Mentoring: A network of 150 positive role models and up to 1000 youth annually 2) Education/Tutoring Supports: up to 350 youth annually 3) Character Building Workshops: offered three times a week to up to 1250 youth annually 4) Peer to peer connection: 100% of youth who attend more than once are seen to positively engage with their peers; up to 2000 youth annually 5) Physical Activity Classes: Connected to trauma healing and positive self respect and expression, classes include circuit training, yoga, cardio, games, kickboxing, boxing, dance session 6) Community Asset: Free Physical Space for community meetings as needed, a referral/diversion outlet for Police officers, Educators, Therapists, etc.

Long-Term Benefit

Blues Gyms is well-positioned to implement tangible strategies that authentically engage residents in opportunities that will reduce community violence and increase youth engagement in positive activities as an investment in their education and futures. Other future benefits include investing in youth leaders, physical and mental health and wellness, community relationship building, community service as a regular activity, and creating culturally and physically safe spaces for people.

Intended Beneficiary

The focus population is youth ages 3-25, with a larger emphasis on middle and high school aged youth, youth of color, youth in female headed households and youth in lower socioeconomic statuses. Services are free and open to anyone age three and older. Most attendees live in southeast grand rapids/kentwood/wyoming areas. Indirect beneficiaries include safer schools, referral/diversion resource, less community violence, etc.

Estimated Cost

\$250,000.00



Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$250,000
Maximum Cost: \$250,000

Submitter Info

Name: Tiffany Clarke
Organization: Clarke Grant Writing

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health
Project Theme: Parks and Rec.
Project Status: New Project
Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:

Sustainability:

Feasibility:

Impact:

Source of Funding

Blues Gym has community support and donors including Steelcase, Raymond Jones, BCF Wealth Strategies, Lettinga & Associates, the Keller Foundation, Mieras Family Shoes, Chamer's Dental, Dr. Derrick Lado, Supermarket Mercado Michoacan, Solomn Law and more

Partnership

Law Enforcement (Grand Rapids & Kentwood), Area Businesses, Grand Valley State University

Project Management Experience

Blues Gym has a Certified Public Accountant and Attorney that handles all of its financial needs. Grand Valley State University supports Blues Gym in tracking indicators.

Federal Funds Experience

None, however Blues Gym has professionals who would oversee all federal funds to ensure compliance.

Studies on Impact

The Annie E Casey Foundation has significant research supporting the effectiveness of programs that help youth and communities thrive. More can be found at: <https://www.aecf.org/>

Guidehouse Ranking Notes

Eligibility	Sustainability	Feasibility
Potentially eligible under violence prevention.	Lacking guaranteed funding after 2026 though partners were identified	

PROJECT #106

Mental and Physical Wellness through Yoga and Meditation for All



Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$182,200

Maximum Cost: \$182,200

ARPA Request: \$182,200

Submitter Info

Name: Larry Hamlet

Organization: Pure Hot Yoga GR LLC (minority owned)

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

n/a

Identify the need for the proposed project

Americans have adopted a sedentary lifestyle according to the Surgeon General. The CDC reports that, • More than 60 percent of U.S. adults do not engage in the recommended amount of activity. • Approximately 25 percent of U.S. adults are not active at all. • Physical inactivity is more common among: o Women than men. o African American and Hispanic adults than whites. o Older than younger adults. o Less affluent than more affluent people. • Social support from family and friends has been consistently and positively related to regular physical activity. President Biden reports that "Our country faces an unprecedented mental health crisis among people of all ages. Two out of five adults report symptoms of anxiety or depression. And, Black and Brown communities are disproportionately undertreated ..."

Brief Description

Pure Hot Yoga GR, 2909 Breton Road SE, Kentwood was established four years ago and is a black owned business. Since its inception it has been clear that yoga has improve its practitioner's physical and mental health. This project will feature communitybased yoga education to inform the citizens of Kent County and members of specific populations such as ethnic minority groups, women, senior adults, LGBTQ+ people, and low income groups of the benefits of yoga. Participants will be recruited from among existing public and private social service agencies, schools, and mental and physical health care service providers. This education will feature lectures and demonstrations, workshops, mass media appearances on radio and television, and social media postings on FaceBook, Instagram, and TikTok. Other than the citizens and specifically identified groups, audiences will also include school teachers, mental health care workers, and law enforcement and medical professionals. Training and mentoring of capable individuals who are interested in becoming yoga instructors will be included to expand the scope of the project's objectives beyond the time frame of this grant. Free Training and classes will be held throughout the Kentwood community including the Pure Hot Yoga GR studio and at Kentwood Parks and Recreation locations and Kentwood schools. Everyone will be welcome.

Long-Term Benefit

With information about yoga and its regular practice, community members will become healthier and more mentally prepared for our ever changing world. A positive mental attitude and improved physical health will improve the lifestyle choices of yoga practitioners and impact their family lives in a positive way. Healthier and fitter citizens means less of our community resources will need to be expended on both physical and mental health care or the negative consequences associated therewith.

Intended Beneficiary

Every Kent County citizen may join to benefit. Anyone who receives training and follows through by practicing yoga will benefit for a lifetime and most especially specific groups such as ethnic minority groups, women, older adults, LGBTQ+ people, and low income groups.



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$182,200

Maximum Cost: \$182,200

ARPA Request: \$182,200

Submitter Info

Name: Larry Hamlet

Organization: Pure Hot Yoga GR LLC (minority owned)

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact:  

Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

n/a

Estimated Cost

Educators: \$83,200 (4 individuals x \$100 per week each x 52 weeks x 4 years) Facilities: \$64,000 Pure Hot Yoga GR studio (private bathrooms, men's and women's changing rooms, a massage room on a bus line and with extensive parking available totally approx. 2,000 sq. ft.) Media: \$25,000 (Advertising, marketing, print, podcasts, video production) Yoga mentoring and training: \$10,000 (Classes for the trainers at the studio) = \$182,200

Project Management Experience

None but experienced as a black owned small business person and as an accounts manager for a catering company with national reach working out of Kent County.

Federal Funds Experience

None

Studies on Impact

Studies have shown that yoga has a positive effect on mood, stress, anxiety, depression, mindfulness, and other quality of life measures (Granath) A review of literature by G. Sathyanarayanan, A. Vengadavaradan, and B. Bharadwaj examined the role of yoga and mindfulness in severe mental illness over a ten year span. The results showed among other findings that "... both yoga and mindfulness showed improvement in psychopathy, anxiety, cognition, and the functioning of patients with schizophrenia. Similarly, both techniques have been established as an effective adjuvant in major depressive disorders." The American Psychological Association reported in that yoga is effective at reducing the symptoms of depression especially among veterans as cited in a study conducted by Lindsey Hopkins, PhD of the San Francisco Veterans Affairs Medical Center. Those results among others caused the military to investigate the creation of its own yoga based treatment program as a complementary or alternative mental health treatment for veterans. Other studies came to the same conclusion among the general population, see Ledetra Bridges, LMSW in the Journal of Evidencebased Complementary and Alternative Medicine.

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

This business is right across the street from a QCT so it is not technically eligible for recreation funds, but a case may be made for that. Could qualify as a small business grant, although the proposal pushes the recreation narrative

Does not include a funding plan or fund availability after expending all the ARPA dollars.



PROJECT #57

Western Regional Michigan Basketball (WRMB) Urban Youth Summer Basketball League

Identify the need for the proposed project

We are in the Kent County area playing basketball we have 125 youth in kent county playing basketball at Martin Luther King Park and Campau Park we are looking to reduce violence and increase the opportunities for our youth in kent county to play basketball and keep them physically fit help them become confident and better athletes and increase police and community relations in our community. We are a 501c3 Organization.

Brief Description

We would like to expand our league to other cities in the county and West Michigan region to service our youth and tournaments and create new jobs and be able to fund the league for and other business needs to expand the league. Although we serve 125 youth in our county we can only run the league every year barely meeting the cost of the budget to run the league. We want youth ages 11-14 to play in our summer league games Marcus Bingham Jr. is one Alumni of the Urban Youth Summer Basketball League & and was recently drafted to the NBA by the Dallas Mavericks as a Free Agent we have a lot of youth who went on to colleges around the county, state, and nation. Eventually becoming a semi-pro or professional athlete. We would like to continuously run our basketball league and tournaments continuously reduce gun violence, keep our youth engaged in fun and physical activities, create better police and community relations with our police department & creating jobs and wages for our staff for several years until the league can sustain itself and help our counties youth gain the confidence to get to the next level of basketball. We have been running the basketball league for over 20 years and couldnt run the league cause of lack of funding.

Long-Term Benefit

The long-term benefit would be keeping our youth out of the streets and away from violence, doing positive physical activities, and making sure they are doing good in school, improving the confidence of our communities youth to get to the next level of basketball, and giving them opportunities that usually aren't there in our impoverished and poor neighborhoods and creating better police and community relations with our youth so they don't end up in the juvenile or court system.

Intended Beneficiary

Our County, Our Youth, Our Community & West Michigan Region

Estimated Cost

\$50,000.00

Project Management Experience

We Have experience with running basketball leagues and tournaments with at least 100+ youth in our community we are confident in leading large and larger county-wide projects in & West Michigans Region.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$50,000

Maximum Cost: \$50,000

Submitter Info

Name: Albert A Rice Jr.

Organization: Western Regional Michigan Basketball (WMRB) Urban Youth Summer Basketball (UYSBL)

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact 

Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

n/a



(Page 2)

Federal Funds Experience

We have never received federal funds to fund our youth basketball league.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$50,000

Maximum Cost: \$50,000

Submitter Info

Name: Albert A Rice Jr.

Organization: Western Regional Michigan Basketball (WMRB) Urban Youth Summer Basketball (UYSBL)

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact 

Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

n/a

Studies on Impact

We don't have any data to validate the effectiveness of our basketball league but can say that we provide an opportunity that our community's disadvantaged and impoverished youth an outlet to keep themselves engaged in positive opportunities and not engaged in violent and criminal activities in the county and West Michigan Region.

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Recreation funds are only eligible in disproportionately impacted communities. Potentially eligible as violence prevention.



Sustainability

Does not include a funding plan or fund availability after expending all the ARPA dollars.



Feasibility

PROJECT #100

Dreams Take Work: Dream Garden



Identify the need for the proposed project

In line with the MI top 10 strategic education plan (www.michigan.gov/mde) Dreams Take Work summer camp offers programs that 1) expand early childhood learning opportunities 2) improve early literacy achievement 3) improve the health, safety and wellness of all learners and 4) expand secondary learning opportunities for students.

Brief Description

At Dreams Take Work, we encourage individuals to invest in themselves. We believe pursuing a passion is an essential core value. We want to uplift the community by offering a garden suitable for growth. We aim to provide a safe space for individuals to move towards their true purpose. We create safe spaces for young people to express themselves creatively and healthily, using sports and art as a pillar.

Long-Term Benefit

The range of activities, visitors, projects and trips that we provide offers campers an environment to explore their interests, expand their skill sets, supplement their regular inschool learning, build relationships with peers, mentors, neighbors and community members, participate as agents in their communities, and learn and play safely in a supportive, screen free and open air environment!

Intended Beneficiary

This program is designed to benefit the entire Community, both the children that attend the summer camp as well as the entire family.

Estimated Cost

\$400,000-\$600,000 over a span of 4 years. The Dream Garden works toward a sustainable staff model by recruiting the oldest campers who have aged out of programming to serve as junior counselors at \$16/hour, college aged students to serve as counselors at \$18/hour and certified teachers to serve in supervisor roles at \$21-\$25/hour. This model allows for advancement opportunities, mentorship and relationship building as well as professional skill development such as classroom, project and staff management. Staff also includes a support team of administrative staff who support with registration and check in, equipment set up/breakdown and meal service. Finally, the Dream Garden works with local vendors who bring their expertise to daily activities. In partnership with other educational organizations, campers have access to quality programming developed by professionals in fields ranging from basketball and arts & crafts to yoga and fruit carving. Vendors are compensated according to an agreed upon business rate.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$400,000

Maximum Cost: \$600,000

Submitter Info

Name: Lawrence Duke Turley

Organization:

Dreams Take Work: Dream Garden

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: Existing Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

Grand Rapids Parks and Rec Department and MLK Park, SE Market and Resilient Roots Wellness, Muse GR, 92 Ways arts & crafts, Unique By Design, Creative Carving, Meka's Dance Studio, We Play



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$400,000

Maximum Cost: \$600,000

Submitter Info

Name: Lawrence Duke Turley

Organization:

Dreams Take Work: Dream Garden

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: Existing Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact:    

Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

Grand Rapids Parks and Rec Department and MLK Park, SE Market and Resilient Roots Wellness, Muse GR, 92 Ways arts & crafts, Unique By Design, Creative Carving, Meka's Dance Studio, We Play

Project Management Experience

The Dreams Take Work summer program works with up to 280 unique students in one summer and hosts anywhere from 125 to 280 students in one week with an 85% retention rate for students from one week to the next throughout the summer (We have to turn kids away because of funding and waitlist capacity). Daily attendance is consistently more than 25 students each day ranging in age from 5 to 12 years old. The staff to student ratio is typically between 1:7 and 1:10 depending on daily attendance. For the past 5 years the Dream Garden has been running summer camp programming through the City of Grand Rapids Parks and Recreation Department at MLK Park (King Park) located on the southeast side of Grand Rapids. We have also held our first Dreams Take Work Festival this year as well and Dream Gala to raise funds for the program.

Federal Funds Experience

We have dealt directly with the City of Grand Rapids Parks and Rec as partner for funding the past 4 years.

Studies on Impact

Dream Garden delivers the Dreams Take Work Summer Camp primarily in the Southeast area of GR within the Baxter and Madison neighborhoods of the city. These areas are located within the city's third ward which is the most under-resourced in GR.

According to an article published by the GR Public Schools News Network, "The Third Ward, which covers roughly one-third of the city's land size and population, received \$19.4 million — or 1.5 percent — of the \$1.29 billion in private investments supported by the city's economic development programs in 2012-17. That's compared to \$750 million and \$516 million invested in the First Ward and Second Ward, respectively." Article: <https://www.grps.org/all-grps-news-events/951-it-might-spark-a-desire-to-want-to-change-something>

Dreams Take Work campers live in these neighborhoods and her low-income areas where youth face many barriers to success. Between 2015 and 2019... 41% of family households were led by a single parent in the GRPS school district. ... 19.6% of residents were unemployed ... 29% of families had income below the poverty level ... 37.3% of families used Food stamp/SNAP benefits *National Center for Education Statistics (<https://nces.ed.gov/Programs/Edge/ACSDashboard/2616440>)

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Many eligibility avenues - Additional information will be needed if the proposal moves forward in the process.



Sustainability

Does not include a funding plan or fund availability after expending all the ARPA dollars.



Feasibility



PROJECT #243

Safe Spaces Initiative

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$690,000

Maximum Cost: \$720,000

Submitter Info

Name: Chris Cameron

Organization: Silent Observer

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

Inkind donations of facilities, professional tutoring/instructors which have already been established and agreed upon

Partnership

Silent Observer, Cure Violence of the Urban League of West Michigan, Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce, Mosaic Masterminds, First Community AME Church, Oakdale Christian Reformed Church, Plymouth Heights Christian Reformed Church, Baxter Neighborhood Association - Public Safety, School of Rock and Grand Rapids Public Schools

Identify the need for the proposed project

In the wake of the continued increase of violent crime in greater Grand Rapids – most notably homicides, shootings, and armed robberies, and an abnormal increase in domestic violence, the Public Safety Alliance began as a group of diverse community members concerned about what impact this accelerated violence would have on youth, young adults, as well as the quality of life within our Grand Rapids neighborhoods. Since 2021 we have offered various workshops for youth and adults and just this summer we have planned weekly basketball and chess nights for youth 11-24 as part of our Safe Space initiative. In this year alone, police have arrested young people ages 13-16 for a string of car thefts, car burglaries and being in possession of firearms. This alliance formed the Safe Space Initiative so that youth and young adults could go to a safe space away from home, have a constructive alternative to hanging out on the streets, enrich their academic skills and abilities, interact with good role models, as well as expand their horizons with new friendships and new ideas. Crime Data from Grand Rapids Police Department reveals: The number of reported crimes involving guns has increased 39% compared to the last 3 years Over 200 firearms were reported stolen to GRPD Attempted Murder with a gun has increased 175% since 2015 in Grand Rapids In 2021 there were over 400 weapon firing offenses in Grand Rapids - up 270% since 2016 According to the FBI's Uniform crime reports, the number of teens killed by homicide increased to 400% from 1 in 2019 to 5 so far in 2022. The crime rate in Grand Rapids is considerably higher than the national average across all communities in America from the largest to the smallest, although at 27 crimes per one thousand residents, it is not among the communities with the very highest crime rate. The chance of becoming a victim of either violent or property crime in Grand Rapids is 1 in 37. Based on FBI crime data, Grand Rapids is not one of the safest communities in America. Relative to Michigan, Grand Rapids has a crime rate that is higher than 91% of the state's cities and towns of all sizes. Programs such as these sponsored by the Public Safety Alliance, help to create an opportunity to enhance the quality of life for the entire families especially youth and young adults because they provide a safety net needed in our communities to feel free to be human. The Public Safety Alliance cares about the well being and safety of all persons across the greater Grand Rapids Community.

Brief Description

The Safe Spaces initiative is seeking to offer programming involving recreation, the arts, academic enrichment and leadership development skills as a year round program two evenings each week from 5:30-9:30 p.m., housed at one of the Grand Rapids Public Middle Schools. We believe these outside and meaningful enrichment activities for marginalized youth will help curb the uptick in violence committed by our youth. We plan to offer activities broken up into 2 age groups - 12-17 and 18-24. Programming includes: Basketball Chess and Board Games Dance Self Defense for girls Tutoring Music & Arts enrichment Adults, who are good role models, will be at all activities to befriend and mentor those that participate. The more opportunities for youth and young adults to learn how to become independent thinkers, work together as a team, and make wise decisions, the better the chance they will curtail their engagement in risky behaviors.

Long-Term Benefit

Create opportunities to elevate the rate of high school graduation Deter truancy rates for students Focus on bridging the gap within Equity and inclusion Reduce Disparities & create more opportunities for our youth & families Focus on the reduction of recidivism Build relationships across cross cultural sections of the Grand Rapids community Decrease the number of crimes committed by youth & young adults as a result of program engagement. Teaching how to be responsible & make good decisions



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Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$690,000

Maximum Cost: \$720,000

Submitter Info

Name: Chris Cameron

Organization: Silent Observer

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

Inkind donations of facilities, professional tutoring/instructors which have already been established and agreed upon

Partnership

Silent Observer, Cure Violence of the Urban League of West Michigan, Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce, Mosaic Masterminds, First Community AME Church, Oakdale Christian Reformed Church, Plymouth Heights Christian Reformed Church, Baxter Neighborhood Association - Public Safety, School of Rock and Grand Rapids Public Schools

Intended Beneficiary

All youth and young adults ages 12-24 who live in the City of Grand Rapids

Estimated Cost

\$690,000-\$720,000 for 3 years

Project Management Experience

The Public Safety Alliance began as a group of diverse community members concerned about the impact of violence on youth and young adults in the city of Grand Rapids. This alliance formed the Safe Space Initiative so that youth and young adults can communicate freely, find fellowship and build relationships in a safe space off the streets of Grand Rapids. Silent Observer of West Michigan will be the fiduciary of this grant and oversee the operations of this Public Safety Alliance Safe Spaces Initiative. Silent Observer has been around 50 years and has a history of planning meaningful community events like Candlelight Vigils for Victims of Crime, a Rock the Mic: Artists Against Violence song competition, Project Night Lights, and have organized Community Heroes Events. Silent Observer and the Public Safety Alliance are very capable of managing and leading this project.

Federal Funds Experience

Silent Observer has received two Project Safe Neighborhoods Grants and have successfully completed those projects and all required paperwork and verification.

Studies on Impact

VeryWell family

https://greatergood.berkeley.edu/article/item/four_ways_music_strengthens_social_bonds

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2011/07/110706195908.htm> CDC - A Comprehensive Technical Package for the Prevention of Youth Violence and Associated Risk Behaviors

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

Best fits under recreation so this is only eligible if done within a QCT

Does not include a funding plan or fund availability after expending all the ARPA dollars.



PROJECT #29

Live music at the band shell

Organization
requested to
remove project
from consideration

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$15,000

Maximum Cost: \$25,000

Submitter Info

Name: Eric A Vanderstel

Organization: Grand Rapids
Federation of Musicians

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

Afm music performance fund
may be able to pay 50% of Union
musicians pay, not all musicians
are union currently 300 west
Michigan musicians are

Partnership

Grand rapids federation of
musicians, Afm Music
performance fund,

Identify the need for the proposed project

there are several communities surrounding grand rapids with park concerts the Riverside band shell is one location that could provide a community entertainment venue, the John Ball park band shell could also be scheduled as a location.

Brief Description

Providing concerts in the park from 630 to 830 pm at two locations that would serve the Grand Rapids north and west side communities. concerts would start June 15 and end August 15 depending on budget, events would be Monday and Tuesday evenings Music may be a variety to reach all demographic groups. budget costs, entertainers, sound system, park rental, security, clean up, liability ins, advertising.

Long-Term Benefit

Cultural enrichment. use of local parks, outdoor environment with less risk of covid infection.

Intended Beneficiary

City of Grand Rapids and Kent County Residents

Estimated Cost

15,000 to 25000 for one season

Project Management Experience

I have been on the festival of the Arts Grand Rapids committee several years as entertainment chair, I have organized the Labor Fest entertainment for decades. I provide sound equipment and back line at a discounted price of typically 900\$ per event

Federal Funds Experience

Just the performance trust fund and local event committees, nothing federal

Studies on Impact

Only the local perceptions that the outlying communities connected to grand rapids have more opportunities for cultural events than in nearby neighborhoods, Grand Rapids parks are under used due to lack of events, also some people may not be comfortable driving to a distant park somewhere they do not live nearby. Upscale communities and townships present these as a medallion of the community lifestyle.



(Page 2)

Organization
requested to
remove project
from consideration

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$15,000

Maximum Cost: \$25,000

Submitter Info

Name: Eric A Vanderstel

Organization: Grand Rapids
Federation of Musicians

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

Afm music performance fund
may be able to pay 50% of Union
musicians pay, not all musicians
are union currently 300 west
Michigan musicians are

Partnership

Grand rapids federation of
musicians, Afm Music
performance fund,

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Individuals or communities served is not clear or does not align with Treasury guidelines' definition of 'impacted' or 'disproportionately impacted'. Could be under non-profit support.



Sustainability

Does not include a funding plan or fund availability after expending all the ARPA dollars.



Feasibility



PROJECT #1

Arroyo Vista Trail (Mr. Grimm)

Identify the need for the proposed project

The new trail is put aside Myers Lake Road.

Brief Description

There is an error in the design of the trail on Myers Lake road. It is too close to the road and has no protection for pedestrians. The speed on that road is often times over 75 miles per hour. It appears that Cannon Twp did not take that into account in its design and has huge liability when someone is killed by a car. Steve Grimm is the manager and is doing a poor job. I would hate to see anyone injured on a bad design - his engineers should have done a better job.

Long-Term Benefit

Safety

Intended Beneficiary

Pedestrians

Estimated Cost

N/A

Project Management Experience

I have 30 years of engineering experience and a Masters's Engineering from Vanderbilt University.

Federal Funds Experience

None

Studies on Impact

Safety is always a top concern, and Cannon TWP ignores it.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: n/a

Maximum Cost: n/a

Submitter Info

Name: Bert A. Barriger

Organization: n/a

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: Existing Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

The project is already started it must be funded.

Partnership

Cannon Township

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

Individuals or communities served is not clear or does not align with Treasury guidelines' definition of 'impacted' or 'disproportionately impacted'.



PROJECT #2

Lowell Skatepark Remodel

Identify the need for the proposed project

We've held public forums and also community surveys. Plus local government officials have expressed that redoing the skatepark is needed.

Brief Description

We've held public forums and also community surveys. Plus local government officials have expressed that redoing the skatepark is needed.

Long-Term Benefit

Life expectancy of the new park is decades. We hope that it will get more people of all ages outside playing on the new park. It will also be a fun and safe activity if there are more pandemics or health issues in the future.

Intended Beneficiary

The entire Lowell Community and surrounding communities as there is no good concrete skatepark near by.

Estimated Cost

\$240,000.00

Project Management Experience

I (Bob Rogers) have lead several community projects including 5 playgrounds and our yearly "Love Week" which is a week-long community project involving 30 individual projects, 600 volunteers and 2300 hours each year.

Federal Funds Experience

None

Studies on Impact

We've been working with "The Skatepark Project" out of California which is Tony Hawk's foundation. We're also working with Grindline who designs and builds skateparks. We also have access to two community health surveys done for the Lowell Community and a needs assessment for a community center which details the need for outdoor recreation.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$240,000

Maximum Cost: \$240,000

Submitter Info

Name: Bob Rogers

Organization: Impact Church

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: Existing Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

Since January, we've raised over \$82,000 out of the \$240,000 needed.

Partnership

City of Lowell

Guidehouse Ranking Notes

 **Eligibility**

 **Sustainability**

 **Feasibility**

Individuals or communities served is not clear or does not align with Treasury guidelines' definition of 'impacted' or 'disproportionately impacted'.

PROJECT #13

The Highlands - Access to Nature in Urban Green Spaces and Building a Sustainable Future



Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$10,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$10,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Jason Meyer

Organization:

Blandford Nature Center

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: Existing Project

Matching Funds: 76% or greater

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

To date, we have secured \$4.65M toward the \$10M goal. This support comes from the City of Grand Rapids, corporate supporters, local foundations, individual donors, and in-kind services.

Partnership

Land Conservancy of West Michigan, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, GRPS, Trout Unlimited, Ducks Unlimited, and many more

Identify the need for the proposed project

Blandford Nature Center acquired The Highlands Golf Club in 2017 in partnership with the Land Conservancy of West Michigan. With significant community input, a master plan for the property was developed and the organizations are now working to fund the implementation of that master plan, making The Highlands a premier urban green space that not only improves quality of life through access to nature for education, recreation, and health & wellness, but also models sustainable development by pursuing full Living Building Challenge certification on the outdoor education center to be constructed on the property.

Brief Description

Blandford Nature Center acquired the former Highlands Golf Club property that was directly adjacent to Blandford on Grand Rapids' West Side. We aim to give this property its second chance to exist as a natural environment after well over a century of being denuded by humans. We seek funding to complete restoration of the property and the development of amenities defined in a comprehensive master plan, which was the result of several iterations of community input, professional creativity, and passion for protecting land for future generations to enjoy. The 121-acre property was the largest open space left within Grand Rapids' city limits, and now offers up a number of opportunities to increase access to nature for our entire community, including through outdoor recreation, environmental education programming, and more. Additionally, Blandford Nature Center has chosen to exhibit the highest level of environmental stewardship and leadership in demonstrating sustainable practices by pursuing full Living Building Certification on the new outdoor learning center that will be constructed on the property. There are less than 30 Living Buildings in the entire world and would draw visitors to Kent County to learn more about the LBC.

Long-Term Benefit

-Demonstrate leadership in sustainable construction (economic benefits, health benefits) -Provide equitable and barrier-free access for all to nature (health & wellness, education, enjoyment, recreation) -Provides access to urban green space to an area lacking in parks, in perpetuity - Combats climate change and environmental degradation (creating a massive carbon sink, as well as construction of wetlands and daylighting a storm drain to cleanse polluted water prior to entering the Grand River)

Intended Beneficiary

Residents of North Kent County (Rockford/Cedar Springs areas primarily) - predominantly youth and some adult programs

Estimated Cost

\$10,000,000.00

Project Management Experience

None



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Federal Funds Experience

None

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$10,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$10,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Jason Meyer

Organization:

Blandford Nature Center

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: Existing Project

Matching Funds: 76% or greater

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Studies on Impact

Yes, there are a large number of studies linking access to nature and green space to improved individual and community health. Similarly, there is a robust body of research that shows that habitat restoration to increase biodiversity has innumerable benefits to the resilience of the ecosystems within which we live. Finally, there is a growing body of research that is used as the basis for the design and construction of facilities that meet the requirements of the Living Building Challenge - an effort to design and construct regenerative buildings that create their own energy, treat their own water, are built with equity and access in mind, are made from sustainable and locally sourced materials, and more. As a frame of reference, LEED Platinum is the bare minimum of Living Building Challenge certification.

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

Individuals or communities served is not clear or does not align with Treasury guidelines' definition of 'impacted' or 'disproportionately impacted'.

Source of Funding

To date, we have secured \$4.65M toward the \$10M goal. This support comes from the City of Grand Rapids, corporate supporters, local foundations, individual donors, and in-kind services.

Partnership

Land Conservancy of West Michigan, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, GRPS, Trout Unlimited, Ducks Unlimited, and many more



PROJECT #38

Grand Rapids Gold

Identify the need for the proposed project

We are the Grand Rapids Gold and will be playing our games in Van Andel Arena - we feel we can help stimulate the downtown economy with us bringing fans to our game.

Brief Description

We (Grand Rapids Gold) are playing its 1st season at Van Andel Arena this upcoming fall/winter. Us playing downtown will not only provide many jobs/hours into the arena but hopefully all surrounding businesses will benefit as well.

Long-Term Benefit

The long term benefit with us receiving help during our first year should allow many downtown businesses to gain revenue and grow the overall economy. Also, have more entertainment in the downtown area can attract and retain people in Grand Rapids.

Intended Beneficiary

Downtown business; including ourselves and the community as a whole would benefit greatly.

Estimated Cost

100,000-200,000

Project Management Experience

9 years of working out of the Deltaplex Arena

Federal Funds Experience

2 years from Covid relief funds.

Studies on Impact

No specific research - however, with impact Van Andel events have had in the last 25 years, simply shows the results.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$100,000

Maximum Cost: \$200,000

Submitter Info

Name: Trey Conner

Organization: Grand Rapids Gold

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

n/a

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

Not a government service - not eligible under revenue replacement. Individuals or communities served is not clear or does not align with Treasury guidelines' definition of 'impacted' or 'disproportionately impacted'.



PROJECT #41

USA-Starz Streetball Entertainment

Identify the need for the proposed project

The USA Starz Professional Basketball team sees the need for community involvement and inclusion in the lives of young adults by the recent activities of non inclusive events that encourage young adults within the community through sports & physical activities.

Brief Description

The USA Starz entertainment basketball event will focus on community involvement, spectator participation and family friendly basketball games for all ages. Team Starz will host a free mini basketball camp for the youth to encourage physical activity and teamwork ethics. We welcome food vendors for the community at our events and helpful community services booths to meet the needs of the spectators on all levels.

Long-Term Benefit

To gain an overall experience of a lifetime packed in a weekend of events with food, family and professional entertainment basketball celebrities to drive home a positive message through physical sports that'll never be erased.

Intended Beneficiary

The spectators and families of the community will benefit the most from this project.

Estimated Cost

Range of costs would be between \$15,000 to \$25,000

Project Management Experience

Our organization has over 14 years of community event experience.

Federal Funds Experience

Our organization leaders have over 10 years of experience working with federal government funds.

Studies on Impact

Yes, the research of city and state guidelines for community services, community involvement and food & health regulations.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$15,000

Maximum Cost: \$25,000

Submitter Info

Name: Roy Hudson

Organization:

USA-Starz Streetball Entertainment

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

Local food truck vendors, local restaurants, local community leaders.

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

Not a government service - not eligible under revenue replacement. Individuals or communities served is not clear or does not align with Treasury guidelines' definition of 'impacted' or 'disproportionately impacted'.



PROJECT #47

Jump Ahead Esports Tournament

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$250,000

Maximum Cost: \$250,000

Submitter Info

Name: Deandre Jones

Organization: Jump Ahead L3C

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

West Michigan Sports
Commission

Identify the need for the proposed project

Esports is a global and North American phenoma that is enhancing the youth and engaging in community unity, cities across the US have been holding these tournaments and putting cities on the map and bringing the underserved communities and business communities together.

Brief Description

Bring a nationally recognized tournament provider to the Kent County area, we anticipate getting the right to EA Sports Madden tournament to bring a nationally recognized event to the community, bringing local residents, local business, streamers, professional athletes, content creators, local college students, esports athletes & media to this event.

Long-Term Benefit

We anticipate this event putting Kent County on the esports map which we would continue to bring a tournament every 6 months to the area for the foreseeable future. Which would increase tourism, local economic impact on bussiness's, and bringing a positive community event.

Intended Beneficiary

Local business's, the local community, local college enrollment

Estimated Cost

250000

Project Management Experience

The consulting team that will be running and operating this event have done massive projects like this over the past 10 years in cities like, Las Vegas, Orlando, Las Angeles, San Francisco, Minneapolis, Philadelphia, etc and fully equippped to handle this size of an event and work with the local community to put on an amazing event.

Federal Funds Experience

The consulting team has worked with many local city, county and state tourism funds to help bring an economic impact to its areas.

Studies on Impact

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2018/07/the-explosive-growth-of-esports/>

<https://esportsinsider.com/2022/06/economic-spillover-esports-industry-isfe/>

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/ibm/2020/01/08/how-esports-are-fueling-the-data-economy/?sh=7644913d35e1>



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Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$250,000

Maximum Cost: \$250,000

Submitter Info

Name: Deandre Jones

Organization: Jump Ahead L3C

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



The Treasury Guidelines indicate that for projects to be eligible for economic and workforce development there must be a benefit to those who have been negatively and/or disproportionately impacted economically. This includes underemployed and unemployed persons. Additionally, the funds cannot be used to start new businesses.

One time event

Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

West Michigan Sports
Commission



PROJECT #115

City of Grandville/Calvin Christian Schools Tennis Court Rebuild

Identify the need for the proposed project

Calvin Christian Schools, whose varsity tennis teams use the existing tennis facility in the adjacent City of Grandville Park, made the City aware of the need for refurbishment of this tennis complex constructed in the 1970's in order to provide a safe venue for tennis competition.

Brief Description

Removal of 6 1970's era tennis courts and construction of 6 new tennis courts for use by the public for recreational play and by partner Calvin Christian High School for athletic competition. New construction to include drainage, court surface, court coatings/markings, adjacent sidewalk, fencing, net posts and turf restoration

Long-Term Benefit

Replacement of aging/failing facility for both recreational and competitive use.

Intended Beneficiary

General public recreational tennis players and participants/spectators of interscholastic tennis competitions.

Estimated Cost

\$685,000 - \$750,000

Project Management Experience

The project proposed is consistent with the size, scale and type of projects completed successfully each year by the City of Grandville. Professional consultants will be utilized for design and construction.

Federal Funds Experience

The City of Grandville is a regular recipient of direct or pass through funds from the federal government and familiar with the requirements and accounting of such funds.

Studies on Impact

The physical and mental health benefits of recreation are well documented. Also, this facility has seen increased public usage during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$685,000

Maximum Cost: \$750,000

Submitter Info

Name: Ken Krombeen

Organization: City of Grandville

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: Existing Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

Local unit ARPA funds, local unit general funds, cash or in-kind contributions from the partner Christian school district.

Partnership

Calvin Christian Schools

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

Individuals or communities served is not clear or does not align with Treasury guidelines' definition of 'impacted' or 'disproportionately impacted'.



PROJECT #133

Connecting Cannon and Plainfield Township Trails to the City of Rockford trails

Identify the need for the proposed project

The City of Rockford updated its Recreation Plan and is in the process of updating the Master Plan. Both had extensive Community Engagement where trails and sidewalks were identified as a top priority. Cannon and Plainfield Townships have path millages and are bringing trails to Rockford to access the White Pine Trail, Merrill Trails, and Proven Park.

Brief Description

This project involves the planning, design and construction associated with connecting Cannon and Plainfield Township Trails to the City of Rockford.

Long-Term Benefit

The long-term benefit is an interconnected Trail system amongst the City of Rockford, Cannon, and Plainfield Townships. Such a system would increase accessibility, safety, and provide greater recreation opportunities. It would also add the benefit of connecting the Township trails to City's downtown, the White Pine Trail, Merrill Trails and Proven Park.

Intended Beneficiary

City residents and those who live in the surrounding townships. More specifically, anyone who enjoys using the trails for recreational activities. Local businesses would also benefit from this project.

Estimated Cost

\$100,000.00

Project Management Experience

The City of Rockford recently received a \$500,000 Community Development Block Grant for the construction of new sidewalks to link Low to moderate income homes to City amenities.

Federal Funds Experience

The City also has experience working with federal funds. The most recent example of this is a \$5,000,000 grant the City received for the extension of a watermain.

Studies on Impact

I am unaware of specific research validating the connecting of existing trails, but there is extensive research on the benefit of increasing recreational opportunities.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$100,000

Maximum Cost: \$100,000

Submitter Info

Name: Noah Greco

Organization: City of Rockford

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

City of Rockford ARPA funds.

The City will match 10%
(\$10,000)

Partnership

Cannon and Plainfield
Townships

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

Individuals or communities served is not clear or does not align with Treasury guidelines' definition of 'impacted' or 'disproportionately impacted'. Eligible under revenue replacement as a government service.

PROJECT #202

Lowell Youth Sports Complex – A Place to Play



Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$7,330,000

Maximum Cost: \$7,330,000

Submitter Info

Name: Ross Hinkle

Organization:
Lowell Youth Sports Foundation

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life
Project Theme: Parks and Rec.
Project Status: New Project
Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

While the Lowell Youth Sports Foundation has recently completed its feasibility study and therefore has not yet raised substantial external funding, we fully expect to raise project funding from the community. Other funding is anticipated to come from a combination of individual donors, foundations, corporate sponsors, and public awards.

Partnership

n/a

Identify the need for the proposed project

As the Lowell community has grown, so too has interest in and demand for youth recreation opportunities. This includes Little League, which engages girls and boys ages five and up in baseball and softball. Over the past years, Lowell Little League has experienced significant growth – from 2020 to 2021, Little League sign-ups grew by 100 players, reaching 380 in the spring of 2021. Beyond the immediate Lowell community, the local Little League also draws from nearby communities such as Belding, Saranac, Ionia, and Greenville, which all have community recreation little league teams, but don't opportunities for youth who want to participate in a more competitive travel league. As participation has grown, capacity issues at local athletic fields have become a growing problem, with Little League competing with other youth and adult sport teams for space to accommodate practices, games, and tournaments. Throughout Covid, Little League was unable to rent local school fields, prompting the board to explore more permanent solutions to address the capacity challenges. The Lowell Little League board had 20 acres of undeveloped property that had been donated to them by The Wege Foundation. This land presented the opportunity to develop new athletic fields to better meet demand for Little League and other youth recreation. To develop and execute on the vision for the Lowell Youth Sports Complex, the Lowell Youth Sports Foundation was created to oversee the effort.

Brief Description

The Lowell Youth Sports Complex would create more opportunities for local kids and those in neighboring communities to get involved in a team sport. Involvement with athletics has been shown to have numerous benefits for children and youth, including instilling healthy physical activity habits, teaching teamwork and sportsmanship, and boosting academic achievement. The Foundation also plans to reduce or eliminate participation fees after the three-year project ramp up, which will reduce barriers that keep kids from being able to participate. LYSF has worked with Progressive A&E to develop a conceptual design for the Lowell Youth Sports Complex, which includes: seven baseball/softball fields; a pavilion with concessions, restrooms, and office space; and parking for approximately 350. The complex also includes a walking trail around the perimeter that connects to the Lowell area trail network. The Lowell Youth Sports Complex will add much needed local infrastructure for athletics and will support the growing community. The facility expansion provided with the development of the Sports Complex will not only support local youth athletes but will also attract baseball and softball tournaments and outside visitors. Hosting tournaments will provide a boost to the local economy and allow Kent County to capitalize on the growing sports tourism sector. This is a wide-reaching community benefit project that will address an existing need while also supporting the business community.

Long-Term Benefit

The long-term benefit of the project will be increased infrastructure to support increasing demand for recreational opportunities in the community, as well as increased social, emotional, physical and mental health for community members who utilize the new complex

Intended Beneficiary

Youth, families, and the general public from Lowell and surrounding Kent County will benefit from the project. The complex will be open to the public and offer recreation opportunities for all community members. Beyond the impact on youth and families, the ability to host larger tournaments in the new complex will bring visitors to the community, boosting sales at local restaurants, retail, and convenience stores.



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$7,330,000

Maximum Cost: \$7,330,000

Submitter Info

Name: Ross Hinkle

Organization:
Lowell Youth Sports Foundation

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life
Project Theme: Parks and Rec.
Project Status: New Project
Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

While the Lowell Youth Sports Foundation has recently completed its feasibility study and therefore has not yet raised substantial external funding, we fully expect to raise project funding from the community. Other funding is anticipated to come from a combination of individual donors, foundations, corporate sponsors, and public awards.

Partnership

n/a

Estimated Cost

The total Lowell Youth Sports Complex is estimated to cost \$7,330,000. The project expenses are broken down as follows: Site Work (Grading, Utilities): \$2,434,233.67 300' Tournament Fields (2): \$854,261.10 200' Baseball/Softball Fields (5): \$1,120,560.00 Field Lighting: \$183,752.77 Complex Facility - Concessions, Offices, Maintenance: \$1,126,891.36 Contingency: \$786,190.42 A/E: \$524,126.94 Staffing: \$75,000.00 Campaign Costs: \$224,983.74 Total: \$7,330,000.00

Project Management Experience

Ross Hinkle, Treasurer of the Lowell Youth Sports Foundation board and manager of the Lowell Youth Sports Complex project, has extensive experience managing county-wide and regional projects. As the current Chief Financial Officer for Belding Area Schools and with extensive administrative leadership experience in the nonprofit sector, Ross, the board of directors, and network of supporters are well positioned to manage the Lowell Youth Sports Complex project

Federal Funds Experience

Ross Hinkle, Board Treasurer, manages a \$20,000,000 budget annually as the CFO of Belding Area Schools. Prior to his current role, Ross served in financial management capacities with nonprofit organizations across Kent County, including the Grand Rapids Symphony, Kent District Library, and Hope Network. In all of these roles, federal funding constituted a significant portion of the organizational budgets under his purview. While the Lowell Youth Sports Foundation has not yet obtained federal funding as the result of being a relatively new organization, the Board and team, with Ross at the helm of the organization's finances, feels extremely confident in the capacity to oversee federal funding.

Studies on Impact

There are countless studies highlighting the numerous benefits of outdoor recreation and participation in youth sports, including enhanced physical and mental health, improvements in social behavior, and increased confidence and sense of self-worth. Below are only a small sampling of these studies.

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/11745398.2019.1655459?journalCode=rnz20>

https://www.fs.fed.us/rm/pubs_journals/1976/rmrs_1976_driver_b001.pdf

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/265907387_The_Role_of_Outdoor_Recreation_in_Promoting_Human_Health <https://wms.org/magazine/1255/index.html>

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/features/wellness-benefits-great-outdoors>

<https://www.muhealth.org/conditions-treatments/pediatrics/adolescent-medicine/benefits-of-sports>

<https://www.aspenprojectplay.org/youth-sports/facts/benefits>

Guidehouse Ranking Notes

 **Eligibility**

 **Sustainability**

 **Feasibility**

Individuals or communities served is not clear or does not align with Treasury guidelines' definition of 'impacted' or 'disproportionately impacted'.



PROJECT #244

Playground Equipment Project

Identify the need for the proposed project

The City of East Grand Rapids Parks & Recreation Master Plan identified the need to replace current playground equipment.

Brief Description

The City of East Grand Rapids is requesting \$300,000 of Kent County ARPA Funds to help with the replacement of three playground areas within the city. Total project costs are between \$2.6 - \$2.9 Million and is being jointly funded by the city of East Grand Rapids and East Grand Rapids Public Schools.

Long-Term Benefit

Public playgrounds provide recreational opportunities for youth.

Intended Beneficiary

Residents & Visitors of East Grand Rapids

Estimated Cost

\$2.6 million to \$2.9 Million

Project Management Experience

City of East Grand Rapids has successfully administrated various large capital improvement projects.

Federal Funds Experience

City of East Grand Rapids has received various Federal Grants over the years. Current City staff has administered Federal Grants in other communities.

Studies on Impact

Playgrounds provide children with the opportunity to laugh, swing and be with friends, but research shows there are many developmental and community health benefits associated with access to playgrounds as well. Playgrounds provide significant child developmental benefits including increased physical fitness levels through activities that promote strength, endurance and cardiovascular health. In addition to physical benefits, playgrounds also provide opportunities for children to gain self-confidence, grow their creativity and imagination, learn social skills such as conflict resolution and relationship building. There are also studies that show that playing on playgrounds help support brain and cognitive development. The American Heart Association recommends that children be active and play every day, and they've found that children who meet these guidelines have better bone health, physical fitness, brain function, attention and academic performance. Playgrounds provide for the opportunity to be active and incorporate a variety of play options to keep children engaged. <https://www.heart.org/en/healthy-living/fitness/fitness-basics/aha-recs-for-physical-activity-in-kids-infographic>

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$2,600,000

Maximum Cost: \$2,900,000

ARPA Request: \$300,000

Submitter Info

Name: Shea Charles

Organization: East Grand Rapids

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 76% or greater

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

Funding from City of East Grand Rapids and East Grand Rapids Public Schools

Partnership

East Grand Rapids Public Schools



Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$2,600,000

Maximum Cost: \$2,900,000

ARPA Request: \$300,000

Submitter Info

Name: Shea Charles

Organization: East Grand Rapids

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 76% or greater

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

Funding from City of East Grand Rapids and East Grand Rapids Public Schools

Partnership

East Grand Rapids Public Schools

Individuals or communities served is not clear or does not align with Treasury guidelines' definition of 'impacted' or 'disproportionately impacted'.



PROJECT #218

Robison/Cascade Multi-Use Trail

Identify the need for the proposed project

Part of Regional non-motorized transportation plans

Brief Description

Construction of a new multi-use eight-foot concrete path one the south side of Robison Road & Cascade Road (Plymouth Rd to East Beltline). City of East Grand Rapids requesting \$300,000 to assist funding.

Long-Term Benefit

Provides non-motorized path connecting three jurisdictions (Grand Rapids, East Grand Rapids, & Grand Rapids Township)

Intended Beneficiary

Residents and visitors to Grand Rapids, East GR, and GR Township

Estimated Cost

\$1.2 Million

Project Management Experience

City of East Grand Rapids has successfully administrated various large capital improvement projects.

Federal Funds Experience

City has received various Federal Grants over the years. Current City staff has administered Federal Grants in other communities.

Studies on Impact

There are numerous studies showing the positive impact on nonmotorized paths for densely populated areas.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$1,200,000

Maximum Cost: \$1,200,000

ARPA Request: \$300,000

Submitter Info

Name: Shea Charles

Organization:

City of East Grand Rapids

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

Approximately \$780,000

Federal Transportation Funds

\$300,000 Kent County ARPA

Funds \$35,000 City of East

Grand Rapids

Partnership

Kent County Road Commission

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

Individuals or communities served is not clear or does not align with Treasury guidelines' definition of 'impacted' or 'disproportionately impacted'.



PROJECT #262

Families at the Frontline

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$2,500,000

Maximum Cost: \$5,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Cameron Van Wyngarden

Organization:
Plainfield Charter Township

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life
Project Theme: Parks and Rec.
Project Status: New Project
Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

Frontline Church, Northview Public Schools, Samaritas, Bethany Christian Services, Family Promise, StoreHouse, Hand 2 Hand, Essentials Store

Identify the need for the proposed project

Over the past three years, Frontline Church has continued to expand its community outreach initiatives in Grand Rapids and has become aware of significant needs in the community revolving around children and families in particular. As they have partnered with Northview Public Schools, Plainfield Township, the StoreHouse of West Michigan, and other local businesses and nonprofits, they identified two key needs: 1) a need for a public play area for children, young people, and families that is accessible year-round, and 2) a permanent Essentials Store that provides needed items (soap, shampoo, deodorant, diapers, etc.), many of which are not covered under WIC. In 2021 alone, the Essentials Store has served approximately 105 families/month and a total of 212 unique households. The number of new members continues to increase each month. The cost is \$20/year per family and has proven to be an effective model for helping people in need through dignity, a personal shopping experience each month, and a large network of other resources, community partnerships, and education designed to help families address the core needs they are facing.

Brief Description

This proposal includes a variety of recreational opportunities and needs-based resources for people of all ages, incomes, and abilities. The indoor/outdoor playground on the grounds of Frontline Church (located at Plainfield Ave and 5 Mile Rd) is intended to complement the permanent Essentials Store location (right next to it) in an effort to meet the needs of our community physically (Essentials Store), mentally (affordable/subsidized counseling services), relationally (playground), and financially (accessible to the public). The indoor playground will be open year-round for elementary and middle school aged children in the greater Grand Rapids area. The indoor component would have regular open hours for the public as well as reserved times for partner foster care and social work organizations throughout the Grand Rapids area. The outdoor play area would include a variety of recreational opportunities including playgrounds, basketball courts, green space and community gathering areas. This area would be open and free to the public at any time. Additionally, Plainfield Township is working with adjacent commercial property owners to include underutilized parking areas in this project as additional recreational space that would provide opportunities for facilities like pickleball, soccer, or outdoor ice skating. These areas would be open and available to the public at no charge, with the potential of working with existing recreational organizations for event programming.

Long-Term Benefit

Increased accessibility for greater Grand Rapids area residents to receive essential items not covered under WIC, and recreational opportunities that will benefit the community through enhanced physical, mental, and social well-being. Additionally, shared public spaces can have a positive impact on social connections and community identity, strengthening the social fabric of a community and partnering together to achieve a greater, long-term impact.

Intended Beneficiary

This project would be of particular benefit to lower income families that may lack the same opportunities to enjoy recreational opportunities that require entrance fees, expensive travel, or essential home/personal items not covered or provided for by other means.



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$2,500,000

Maximum Cost: \$5,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Cameron Van Wyngarden

Organization:

Plainfield Charter Township

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

Frontline Church, Northview Public Schools, Samaritas, Bethany Christian Services, Family Promise, StoreHouse, Hand 2 Hand, Essentials Store

Estimated Cost

\$2.5 – \$5 million, scalable based on available funding

*Source of Funding

Private donors have indicated an interest to contributing significant amounts to this project. Additionally, Frontline Church would provide substantial in-kind contributions through the use of their existing land and facilities, paid and volunteer labor to staff and maintain the spaces, ongoing utility costs, and other financial investment toward this project.

Project Management Experience

Plainfield Township would serve as the lead grant administrator on this project and has extensive experience leading large-scale, multi-jurisdictional projects. As an example, Plainfield Township is currently overseeing the completion of multiple municipal water extension projects totaling over \$74 million to bring clean water to residents in Plainfield and Algoma Townships that have been affected by groundwater contamination. Despite disruptions, cost increases, and material supply shortages brought on by the pandemic these projects have remained on time and on budget.

Federal Funds Experience

Plainfield Township staff has extensive experience with federally funded projects and grant sources including Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grants (SAFER), CARES Act grants, The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act grants, and more. Additionally, Plainfield Township is a direct recipient of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds and is familiar with the parameters and reporting requirements for use of these funds.

Studies on Impact

While the topic of recreational opportunities for youth has been widely studied and is generally accepted to have positive impacts on the physical, mental, and emotional well-being of children, we are unaware of any specific studies that validate the effectiveness of this project.

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

This project is not located in a Qualified Census Tract.



PROJECT #263

Cascade Road Bridge Pedestrian Improvements

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$500,000

Maximum Cost: \$600,000

Submitter Info

Name: Benjamin Swayze

Organization:
Cascade Charter Township

Project Overview

Funding Group: Infrastructure
Project Theme: Parks and Rec.
Project Status: Expanded Project
Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

Cascade Township ARPA
funding and Kent County Road
Commission in-kind services

Partnership

Kent County Road Commission

Identify the need for the proposed project

Cascade Township is in the process of completing our 4 year strategic plan. Through an extensive feedback process, including multiple surveys to the community and nearly a dozen in-person and virtual workshops and focus groups, several themes rose to the top as strategic initiatives to focus on. These initiatives include the development of a "community gathering space" in the Cascade village area, safety, and the expansion and enhancement of the Township parks and pathway system. The Cascade Road bridge over the Thornapple River serves as a gateway into the Cascade Village area for both vehicles and pedestrians. While the vehicle travel lanes are perfectly adequate, the minimal pedestrian facilities are not. With minimal width for pedestrian passage and no separation from the vehicle travel lane, it is potentially unsafe for residents to traverse the bridge. This provides a barrier for the residents to access the remainder of the pathway system to the north of the bridge or visit the Village area without driving. Creating safe non-motorized connections in and out of the Cascade Village area with help meet several goals of the strategic plan including improvements to the pathway system and safety. In addition, the success of creating a community gathering space in the Cascade Village area will hinge on the ability to provide safe non-motorized connections for our residents and visitors.

Brief Description

The proposed project, in partnership with the Kent County Road Commission, will create a separated 8-foot pathway on each side of the Cascade Road bridge. This will be accomplished by expanding each side of the bridge, restriping the travel lanes, and creating a barrier separating the motorized and non-motorized portions of the bridge. Currently there are pedestrian facilities (a separated pathway) on both sides of Cascade Road leading up to and away from the bridge. By expanding and enhancing the minimal pedestrian facilities on the bridge, there will be a clear safe passage for non-motorized traffic to visit the Cascade Village area.

Long-Term Benefit

A robust pathway system is a clear benefit to the quality-of-life in Cascade Township. By enhancing the pedestrian facilities on the Cascade Road bridge we will provide a safer and more inviting route for non-motorized traffic in and out of the Cascade Village. This will be essential to the success of any efforts to build a Community Gathering Space in the village area and will contribute to the longterm health of our residents by promoting non-motorized travel and lowering traffic congestion.

Intended Beneficiary

The entire Cascade community is the intended beneficiary, including those businesses in the Cascade Village area that would benefit from increased non-motorized traffic.

Estimated Cost

\$500,000 - \$600,000 (based on Kent County Road Commission preliminary estimates)



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$500,000

Maximum Cost: \$600,000

Submitter Info

Name: Benjamin Swayze

Organization:
Cascade Charter Township

Project Overview

Funding Group: Infrastructure

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

Cascade Township ARPA
funding and Kent County Road
Commission in-kind services

Partnership

Kent County Road Commission

Project Management Experience

While Cascade Township primarily focuses on Cascade community based projects and programs, it does participate in and lead several broader based programs and projects as well. The Township participates in several Grand Rapids metro based organizations including the Grand Valley Metro Council, The Right Place and partnerships with the Kent County Sheriff's Department, Kent District Library and Kent County Road Commission. We currently lead a multijurisdictional effort to provide building inspection services to 6 Kent County communities.

Federal Funds Experience

Cascade Township has extensive experience in working with federal funds, including receiving CARES Act funding from several sources in 2020 and 2021 and receiving our own allocation of ARPA funds in 2021-2022. We are aware of single audit procedures for federal funds and have an audit firm in place that can help ensure compliance with all regulations.

Studies on Impact

The benefits of non-motorized transportation are widely recognized. According to the MDOT Grand Region Non-motorized plan, "Nonmotorized transportation, commonly referred to as bicycle and pedestrian travel, is vitally important to Michigan residents. Walking and biking serve as both a means of transportation, getting people to important places in their daily lives, and as a means of recreation, better connecting residents to nature and their community. Nonmotorized transportation is important to the region and state because it contributes to increased mobility, safety, transportation choices, recreation, placemaking, economic development, and the health of our residents."

Guidehouse Ranking Notes

 **Eligibility**

 **Sustainability**

 **Feasibility**

Individuals or communities served is not clear or does not align with Treasury guidelines' definition of 'impacted' or 'disproportionately impacted'.



PROJECT #264

Sparta Town Square - Phase 2

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$855,500

Maximum Cost: \$855,500

ARPA Request: \$427,500

Submitter Info

Name: Shay Gallagher

Organization: Village of Sparta

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

Other committed source of funding is through the Village of Sparta Cash Reserves. A letter from the Finance Director of the Village of Sparta has been secured to indicate the full match is on hand by the Village.

Partnership

n/a

Identify the need for the proposed project

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Village of Sparta struggled to offer quality, safe, and socially distanced outdoor amenities for the citizens and small businesses. From outdoor dining and retail shopping options, to safe up-to-date outdoor recreational amenities, we simply did not have the quality, publicly accessible options for our community. Understanding the value quality public spaces can bring to a community, we began thinking of unique ways to address this immediate need as well as make permanent place-based improvements in our community moving forward. The Sparta business community struggled through the COVID-19 pandemic similarly to other small communities, where in-person commerce restrictions made it extremely difficult for our small, locally-owned businesses to thrive. In 2020, the Sparta Downtown Development Authority (DDA), Rockford-based Baker Investment Properties and Sparta-based JNJ Investments partnered to launch the Sparta Town Square Retail Incubator Project, installing four shipping containers in downtown Sparta to house "small box shops" for startup retailers that could not yet afford full-blown brick-and-mortar locations. Our focus on cultivating homegrown businesses via proactive entrepreneurship support tools proved to be a shining spot for the Sparta area, with Phase One of the Sparta Town Square project proving successful, with multiple startup businesses finding success and 'graduating' to brick-and-mortar storefronts in the traditional downtown district. A primary purpose of the proposed Phase Two project is to provide additional low-cost start-up commercial space options, allowing budding entrepreneurs to test the market and hone their products/services by lessening the substantial financial burden needed for traditional brick and mortar storefronts.

Brief Description

The Village of Sparta's Town Square project began as an underutilized parking lot in the heart of the downtown commercial district and now hosts four new retail incubators as phase 1 of the project is now complete. The proposed second phase of the project would include two additional incubator spaces, plus public space enhancement to the Town Square area including pedestrian safety elements such as cross walks, bike racks, outdoor winter fire pits and amenities to make the space pedestrian friendly, adding a board walk over the creek, and additional opportunities for vendors / makers market / food truck events to take place in the Town Square. Total Budget: \$855,500 Ask: \$427,500 (50%)

Long-Term Benefit

As our community and companies work to retain and attract the best talent, we must continue to invest in bold place-making initiatives that provide a tremendous quality of life for our community while also serving as a magnet to attract talented people to the area. The transformational placemaking project identified in this grant proposal will generate positive economic ripple effects that will retain and attract future talent, as well as drive future overall prosperity in our region.



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$855,500

Maximum Cost: \$855,500

ARPA Request: \$427,500

Submitter Info

Name: Shay Gallagher

Organization: Village of Sparta

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

Other committed source of funding is through the Village of Sparta Cash Reserves. A letter from the Finance Director of the Village of Sparta has been secured to indicate the full match is on hand by the Village.

Partnership

n/a

Intended Beneficiary

The project is directly impactful to nearby businesses based on a synergy of small businesses working together to bring foot traffic to Sparta's traditional & historic downtown area. It will improve the public space adjacent to the businesses and provide amenities to the surrounding businesses. Additionally, the project has benefited the entire downtown corridor. It has created a destination for people to visit local restaurants and shop and access to space through the connecting paved pedestrian trail to a nearby park, and to keep people choosing to come to Sparta. Moreover, it is well established that no matter the business type, downtown businesses thrive best when storefront vacancy is as low as possible, creating a positive critical mass. The entrepreneur incubator aspect of this project positive contributes to that dynamic, in essence cultivating new homegrown businesses in Sparta. Multiple successful businesses have 'graduated' into permanent brick and mortar locations in Sparta's downtown district, and there is no sign of stopping. There are several letters of support from neighboring property owners, large downtown investors, and businesses that have noticed the unique draw the Town Square makes to Sparta.

Estimated Cost

\$427,500 (requesting 50% match)

Project Management Experience

The Village of Sparta has partnered with Kent County in past years through the Community Development Block Grant program to bring community-wide enhancements to the Village. The Village of Sparta has, and continues, to partner with the Kent County Road Commission for corridor improvements along Division St./13 Mile.

Federal Funds Experience

The Village of Sparta has past experience is working with federal funds through various federal agencies. Staff members at the Village have excellent experience overseeing large federally-funded projects in communities previous to the Village.

Studies on Impact

n/a

Guidehouse Ranking Notes

 **Eligibility**

 **Sustainability**

 **Feasibility**

The Treasury Guidelines indicate that for projects to be eligible for economic and workforce development there must be a benefit to those who have been negatively and/or disproportionately impacted economically. This includes underemployed and unemployed persons. Additionally, the funds cannot be used to start new businesses.

PROJECT #265

Aquinas College Campus/Community Park & Pedestrian Pathway Development



Identify the need for the proposed project

In 2019, Aquinas College completed its AQ 2030 Plan (i.e., strategic plan) which laid out the College's priorities over the next ten years. Central to the strategic plan is Aquinas College's role not only as a quality academic institution, but also as a good neighbor and collaborator within the community. Positioned on the northeast portion of the City of Grand Rapids, Aquinas College has been used by the community as a public park since it purchased the historic Lowe estate in 1945. Residents of the surrounding neighborhoods don't identify the barrier between the adjoining Wilcox Park (operated by the City of Grand Rapids) and Aquinas College's campus which is heavily wooded, has paths throughout, features ponds, and is bisected by Coldbrook Creek. The stretch of Coldbrook Creek that runs through the Aquinas College campus is one of only a few areas in which the creek isn't covered and is a fully restored and healthy ecosystem. Aquinas is an active participant and co-founder of the Coldbrook Creek Community, a group dedicated to "promoting education, protecting the environment, and providing enjoyment of our watershed." The City of Grand Rapids neighborhoods northeast of campus lack access to public parks, and therefore rely on the Aquinas College grounds to enjoy the outdoor environment. As an institution that values environmental sustainability, it is important that Aquinas College continues to demonstrate to its students and community the importance of preserving natural areas and the urban environment. The College views its outdoor space as a community classroom in addition to a tranquil place of reflection and rejuvenation. Students and faculty have partnered to enhance the outdoor space as an educational resource. For instance, the College provides tree maps in print and through a mobile application that identifies over 100 species of trees for families and nature lovers to explore. Additionally, Aquinas College has positioned rocks throughout campus that are a scale replica of our solar system. Maps are available for children to explore and learn. Visitors to campus will immediately recognize the varying uses of the grounds. One will see a bustling outdoor environment in which students are walking to and from class, enjoying the outdoors as they study alone or in groups, or recreating with friends. You will also see individuals and families residing in surrounding neighborhoods hiking, biking, or walking their dogs through the grounds. Bicyclists particularly use the campus roads to travel north and south or east and west through the area. Although Fulton Road and Woodward Lane running along the north and east of campus have bike lanes, riders cut through campus as a safer and more scenic route. Campus has become an important non-motorized pathway for the region and will connect even more to pathways as the City and County continue to expand regional connections. Campus is not just a place to pass by. Aquinas College has been intentional about providing arts and culture amenities that the community can enjoy. These opportunities include, but are not limited to, the following:

Theatre: The Aquinas Performing Arts Center hosts a unique partnership between Aquinas College Theatre, Circle Theatre, and Catholic Central and West Catholic high schools to deliver a minimum of 15 community performances per year.

- Art Galleries: Two art galleries with revolving exhibits featuring outside artists, pieces from the Aquinas College collections, as well as faculty and student works – a minimum of four new exhibits are hosted per year.
- Music: Aquinas College provides faculty and student jazz, ensemble, and vocal performances free for the public. Combined with the Circle Theatre Summer Concert Series, there are over 40 performances per year.
- Writing/Oration: Contemporary Writers Speakers Series hosting international authors and Creative Writing Sampler Party featuring spoken word poetry totaling five events per year.

Seeking to build upon these strengths and provide a safer and more meaningful outdoor experience for students, faculty, and community members, Aquinas College completed a multi-year campus master planning process in 2022.

(continued on next page)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$20,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$20,000,000

ARPA Request: \$4,850,000

Submitter Info

Name: Gina Covert

Organization: Aquinas College

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

Aquinas College is requesting the full amount of the proposed improvements. The additional campus projects that will build upon the investment made by Kent County will be resourced through philanthropic support.

Partnership

City of Grand Rapids, Coldbrook Creek Community, Circle Theatre, Easttown Community Association.



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$20,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$20,000,000

ARPA Request: \$4,850,000

Submitter Info

Name: Gina Covert

Organization: Aquinas College

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

Aquinas College is requesting the full amount of the proposed improvements. The additional campus projects that will build upon the investment made by Kent County will be resourced through philanthropic support.

Partnership

City of Grand Rapids, Coldbrook Creek Community, Circle Theatre, Eastown Community Association.

Identify the need for the proposed project (continued)

Progressive AE and Hanbury were contracted to facilitate the planning process. This process included intense engagement with the Aquinas College student population and faculty, community partners, and other stakeholders during a series of eight focus groups. The values, perspectives, and ideas of participants were matched with institutional information about ongoing programming and use of the campus space. The new master plan includes a vision to transform the campus interior into a pedestrian-centric park and cultural center with increased greenspace by reorienting motorized traffic to the edges of campus and developing pedestrian malls. The proposed project is an important part of the master plan and essential to increasing the health, safety, and well being of the Aquinas community, its surrounding neighborhoods and the greater Grand Rapids area. Public parks and natural outdoor spaces are an important aspect of a vibrant and healthy community. This has never been more evident than during the last few years. Aquinas College, just as many other public parks and trails, experienced a large increase in traffic from community members seeking a place to rejuvenate and recreate during the pandemic. This was a natural reaction to the isolation many felt during that time which dramatically threatened the physical and mental health of residents. Access to parks have been found time and again to improve these outcomes, leading to lower obesity rates, lower poor mental health days, and increased physical activity (National Recreation and Park Association, 2022). Within Kent County these metrics were already poor prior to the pandemic. In terms of obesity, approximately 30 percent of adults and 15 percent of children in Kent County are obese, while these are slightly less than the state and national averages, there is room for improvement. In terms of mental health, the rate of depression in Kent County adults (23.7 percent) is higher than that of the state (19.7 percent) and nation (21.4 percent). Obesity and depression are certainly linked with inactivity which is growing among adults and youth in Kent County (Kent County Health Department, 2020). Aquinas can plan an active part in reversing these trends and contribute to the regional drive to increase outdoor activity and recreation. Recognition of the role parks and public spaces play in community health has been recognized by the U.S. Department of Treasury which has issued "guidance clarifying that investments in parks, public plazas, and other public outdoor recreation spaces may be responsive to the needs of disproportionately impacted communities by promoting healthier living environments" (Department of The Treasury, 2021).

WORKS CITED Department of The Treasury (2021). "Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds: Final Rule." Office of the Federal Register. Retrieved from: <https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/coronavirus/assistance-for-state-local-and-tribal-governments/state-and-local-fiscal-recovery-funds>. National Recreation and Park Association (2022). "Parks and Improved Mental Health and Quality of Life." Retrieved from: <https://bit.ly/3P5kqFm>. Kent County Health Department (2020). "Kent County Community Health Needs Assessment." County of Kent. Retrieved from: <https://accesskent.com/Health/CHNA/>.

Brief Description

As part of a \$20 million transformation of the Aquinas College campus, the institution is requesting \$4.85 million from the Kent County ARPA funding process to reroute the main thoroughfare for motorized traffic around the Academic Building and creating a traffic circle to increase pedestrian safety. The existing roadway will be transformed into a multimodal pathway for the community to hike, bike, and relax, creating a new park and greenspace at the center of campus. These enhancements will make campus more pedestrian friendly, allowing the community to have better access to the ponds and Coldbrook Creek. Future enhancements will further build upon these proposed investments to expand pedestrian and non-motorized access.



(Page 3)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$20,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$20,000,000

ARPA Request: \$4,850,000

Submitter Info

Name: Gina Covert

Organization: Aquinas College

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

Aquinas College is requesting the full amount of the proposed improvements. The additional campus projects that will build upon the investment made by Kent County will be resourced through philanthropic support.

Partnership

City of Grand Rapids, Coldbrook Creek Community, Circle Theatre, Easttown Community Association.

Long-Term Benefit

The campus enhancements will increase the health and wellness of students and faculty, and the residents of nearby neighborhoods including Fulton Heights, Eastown and East Grand Rapids. Parks and public spaces have been found to positively impact obesity and activity rates, in addition to mental health. These improvements will reduce the burden on county mental health services, emergency services, and overall medical services. As a result, residents will lead longer, healthier and happier lives.

Intended Beneficiary

The users who will benefit the most from this project are the residents of Grand Rapids. The City has one of the most diverse populations in the region with White residents comprising 58 percent of the population and the remaining 42 percent being Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) (American Community Survey, 2020). This population has been more heavily impacted by the pandemic economically and physically and has more disproportionate health disparities within our community (City of Grand Rapids, 2022). WORKS CITED American Community Survey (2020). "ACS Demographic and Housing Estimates." U.S. Census Bureau. Kent County Health Department (2020). "Kent County Community Health Needs Assessment." County of Kent. Retrieved from: <https://accesskent.com/Health/CHNA/>. City of Grand Rapids (2022). "City Health Dashboard." Retrieved from: <https://www.grandrapidsmi.gov/Government/Programs-and-Initiatives/City-Health-Dashboard>.

Estimated Cost

\$4.85 million

Project Management Experience

Aquinas College, an inclusive educational community rooted in the Catholic and Dominican tradition, provides a liberal arts education with a global perspective, emphasizes career preparation focused on leadership and service to others, and fosters a commitment to lifelong learning dedicated to the pursuit of truth and the common good. With an enrollment of over 1,500, Aquinas College offers sixty degree programs spanning arts, science, business, health, and education. Aquinas College's programs benefit the West Michigan region, and Kent County specifically, as employers are seeking well educated workers for their growing businesses. Approximately 80 percent of Aquinas College graduates choose to work and live within 50 miles of Grand Rapids. In 2019, Aquinas College completed the \$30 million expansion/renovation of the institution's Albertus Magnus Hall of Science. As part of this project, the original 1959 Albertus Hall was fully renovated and transformed into the Peter M. Wege Wing, which is home to the Wege Institute for Sustainability and Economicology (WISE) and the Aquinas College Center for Sustainability. In addition to a Health Care Simulation laboratory suite, science laboratories and classrooms, and faculty offices, the Wege Wing hosts the Office of the Dean of Science and Sustainability, the Aquinas College Center for Sustainability, the Director of Sustainability, and space for sustainability interns. The Albertus Hall expansion doubled the square footage of the original building (85,400 square feet total). The expansion included the Sister Mary Aquinas Weber, O.P. Wing and a three-story glass atrium that adjoins it to the now completed Peter M. Wege Wing. The Sister Aquinas Wing features new research and teaching laboratories, the green roof, and the College's largest lecture hall. The atrium, which provides collaboration and study space, has quickly become a student favorite on campus, prized for its beautiful and peaceful environment. The Albertus Magnus Hall of Science achieved LEED Gold status, making it the only LEED Gold building on the Aquinas College campus.



(Page 4)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$20,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$20,000,000

ARPA Request: \$4,850,000

Submitter Info

Name: Gina Covert

Organization: Aquinas College

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

Aquinas College is requesting the full amount of the proposed improvements. The additional campus projects that will build upon the investment made by Kent County will be resourced through philanthropic support.

Partnership

City of Grand Rapids, Coldbrook Creek Community, Circle Theatre, Easttown Community Association.

Federal Funds Experience

Over the institution's history, Aquinas College has stewarded millions of dollars of federal funds. Federal sources received by Aquinas include the following U.S. Department of Education funds: Federal Work-Study program (\$521,419 over the last four years), TEACH Grant (\$33,930 over the last four years), Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (\$605,587 over the last four years), Federal Pell Grant Program (\$6,461,743 over the last four years), Federal Direct Student Loan (\$22,149,263 over the last four years), TRIO Student Support Services (\$1,030,378 over the last four years), Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (\$6,489,142 over the last three years), and the English Language Acquisition Grant (\$1,406,517 over the last four years). Aquinas College has also received funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (\$16,603 in 2022) and the National Endowment for the Arts (\$10,000 in 2021).

Studies on Impact

The use of college campuses as public parks and the impact that has on public health and wellbeing is an under researched topic. However, the impacts of parks are widely studied and recognized. One of the most recent research reports completed was released in 2022 by the Urban Institute. The report documents the broad community benefit of community parks and trails. Specifically, the report concluded that access to public parks has a measurable impact on obesity, activity levels, risk of cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and risk of mortality because of disease. The study further concluded that parks in strategic locations can reduce health disparities among BIPOC populations. Furthermore, the study concluded that access to parks improves mental health, reduces stress, and leads to a reduction in use of mental health services. Finally, the study goes into depth regarding the environmental benefits of preserving greenspace and public parks, including improving air quality and community resilience to environmental impacts in urban environments. The study can be accessed at: https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/2022-03/the-health-benefits-of-parks-and-their-economic-impacts_0.pdf.

Guidehouse Ranking Notes

 **Eligibility**

 **Sustainability**

 **Feasibility**

Not a government service - not eligible under revenue replacement. Individuals or communities served is not clear or does not align with Treasury guidelines' definition of 'impacted' or 'disproportionately impacted'.



PROJECT #93

Cannon Township Pickleball Court/Ice Skating Rink

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$585,000

Maximum Cost: \$585,000

Submitter Info

Name: Joe Gavan

Organization: Cannon Township

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

Cannon Township has applied for a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant in the amount of \$290,000 to support roughly 50% of the project. The outcome of that grant application is not yet known.

Partnership

Pickleball clubs have offered to assist with raising philanthropic support for this project

Identify the need for the proposed project

As part of its Parks & Recreation Master Planning process in 2021, Cannon Township surveyed its residents regarding desired recreational activities. Topping the list were winter-related activities and pickleball courts. The Parks & Rec Citizen Advisory Committee recommended to the Township Board that a combined Pickleball Court/Ice Skating Rink be considered. The Board agreed and is currently seeking opportunities to fund the project.

Brief Description

The combined Pickleball Court/Ice Skating Rink will consist of 8 pickle ball courts for use between spring and fall, and an ice skating rink for use during the winter months. The facility has been designed to be flooded in the winter to create the ice rink and will be located along the Cannon Trail for easy accessibility for those who would like to walk or bike to the court. The facility is ADA compliant and will be lighted for evening use.

Long-Term Benefit

Greater access to recreational activities will improve the health of the community and enhance the quality of life for those who enjoy pickleball, skating and hockey. The sport of pickleball has gained tremendously in popularity but there are simply not enough courts in and around our community. This project is in high demand and will have long term use and positive health benefits.

Intended Beneficiary

Because of its dual and multi-seasonal use, the full spectrum of age groups will benefit from this project. Given its location -- along the Cannon Trail that will soon connect to the White Pine Trail and the Ada Township Trail, people throughout the region will benefit.

Estimated Cost

\$585,000.00

Project Management Experience

Cannon Township is a governmental unit within Kent County and has significant experience managing township-wide projects and collaborating with other regional units of government, included the county (e.g., partnering in the purchase of additional land to expand Townsend Park)

Federal Funds Experience

As a local unit of government, any federal funding we would manage would come through the state or county.



(Page 2)

Studies on Impact

According to Healthprep.com, Pickleball is the healthiest and fastest growing sport in the nation and appeals to one of the fastest growing segments of our community -- the 65+ contingent. Further, according to a 2017 article published in the Journal of Positive Psychology, researchers from a number of universities determined that adults engaged in pickleball were more likely to have a positive outlook on the aging process and were more satisfied with their current lives.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$585,000

Maximum Cost: \$585,000

Submitter Info

Name: Joe Gavan

Organization: Cannon Township

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

Cannon Township has applied for a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant in the amount of \$290,000 to support roughly 50% of the project. The outcome of that grant application is not yet known.

Partnership

Pickleball clubs have offered to assist with raising philanthropic support for this project

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Individuals or communities served is not clear or does not align with Treasury guidelines' definition of 'impacted' or 'disproportionately impacted'.



Sustainability

Lacking guaranteed funding after 2026 though partners were identified



Feasibility



PROJECT #203

Downtown Soccer Stadium

Identify the need for the proposed project

Through 2016 Grand Rapids Destination Asset Study, presented by Conventions, Sports and Leisure, International.

Brief Description

Multi-sport stadium project plus 1,300 structured parking spaces across two parking structures.

Long-Term Benefit

To address changing demographics and acknowledging growth of a world wide sport. To encourage and enhance multi-seasonal humancentered experiences. Specifically, establish a diverse area characterized by innovations in active life style, cultural diversity, and compatible development.

Intended Beneficiary

Citizens of Grand Rapids, Kent County, and Michigan visitors thereto.

Estimated Cost

\$125,000,000.00

Project Management Experience

CAA, along with ASM, manages DeVos Place Convention Center, DeVos Performance Hall, and the Van Andel Arena, which provides services consistent with what the amphitheater will provide, serving in excess of 1,000,000 patrons per year.

Federal Funds Experience

The CAA is a recipient of, and sub-recipient of, federal grant monies related to SVOG and CARES grants, respectively.

Studies on Impact

Destination Asset Study performed by Conventions, Sports and Leisure, International, as well as Riverfront Sites on the Market Avenue Corridor recommendations by POPULOUS + progressive|ae.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$125,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$125,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Susan M. Waddell

Organization: Grand Rapids-Kent
County Convention/Arena Authority

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 76% or greater

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

Requests have been made to the State of Michigan and private funders. Also researching potential municipal bonding

Partnership

DGRI, City, County

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

PROJECT #129

Garden Club Park and Richardson-Sowerby Park improvements



Identify the need for the proposed project

Through the planning and adoption of the City's Master Plan. This process included input from 500 stakeholders in the form of a survey. The City received a 2020 Planning Excellence Award for Urban Design from the Michigan Association of Planning for this process.

Brief Description

This project includes improvements to both, Garden Club Park and Richardson Sowerby Park. These parks are central gathering places for the Rockford City and Grand Rapids region and improvements will enhance public spaces to better enjoy the Rouge River. Improvements to Garden Club Park involves the installation of seating, walkways, a plaza with a natural gas fire place, landscape improvements to prevent soil erosion, and a portable ice rink. Stormwater will be collected from a pipe that currently empties directly into the river and sent through a sediment filtration system to eliminate sediments and contaminants from entering the river. Richardson Sowerby Park allows direct access to the Rouge River and it has long struggled with erosion issues along its riverbank. We are proposing natural riverbank erosion treatments and will use this opportunity to make this stretch of river ADA compliant— increasing the accessibility of the park.

Long-Term Benefit

Garden Club Park and Richardson Sowerby Park are two of the main attractions for those who live within the City and its surrounding townships. Improving these parks, improves the quality of life for those who live in the area. These parks host popular community events, act as a central gathering place, provide recreation opportunities, and draw tourists to the community.

Intended Beneficiary

City residents, those who live in the surrounding townships, and visitors/tourists.

Estimated Cost

\$700,000.00

Project Management Experience

The City of Rockford recently received a \$500,000 Community Development Block Grant for the construction of new sidewalks to link Low to moderate income homes to City amenities.

Federal Funds Experience

The City also has experience working with federal funds. The most recent example of this is a \$5,000,000 grant the City received for the extension of a watermain.

Studies on Impact

There is a wide range of research that shows the positive impact parks have on quality of life. According to Harnik and Crompton (2014), "No matter how quality of life is defined, public parks are a component of it" (p. 203). Peter Harnik & John L. Crompton (2014) Measuring the totaleconomic value of a park system to a community, Managing Leisure, 19:3, 188-211

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$700,000

Maximum Cost: \$700,000

Submitter Info

Name: Noah Greco

Organization: City of Rockford


Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

City of Rockford ARPA funds.
The City will match 10%
(\$70,000).

Partnership

n/a



(Page 2)

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Individuals or communities served is not clear or does not align with Treasury guidelines' definition of 'impacted' or 'disproportionately impacted'.



Sustainability

Does not include a funding plan or fund availability after expending all the ARPA dollars.



Feasibility

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$700,000

Maximum Cost: \$700,000

Submitter Info

Name: Noah Greco

Organization: City of Rockford

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Parks and Rec.

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

City of Rockford ARPA funds.

The City will match 10%

(\$70,000).

Partnership

n/a

19

PUBLIC SAFETY





PROJECT #171

Kent County Domestic Violence Action Network

Identify the need for the proposed project

Domestic Violence is a problem we face every day in Kent County. The Centers for Disease Control cites that about 35% of female survivors and more than 11% of male survivors experience some form of physical injury related to domestic violence, furthermore, 1 in 5 homicide victims in the U.S. are killed by a current or former male intimate partner. In Kent County, we are on track to double the number of domestic violence related homicides from the year prior. Our domestic violence agencies, Safe Haven Ministries and the YWCA, respond to crisis calls and texts via our hotlines each day resulting in over 5,200 interactions of advocacy, shelter and safety planning in the last service year. Domestic violence is the single greatest public health epidemic in Kent County. It negatively impacts social determinants of health as well as the overall welfare of our communities. Domestic violence adversely affects housing stability, mental and physical health, child and family stability, substance use and the economic health of a community. National leaders such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Housing and Urban Development, and American Society of Addiction Medicine illustrate some of these interconnections: 80% of homeless women and children have previously experienced domestic violence; substance abuse has been found to co-occur in 40-60% of interpersonal violence incidents; and the lifetime economic cost associated with medical services for domestic violence-related injuries, loss of work, and criminal justice intervention was \$3.6 trillion. Moreover, children that witness domestic violence in the home are exponentially more likely to experience and/or engage in other forms of violence later in life including physical and sexual abuse victimization across the lifespan, perpetration of abuse, street violence, bullying, and teen dating violence.

In 2021, the Kent County Prosecutor's office charged 1,308 DV cases, the highest number since 2017. This is a year-over-year increase from 1,250 (2020) and 1,211 (2019). Notably, these numbers do not include strangulation, the most lethal domestic violence-related cases, due to classifications procedures. As we approach the fall, the DVCCRT recognizes that not only is Kent County on track to double the number of domestic violence homicides, but the complexity of these cases are a significant factor in which additional resources are needed to respond accordingly. By addressing the root causes and building system capacity, Kent County and the DVCCRT will be well positioned to streamline collaborative and effective victim/survivor support and abuser intervention services and accountability. While our community partners continue to demonstrate a strong commitment to not tolerate violence, this funded proposal provides the mechanisms for enhanced capacity to uphold this commitment during a time when crucial funding is needed. A cultural shift will occur where each community partner knows that violence will not be tolerated, which research suggests will lead to a reduction in victimization. This transformational change of reducing acts of violence will immediately impact those experiencing violence and the ripple effects will lead to future prevention of violence, increased indicators of health and an overall thriving community.

The criminal justice system reacts as first responders and our court dockets are filled with cases. Despite this, our domestic violence numbers continue to grow and a lack of consistent, comprehensive, and trauma-informed interventions often result in lack of accountability for perpetrators and increased danger for victims/survivors. The Kent County Domestic Violence Community Coordinated Response Team's (DVCCRT) co-chaired by the Kent County Prosecutor and Safe Haven Ministries proposes a Collective Impact movement in the "Kent County Domestic Violence Action Network" including the establishment of a domestic violence court, enhanced legal supportive services, community-based response and therapeutic supports for perpetrators and victims/survivors, to co-create a more comprehensive response that can address the complexity and nuance of this issue.

(continued on next page)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$8,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$10,000,000

ARPA Request: \$10,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Chris Becker or Tara Aday

Organization: Domestic Violence Community Coordinated Response Team (DVCCRT)

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Public Safety

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 0 - 25%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$8,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$10,000,000

ARPA Request: \$10,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Chris Becker or Tara Aday

Organization: Domestic Violence Community Coordinated Response Team (DVCCRT)

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Public Safety

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 0 - 25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Identify the need for the proposed project (continued)

DVCCRT has a long history of coming together to collectively impact violence in Kent County, yet is historically (and currently) unfunded. Arriving at the scope of this proposal, there were several key initiatives the DVCCRT led, including: 2016: Researching and developing a model for a Domestic Violence Court, identifying key actors to help launch this model, but ultimately unsuccessful in implementation due to lack of funding and judicial capacity. This model is successfully used in other counties in Michigan including Washtenaw and Oakland counties. Research and anecdotal evidence indicate that when the criminal justice system and service providers work together in a coordinated community response, they can identify system gaps, plan for effective intervention that protects victims, and improve community safety. 2019-2020: Adapted from the Sexual Violence Justice Institute's System Change Model, the DVCCRT mapped out existing systems that domestic violence victims and survivors regularly interact with, including domestic violence organizations, justice systems, law enforcement, child welfare, courts and victim witness services. Through this process, 58 tension points were identified for Kent County, signifying instances where victims, survivors and/or perpetrators do not receive adequate or effective support and/or accountability. 2019-2022: Kent County Prosecutor reports a significant increase in lethal and fatal domestic violence occurrences. 2021-2022: Following the death of a child in a DV homicide-suicide and other domestic violence homicides that occurred in rapid succession, the DVCCRT developed Kent County's first domestic violence homicide review process, which resulted in 5 key recommendation areas. These 5 areas highlight critical opportunities for systemic improvement needed in order to prevent domestic violence homicides in our community. Report findings were shared with the community. 2022: Began implementation of homicide review recommendations, focused largely on enhancement in child welfare, law enforcement and judicial response to domestic violence. 2022: Began development of a high-lethality case review process for domestic violence occurrences. Our community is experiencing a domestic violence crisis exactly at the moment when domestic violence services such as the Domestic Assault Response Team (DART) lost funding and ceased to exist. Further compounding this crisis is the lack of organizational and agency resources to support the promising initiatives that the DVCCRT has researched, developed and led since 2016. Under this ARPA funding initiative, the proposed Kent County Domestic Violence Action Network has the potential to reimagine survivor-centered systems response. By strengthening Kent County's multidisciplinary response to domestic violence, the goal is to reduce near fatal and fatal domestic violence instances for adults and children.

Brief Description

The Domestic Violence Action Network is being proposed by the long-standing DVCCRT to address the need for increased survivor-centered systems response and the opportunity to initiate infrastructure to support collective impact strategy for equitable change. The proposed project would recognize dv as a public health crisis addressed with a Collective Impact Theory to drive inclusive and trauma informed solutions. This transformative project addresses and prevents a critical element of violent crime that impacts community health, the economy, and equity. Using this framework, we will launch the DVCCRT as a backbone organization with a common agenda, continuous communication for shared learning, a measurement system to track progress for equitable and sustainable change, mutually reinforcing activities will be implemented through an enhanced resourced framework to address the complexity of dv. Activities like the creation of a DV Court with Coordinated Systems Response would be transformational because it will address DV case complexity and the multiple systems a victim and perpetrator interact with. This proposal would also increase critical services for victims and survivors with mobile and legal advocacy, mental health support and wellness resources. Multiple sectors would also be resourced with culturally based and trauma informed training. The proposed project will execute critical solutions to empower survivors and disrupt violence resulting in community transformation.



(Page 3)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$8,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$10,000,000

ARPA Request: \$10,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Chris Becker or Tara Aday

Organization: Domestic Violence Community Coordinated Response Team (DVCCRT)

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Public Safety

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 0 - 25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Long-Term Benefit

Survivor-centered safety positively impacts health outcomes and decreases death. Amplifying survivors' voices for collective action brings equitable change. Promoting systems change throughout the county to ensure victims and perpetrators receive effective support regardless of their point of entry with community actors. It also increases government capacity by bridging jurisdictional boundaries to provide a more seamless path to comprehensive supports for survivors regardless of residency.

Intended Beneficiary

The primary intended beneficiaries of this proposal primarily includes victims and survivors of domestic violence. However, by comprehensively addressing domestic violence, this proposal will have positive outcomes on the overall health and welfare of individuals and systems in Kent County.

*Partnership

YWCA West Central Michigan, victim/survivor community member representation, Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, Kent County Prosecutor's Office and Victim/Witness Unit, Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (Children's Protective Services), Grand Rapids Police Department, Kent County Sheriff Office, Wyoming Police Department, Hope Network, Men's Resource Center, Kent County Probation Office, Personal Protection Order Office, AYA Youth Collective, Legal Aid of West Michigan, Puertas Abiertas Grand Rapids, Veteran Affairs, Pregnancy Resource Center, Friend of the Court, Michigan Immigrant Rights Center, Gun Lake Tribe, FBI, Grand Valley State University, Justice for our Neighbors, and CODA.

Estimated Cost

\$8,000,000 - \$10,000,000

*Source of Funding

There are several potential funding sources that will become available in 2025 and 2026 that this proposed project is a competitive applicant for. Additionally, data collected during initial years of this proposal will strengthen applications for future funding sources. Potential funding sources include federal sources from Services, Training, Officers, and Prosecutors (STOP), Violence Against Women Formula grants (VAWA), Office for Victims of Crimes (OVC) funding, VOCA, Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) and the Family Violence Prevention Prevention & Services Act (FVPSA). The STOP Grants are awarded to develop and strengthen the criminal justice system's response to violence against women and to support and enhance services for victims. The next grant cycle begins 2026 and is a four year cycle, which allows the DVCCRT to complete a competitive application showing the successes of this project from years 2023-2026. The primary purpose of STOP [the funds/grant program] is to support communities in their efforts to develop and strengthen effective responses to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking through multidisciplinary collaboration.

(continued on next page)



(Page 4)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$8,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$10,000,000

ARPA Request: \$10,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Chris Becker or Tara Aday

Organization: Domestic Violence Community Coordinated Response Team (DVCCRT)

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Public Safety

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 0 - 25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

*Source of Funding

The federal Office on Violence Against Women (OVW), administers multiple opportunities including the STOP Program, strongly encourages the use of STOP funding to support projects that promote civil rights (including meeting the needs of underserved and marginalized survivors), improve access to justice, enhance survivor safety, and hold offenders accountable. The OVC Fund supports a broad array of programs and services that focus on helping victims with millions of dollars that are invested annually in victim compensation and assistance in every U.S. state and territory, as well as for training, technical assistance, and other capacity-building programs designed to enhance service providers' ability to support victims of crime in communities across the Nation.

VOCA formula grants for crime victim assistance, awarded through subgrants to state agencies and local service providers, are the most visible and far-reaching demonstration of OVC's commitment to crime victims. VOCA funding includes services such as crisis intervention, counseling and referrals, criminal justice advocacy, and emergency transportation.

The Family Violence Prevention and Services (FVPSA) formula grants to states and territories more than 1,600 local public, private, nonprofit and faith-based organizations and programs demonstrating effectiveness in the field of domestic violence services and prevention. These domestic violence programs provide victims of domestic and dating violence and their children with comprehensive domestic violence support. Additionally, Ann Arbor, MI employed a countywide effort to prevent domestic violence through the implementation of a domestic violence court. The U.S. Office on Violence Against Women (OVW), funded Ann Arbor's Judicial Oversight Demonstration Initiative. This funding allowed Washtenaw County to set up specialized dockets, attend training sessions, learn best practices, and create new forms. They collaborated closely with a supportive group of police officers, the sheriff, the prosecuting attorney, judges, service providers and defense bar who had an interest in tackling the complexities of domestic violence issues which in turn created a safer community.

In-kind funding by way of staff time is already committed by way of multisector DVCCRT partners through their general operations lines. Along with the Kent County Prosecutor, Chris Becker, Safe Haven currently dedicates staff to co-facilitate what is now the Domestic Violence Coordinated Community Response Team and Homicide Review Team. Safe Haven utilizes general operating funds to support salaries of the Senior Program Director that serves as co-facilitator. In addition, Safe Haven general funds are used to support the Director of Client Services who serves as DVCCRT Secretary, Safe Haven's Accounting Manager provides fiscal oversight of the team, and Safe Haven's Communications Manager maintains and executes the DVCCRT website.

Alongside Safe Haven, multiple other community agencies regularly meet and commit in-kind staffing resources to ensure that justice and safety for survivors of relationship violence in Kent County is prioritized into the fabric of our community. Partners currently committing in-kind staff resources include the Kent County Prosecutor, the Kent County Sheriff, Child Protective Services, the YWCA of West Central Michigan, Gun Lake Tribe, Children's Advocacy Center, GVSU Victim Advocate Center, GRPD, Wyoming Police Department, and more. The DVCCRT, as it currently exists, has no external funding ~ which is not a sustainable plan. While agencies have been willing to give of their time and financial resources, this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity through ARPA will provide the seed money to build an interdisciplinary, multisector team to reduce violence in Kent County with a paid, full time coordinator. By leveraging this as a successful pilot, with intentions of encouraging replication throughout the United States, we believe this project will be fully sustainable in 2026 through additional federal funding through sources such as VOCA and VAWA, and through new high level funders solicited as part of this journey (The Ford Foundation, W.K. Kellogg Foundation, and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation).



(Page 5)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$8,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$10,000,000

ARPA Request: \$10,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Chris Becker or Tara Aday

Organization: Domestic Violence Community Coordinated Response Team (DVCCRT)

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Public Safety

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 0 - 25%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Project Management Experience

Safe Haven's team is the lead on multiple County wide initiatives which organize multi-sector agencies for service to prevent and end domestic violence. Partnership is a key organizational value and fundamental to our service with the community. Safe Haven Ministries CEO founded Solutions to End Exploitation (SEE) and now Co-Chairs Kent County's first effort to coordinate a solution to human trafficking, through a collective impact approach. In four years the existing task force was organized into five impact groups (health care, victim services, law enforcement, labor, and education & awareness) to develop strategic direction in addressing trafficking with measurable outcomes for impact and collaboratively bringing in over \$4 million dollars in new federal funding to our County. The task force now operates under the name, SEE Human Trafficking Coalition and in 2020, supported Kent Intermediate School District (Kent ISD) to become one of eight national Human Trafficking Youth Prevention Education Demonstration Sites with Wedgwood Christian Services. They are leading 20 local school districts located within Kent County through the process of developing and implementing a Human Trafficking School Safety Protocol and delivering prevention education. And in 2022 the Kent County Sheriff's Department and Salvation Army secured an Enhanced Collaborative Model federal grant for collaborative investigation and trauma informed response. Safe Haven's Senior Program Director is the Co-Chair of the DVCCRT and led the recent Homicide Review process and completion of the report with recommendations. Along with the Safe Haven Director of Client Services they co-lead bringing multiple agencies together monthly and are committed along with the members to develop the next level of impact with the DVCCRT in this proposed project. The YWCA, Safe Haven and Kent County Health Department together have led Center for Disease Control funded violence prevention education and training in community, education and health care settings working with a wide variety of community leaders.

Federal Funds Experience

The DVCCRT will be the backbone for this project. Its multidisciplinary team is representative of over a dozen organizations that have a long-standing history of successfully managing federal funds, including dollars awarded through the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA), Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Department of Justice (DOJ), Office on Violence Against Women (OVW), Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Emergency Food and Shelter Program EFSP (managed through United Way), Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF). As the fiduciary of the DVCCRT and this proposal, Safe Haven has demonstrated a strong financial stability rooted in diverse funding streams and in compliance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) and Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). Moreover, the Safe Haven's accounting staff responsible for financial compliance of the proposal funds has completed several Federal Grant Management Training Courses. Safe Haven has appropriate federally recommended financial policy and controls in place to ensure appropriate/eligible use of funds, and utilizes an automated accounting system capable of tracking expenditures. Additionally, on a monthly basis, Safe Haven's accountant will email a monthly financial statement to the DVCCRT treasurer. To create accountability and adherence to this practice, the treasurer cannot be someone currently employed by Safe Haven. Safe Haven through trusted relationships with all DVCCRT members and is capable and prepared to manage ARPA funding, including subrecipient awards, to make the Kent County Domestic Violence Action Network a reality. Moving into its own state of the art, 14-room comprehensive facility in 2018, Safe Haven successfully raised \$5.5 million in a capital campaign. A key funder in this endeavor was the Federal Home Loan Bank of Indianapolis, to which Safe Haven reports annually with no findings. Safe Haven is operating with its strongest financial outlook in our 32-year history, with five months operations in cash reserves and recently began building an internal endowment, planning for long-term sustainability. Safe Haven leverages volunteer support and local matching funds each year. Safe Haven is also subject to a yearly independent financial audit and has had no significant findings.



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Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$8,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$10,000,000

ARPA Request: \$10,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Chris Becker or Tara Aday

Organization: Domestic Violence Community Coordinated Response Team (DVCCRT)

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Public Safety

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 0 - 25%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Studies on Impact

DV Court Research: Coordinated survivor-centered response with the criminal justice system is effective; For example, the 15th Judicial District Court in Ann Arbor found success with a DV Court that meets every other week & includes victims, defendants, specially trained victim advocates, prosecution & defense counsel, law enforcement, probation staff, BIP representatives, & specially trained court officer. The court's approaches ensure coordinated response to maximize the safety of victims & their families & enhance accountability for persons convicted of domestic violence crimes. Specialized probation supervision units are best practice & central to this model. Research on Collective Impact: 2022 Stanford Social Innovation Review noted independent evaluation of Collective Impact work shows large-scale impact & effectiveness is possible through a "network of community members, organizations, & institutions that advance equity by learning together, aligning, & integrating their actions to achieve population & systems-level change." Large-scale social change comes from better cross-sector coordination rather than individual approaches. High lethality case reviews have lowered DV fatality in Calhoun, Wayne and other counties.

Supporting Documentation

[Letters of Support](#)

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Domestic violence prevention programs are eligible



Sustainability

Unsure how the money is being spent but the project has numerous partners and is seeking future funding as well



Feasibility

PROJECT #254

Bethany Christian Services Safe Families for Children Program



Identify the need for the proposed project

The Pandemic has increased the vulnerability of children and families who are in high stress situations and has exacerbated their already tenuous life circumstances to the point of crisis. The children in a family traumatized by crisis become especially at-risk for abuse, neglect, and other Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). ACEs are traumatic events occurring before age 18, including abuse and neglect as well as parental mental illness, substance use, divorce, incarceration, and domestic violence. Research about the lifelong impact of ACEs underscores the urgency of prevention activities to protect children from early traumas. Studies demonstrate a significant correlation between the number of ACEs experienced and negative outcomes in adulthood, including poor physical and mental health, substance abuse, and risky behaviors. During such crises, many parents are not able to provide a safe, caring environment for their children and do not have a suitable support system. Without assistance, many of these situations lead to abuse and/or neglect episodes with long-lasting consequences for the children and parents: foster care; criminal justice involvement; the effects of trauma on children; issues associated with separation, grief, and loss, and the breakup of the family unit. Calls from at-risk parents and families seeking assistance to Bethany and Safe Families has increased the past two years. Requests for services from agencies like the Area Agency on Aging of West Michigan to provide mental health support for seniors 60 and older have increased. Calls for assistance to Safe Families from county DHHS/Child Protection Services unit including Kent County have increased, to provide childcare support for a parent or parents who are unable to care for their children temporarily due to incarceration, homelessness, substance abuse in patient treatment, and mental health concerns, for example. Without a supportive community, families can quickly end up in unstable situations that may put child safety at risk and where child welfare services are called. Consider this: • It is estimated that by age 18 one in three children in America will have been the subject of a child protective services investigation. • Reasons for entry into foster care - neglect 64%, parental drug abuse 35%, caretaker inability to cope 34%, physical abuse 13 %, housing 9%, parental incarceration 6%, parental alcohol abuse 6%, sexual abuse 4 % (the categories of abuse overlap with some parents in two or more categories) • The number of children entering foster care has decreased over the past few years, but so has the number of children exiting foster care, leaving youth lingering in care longer (over a year) • Only about half of children who enter foster care reunite with their families Once in the system, children are often moved from home to home, creating disruptions that have adverse educational, social, and behavioral effects that cost the U.S. billions of dollars in lost productivity and potential. Not only is foster care a trauma in and of itself that can contribute to poor outcomes for children, it is also very expensive. On average, the taxpayer cost of providing foster care for one year is \$30,000 per child. One quarter of those who age out of the foster care system never complete high school or obtain a GED. There's only about a three percent chance of a former foster child earning a college degree at any point in their life despite 70 percent showing a desire to attend college. The best solution to prevent a family from getting into situations that question their ability to care for their children is to partner with them in finding solutions that focus on their strengths, offering presence, grace, compassion, and community.

The Solution: Many people in our communities stand ready to help families, but don't know how to begin. They often lack connections to families outside of their own families and friendships. Volunteers are willing but may not know how to assist families seeking help in ways that are meaningful and without causing unintentional harm. Since 2013, the Safe Families program in Kent County has been the vehicle to collaborate with the community and plug in volunteers who truly want to make a difference in the lives of families facing crisis. The identified target population in Kent County is families with children ages 0-18 who exhibit one or more risk factor(s) as identified by the Strengthening Families Approach.

(continued on next page)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$600,000

Maximum Cost: \$600,000

Submitter Info

Name: Mark Dillingham

Organization:

Bethany Safe Families Program

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Public Safety

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

n/a



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$600,000

Maximum Cost: \$600,000

Submitter Info

Name: Mark Dillingham

Organization:

Bethany Safe Families Program

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Public Safety

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

n/a

Identify the need for the proposed project (continued)

Risk factors may include social isolation, parental conflict, low warmth/harsh/limited parenting skills, poverty, lack of opportunities for education and employment, substance abuse, parental stress, marital conflict, and domestic violence. Risk factors are those characteristics linked with child abuse and neglect, but they may or may not be direct causes. Safe Families for Children (Safe Families) supports parents and their children experiencing short-term crises such as homelessness, medical issues/hospitalization, substance abuse or mental health treatment, job loss, domestic violence, or short-term incarceration. Appropriate referrals are for families facing crisis during isolation and/or multiple family challenges, often compounded by poverty or isolation. When there is reported physical or sexual abuse, referrals for Safe Families are not appropriate/eligible. Custodial parents always maintain custody in Safe Families and participation is voluntary. The time is now to invest in Safe Families which directly impacts families facing crisis. Early impact and intervention will decrease many of the negative impacts related to Adverse Childhood Experiences. Parents are overwhelmed by layers of stress and Safe Families helps to decrease their stress and increase their resilience to overcome obstacles without harming their children. Family preservation and abuse prevention has moved to the forefront of the Human Services field in the past five years, and Bethany and Safe Families are leaders in this recent innovative shift. The increasing effect of social isolation due to the Pandemic can compound trauma in children and families, but proactive intervention leads to healing, rather than being reactive and responding to the debilitating effects of trauma on the individual, family, and society.

Brief Description

Rooted in the Strengthening Families Protective Factors Framework and the principles of family support practice, Safe Families surrounds socially isolated families with caring, compassionate community. Safe Families provides professionally trained social workers to oversee volunteer-driven family support and stabilization, which helps to prevent child abuse and neglect and deflect children from entering the child welfare system. Safe Families is NOT foster care or adoption. Safe Families focuses on supporting parents, so children are safe with their families instead of from their families in state-funded care. Fully vetted, trained, and approved volunteers create extended family-like support for families and host vulnerable children, providing day and/or overnight care, mentoring, transportation, and basic needs. Bethany utilizes a collective impact approach - in partnership with other organizations and volunteers, offering hope and support to families in our local communities located in Kent County. The three objectives of Safe Families are: 1. Keep children safe. 2. Support and stabilize families facing crisis. 3. Reunite families after day and/or overnight hosting and reduce the number of children entering child welfare.

Long-Term Benefit

Since inception in 2003, over 50,000 children nationally have been kept safe from abuse and neglect, out of the foster care system, and together with their families. On average, the Grand Rapids (Kent County) Safe Families chapter provides overnight & day hosting arrangements for over 75 children and their families per year. 97% of families referred to the voluntary, short-term hosting services of Safe Families stay together; avoiding expensive foster care and trauma when families are separated.



(Page 3)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$600,000

Maximum Cost: \$600,000

Submitter Info

Name: Mark Dillingham

Organization:

Bethany Safe Families Program

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Public Safety

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

n/a

Intended Beneficiary

Families who are at-risk and on the cusp of neglecting/abusing their children are the intended primary beneficiaries and will reap the most from the continuation of the Safe Families Program in Kent County. However, as previously mentioned, Safe Families is committed to serving the entire age spectrum, specifically focusing on children. Safe Families interventions can and do have life changing and longlasting individual, family, and generational repercussions. Safe Families creates an engaged community where collaboration compounds to fight injustice and poverty at its very core. However, Safe Families' impact on the entire family (including brothers and sisters, grandparents, and other family members/those living with the serviced family members) also provide immense secondary benefits. Siblings of children in Safe Family care are often transported to/from school, are tutored, mentored, and befriended. Grandparents can be assisted with welfare checks, prescriptions, rides to appointments, and other services as needed to help break the cycle of social isolation so prevalent in the elderly. Lastly, tertiary Safe Family impacts include volunteers, and community partners like churches and referral agencies. When a community comes together to meet the needs of families in Kent County/Grand Rapids, anything is possible. In addition, the state and Federal government both benefit financially by keeping a child out of foster care and with their family who is being supported by Safe Families and other community professionals and volunteers. For example, one year of foster care carries a price tag of \$30,000 compared to \$3,000 for Safe Families support that includes the whole family for an entire year.

Estimated Cost

\$600,000. This amount will allow Safe Families to provide enhanced outreach coordination and build capacity in our volunteer base and community partnerships. As was already mentioned, Safe Families' low cost, (volunteer driven, professionally supported) high impact effectiveness will allow for an exponential impact in a fiscally responsible and sustainable manner to continue to serve Kent County/Grand Rapids families facing crisis.

Project Management Experience

Bethany Christian Services has many county funded programs across the country with county specific reporting requirements. Specifically, within Kent County, the agency has 2 Ready by 5 awards that the County Commissioners approved. In addition, many of our contracts are with local DHHS's or with State specific DHHS's that are specific to serving a range of 1 county to statewide. Within Kent County, we collaborate with the West Michigan Partnership for Children to provide child welfare services to children in Kent County. We serve between 150-200 children at any given point in time in partnership with WMPC. We can segregate our county, or regional funding, from other funding by giving it a unique code within our general ledger so that all revenue and expenses are tracked separately for each unique funding source (whether it is county, regional, or statewide). In addition, Safe Families possesses experience in applying for, managing, and executing County wide grants. Safe Families has earned numerous county wide grants in Michigan through Children Trust Michigan (formerly Children's Trust Fund), which is part of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. Ottawa County (current grantee, two times), Grand Traverse County, and Kalamazoo County have all benefitted from this funding to help protect vulnerable children from abuse and neglect.



(Page 4)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$600,000

Maximum Cost: \$600,000

Submitter Info

Name: Mark Dillingham

Organization:
Bethany Safe Families Program

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Public Safety

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

n/a

Federal Funds Experience

Through a nationwide budget of close to \$188 million, Bethany has extensive fiscal capacity and annually administers over 200 state and federal contracts for services in place through Headquarters and Regional offices. Bethany has extensive experience managing Federal and State funding streams, to include funding from the Office of Refugee Resettlement and has a strong understanding of leveraging braided and blended funding; in the past 15 years, it has managed over 3,600 grants totaling over \$317 million including \$265 million in Federal funding. As one recent example, Bethany received a five-year (500k per year) \$2.5 million-dollar Federal Health and Human Services grant entitled "Say Yes to FAMILY (Family Always Matters In the Life of Youth): A Holistic Approach to Innovative Kinship Placement and Support, Effective Shared Parenting, and Family-Centric System Transformation" at the end of 2021 to expedite the reunification of birth parents and their children who are living with relatives (kinship care) as part of the foster care system.

Studies on Impact

The California Evidence-based Clearinghouse has already given Safe Families a HIGH Child Welfare Relevance Rating. Safe Families has not only submitted to the California Clearinghouse for inclusion as an evidenced based program, but Safe Families is aggressively pursuing being placed on the Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse list of approved evidenced based programs (<https://preventionservices.abtsites.com/>) in accordance with the Families First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA). If accepted as an evidenced based program, Safe Families will be one of a very few select prevention strategies that has completed research with families about to enter the foster care system. Current evidencebased support is promising. Initial 6-month findings of a low-cost Random Control Trial (RCT) in Illinois demonstrates that Safe Families is effective in reducing the number of kids entering foster care and preventing new referrals to the child welfare system. Led by Dr. Mark Testa, the RCT is expected in the next 18-24 months. Currently, Safe Families is rated an Evidence Informed program, and we rely heavily upon well known research based practices such as the Strengthening Families Model and National Family Support Network, for example.

Guidehouse Ranking Notes

 **Eligibility**

Community violence
intervention programs are
eligible

 **Sustainability**

Sustainable design

 **Feasibility**

PROJECT #8

Empower Latino Families to Make Healthy Choices and Free from Violence



Identify the Need for the Proposed Project

One in three families in Michigan are impacted by domestic violence, according to a 2021 report by Oakland County-based HAVEN. The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence indicated in 2020 that domestic violence crimes account for almost 40% of calls to police in Michigan, with over 100 domestic violence-related homicides occurring in Michigan each year. Domestic violence causes homelessness for nearly half of unhoused women and children in the state. In fact, approximately one in five female high school students report being physically or sexually abused by a dating partner. This is a cyclical crisis, with children who witness violence at home or in the community at higher risk of being violent in their relationships and becoming abusive themselves. These young people become teens and young adults who are more likely to fight with family members, skip schools or engage in risky behaviors like unprotected sex, using alcohol and drugs, fighting, bullying, or getting arrested, continuing the cycle of intergenerational violence. Internally, they are more susceptible to health problems like depression and anxiety.

Brief Description

Our mission empowers Latinx families to make healthy choices and live free from violence. We promote the safety of rural and urban victims and survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking. Our culturally specific programming values diversity and addresses issues resulting from diverse cultural interactions, including language barriers, immigration challenges, perceived lack of viable options, and other serious problems. I know with your support, we will continue with our mission. Your financial support will enable us to expand our programs advocating social, educational, and employment development, child advocacy, and proactive engagement for Latinx families in our community.

Long-Term Benefit

Empower Latinx families to live self-sufficient, safe, and authentic lives. Puertas Abiertas is uniquely equipped to empower transformative change. Our staff, volunteers, and program leaders come directly from the Latinx community, providing culturally competent programming. With the depth of our education and extensive experience, we can analyze issues accurately and provide effective solutions. As a result, we have robust client validation and trust.

Intended Beneficiary

Puertas Abiertas targets the underserved population of Latinx women from remote areas of Mexico, El Salvador, Guatemala, the Dominican Republic, Nicaragua, Honduras, Columbia, and Puerto Rico in Kent County, especially in the city of Grand Rapids and Wyoming. The Latino population in Michigan is the 20th largest in the US, "being 5% of the state population" with 16% living in Greater Grand Rapids areas. We want to reach at least 20% of Latinx women in the region who have been victims of domestic/intimate partners, dating violence victims/survivors, trafficking, and their dependent children. We had also opened our doors to male victims of abuse giving them a safe space to share, feel safe, and not be alone. The aforementioned statistics are also reflected by the number of referrals that Puertas Abiertas is receiving, which has increased 50% since 2020. In our first year of operation, Puertas Abiertas began with 13 women; all victims of domestic abuse, sexual abuse, and trafficking. In 2020, we began the year serving 125 families and ended the year serving 175 families. On December 31, 2022, Puertas Abiertas ended the year helping 313 families. Since January 1, 2022, we have been receiving an average of three new clients weekly and we are expecting to increase our numbers by 25%.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$350,000

Maximum Cost: \$400,000

Submitter Info

Name: Andrea Inostroza

Organization: Puertas Abiertas

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Public Safety

Project Status: Existing Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

Foundations Donations

Corporations Donations

Individual Donations

Fundraising Events

Partnership

Literacy Center of Western Michigan

Michigan State University YMCA

MSU Extension

Kent District Library

HELP Pregnancy Crisis

U of M School of Dentistry

MI Immigrant Rights Center

Legal Aid of West MI



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$350,000

Maximum Cost: \$400,000

Submitter Info

Name: Andrea Inostroza

Organization: Puertas Abiertas

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Public Safety

Project Status: Existing Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

Foundations Donations

Corporations Donations

Individual Donations

Fundraising Events

Partnership

Literacy Center of Western Michigan

Michigan State University

YMCA

MSU Extension

Kent District Library

HELP Pregnancy Crisis

U of M School of Dentistry

MI Immigrant Rights Center

Legal Aid of West MI

Partnership

Currently, with the help of many partners, Puertas Abiertas provides many educational services, among these are: parent/caregiver development, engagement, and advocacy classes; English/Spanish alphabetization through the Literacy Center of Western Michigan; GED, for those who qualify, through Michigan State University; weight loss programs and 6-month membership through YMCA; nutrition, anger control, relaxation techniques, and other classes through Michigan State University Extension; computer classes and access to mobile library through Kent County District Library; pregnancy, nutrition, care of the child for the first three years provided by HELP Pregnancy Crisis; University of Michigan School of Dentistry, legal support through Michigan Immigrant Rights Center and Legal Aid of West MI.

Estimated Cost

350,000-400,000

Project Management Experience

Our experience is growing since we are getting clients for the majority of the county and others neighborhood counties.

Federal Funds Experience

We do not have experience working with federal funds. Our organization is ready to learn.

Studies on Impact

At this time, we do not know any research studies that validate the effectiveness of our project. However, during 01/2022 and 04/2022 we have received 94 new clients. Since 2019, Puertas Abiertas has empowered more than 400 Latina women and 17 men in Kent County to make healthy choices and live free from domestic violence, trafficking, stalking and sexual discrimination.

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Violence prevention is eligible



Sustainability

Expansive programs will need more funding in future but this is run by an organization



Feasibility

More information needed on how funding will be used.

PROJECT #145

Personal Protection Order & Firearm Enforcement Plan



Identify the need for the proposed project

In 2016 the Coalition to Oppose Domestic Abuse (CODA) began building a local network of organizations and individuals to advocate for the needs of women survivors of domestic abuse & human trafficking. Early on we became aware of the fact that a "forced relationship" is at its core, domestic abuse. In 2020, COVID-19 shifted the dynamics of abuse where Kent County expects domestic related homicides to double in 2022. In our research we unearthed and rekindled the findings within Governor John Engler's, Michigan Domestic Violence Homicide Prevention Task Force report (1999) Domestic Violence Homicide Prevention Task Force (DVHPTF) "The task force concluded the following findings: The public - from children to adults -- must be educated and made aware that domestic violence is not a private family matter, but a crime that hundreds of women live in fear of every day; Victims of domestic violence are often frustrated in their efforts to gain protection through the court system; No accurate or uniform system for reporting and standardizing data collection for domestic violence crimes and homicides currently exists, making it nearly impossible to track and study the incidents of abuse; and A standardized method of domestic violence prevention training is needed to prepare members of the judiciary and law enforcement community to better respond to victims' needs."

In our years of work throughout Michigan we discovered that the DVHPTF did not implement, nor fund the development of a statewide strategy to achieve their goal of ending domestic abuse homicides. Reports of domestic abuse, injury and homicides remained on par from 1999. Over the past two decades Michigan State Police collected more than two million reported incidents of domestic abuse, with nearly two thousand victims of domestic abuse ending in a fatality. Consequently the members of Kent County and Michiganders as a whole have suffered, preventable, yet irreparable, harm. Local government agencies have predicted that Domestic related homicides will double this year. We have learned that the untreated epidemic of domestic abuse is also fueling the surge in community violence. The DVHPTV has provided our local governments with a timeless synopsis of the gaps that are still in need of county and statewide implementation. Currently none of Michigan's counties have implemented a seamless and effective program focused on significantly reducing the number of domestic abuse offenses.

Since the state of Michigan does not mandate particular practices to be gathered and reviewed, the county and state wide officials are not following important data collection like, personal protection orders, to be tracked in order to better prevent unneeded violations, offenses, and worse yet preventable homicides related to domestic abuse.

CODA identified the need for this program by discovering that Kent County:

- Does not present recurring public education regarding the lasting impact of domestic abuse.
- Does not offer free of charge process serving for personal protection orders granted through the court. (-victims are required to pay on average \$150 to have their protection order served.)
- Does not ensure that PPO's are served and filed to completion
- Does not ensure that perpetrators comply with the court's order to surrender their firearm to local law enforcement pending the outcome of any domestic abuse charges or PPO issued against them.
- Does not provide trauma and transitional recovery safety after the PPO is served, which is the most lethal period of time for a victim leaving their abuser. 45% of domestic related homicides occur within the first 90 days after deciding to leave the abuser.
- Does not collect data to track the effectiveness of PPO's and/or a perpetrator's continued abusive behavior in violation of the PPO.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$10,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$12,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Troy Rienstra

Organization: Coalition to Oppose Domestic Abuse (CODA)

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Public Safety

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

The DVCCRT (as contributing members) YWCA, Safe Haven, the court and prosecutors office.



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$10,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$12,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Troy Rienstra

Organization: Coalition to Oppose Domestic Abuse (CODA)

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Public Safety

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

The DVCCRT (as contributing members) YWCA, Safe Haven, the court and prosecutors office.

Brief Description

Currently, the state of Michigan does not mandate the tracking of personal protection orders (PPO's). Our organization began looking deeper at the value and protection associated with PPO's. Without understanding the progression of offense that is taking place and acting accordingly we are unable to provide the proper safety measures to victims who are experiencing violations of their PPO. CODA is proposing implementations for better practices regarding tracking and safety. The victim is currently responsible for paying an average fee of \$150 to have a PPO served on their abuser. 98% of victims exiting abusive relationships are also experiencing financial abuse and do not have funding to cover the cost to have their protection served and filed with the court. CODA proposes free personal protection order process service to victims of domestic abuse to guarantee the order is served and active for the victim. We can connect the areas of lethality from victims leaving abusive relationships and then serving a PPO on the offender, this phase of transition usually instigates a reaction in the form of violence toward the victim and or the children involved. We propose a stronger ring of communication to be implemented ensuring all departments and agencies involved are knowing current situations to better protect and prevent. CODA also proposes the Firearms Enforcement Team for Domestic Abuse (FETDA) to be activated. Being able to confiscate firearms from DV offenders or perpetrator

Long-Term Benefit

Reduced homicide & injury related to DV. Safer community presence due to less firearms in the hands of perpetrators of domestic abuse. Enforceable protection for victims at no cost associated with having it served. When PPO's are reviewed & tracked we are able to stay ahead of excess violence that would otherwise occur. Communication between the PPO branch, law enforcement, prosecutors office & advocacy agencies allows important updates on violations for protection & preventive action.

Intended Beneficiary

The intended beneficiary will be the victim, the victims family and friends as well as the community of Kent County. The ability to properly serve and file a victims PPO will allow immediate documented safety. Being able to track PPO's properly will allow the safety that PPO's were designed to provide. FETDA's contribution to community safety by revoking firearm usage to offenders will benefit the victim and their children as well as innocent bystanders and law enforcement in a domestic abuse situation.

Estimated Cost

\$10,000,000. -\$12,000,000. for the 4 year project implementation period.

Project Management Experience

We have already begun serving PPO's for victims in Kent County on a smaller production level. However, with previous experience also being in policy change and leading the state wide, clean slate campaign policy change.



Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$10,000,000
Maximum Cost: \$12,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Troy Rienstra
Organization: Coalition to Oppose Domestic Abuse (CODA)

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health
Project Theme: Public Safety
Project Status: Expanded Project
Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:

Sustainability:

Feasibility:

Impact:

Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

The DVCCRT (as contributing members) YWCA, Safe Haven, the court and prosecutors office.

Federal Funds Experience

We have never applied for federal funding previously, however, we have the capacity and personnel to manage funding through this source of income.

Studies on Impact

Yes, we have discovered research from King County, Seattle that modified their PPO department to include servicing and created a firearms unit to recover firearms from offenders. They posted a great deal of findings from their experience and modification process. The DART program from Michigan also reflected information we found supportive of this project’s development. As well as the Georgia Domestic Violence Fatality Review Project.

Guidehouse Ranking Notes

Eligibility	Sustainability	Feasibility
<div>Potentially eligible. Additional information will be needed if the proposal moves forward in the process.</div>	<div>Unclear on long-term plan.</div>	

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ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION





PROJECT #251

Senior Transportation and Mobility and Workforce development

Identify the need for the proposed project

This Program addresses the historical inequities regarding transportation in bipoc communities. The program also addresses transportation inequities that our senior community members face. as well as job and career development inequities in bipoc communities.

Brief Description

We will provide transportation services to our senior residents and residents looking to develop their careers without proper modes of transportation. By providing transportation in our community for our senior residents and those seeking employment will provide a much safer and consistent means of transportation through Seeds of Promise, as well as providing global support to the family as well.

Long-Term Benefit

Our Community will benefit from the Senior and Workforce development Transportation and Mobility Program, by not only making sure our senior residents are able to get to places they need to be safely but providing services for the entire family. This program will also benefit our residents that are struggling with transportation to their job or transportation to job acquisition related duties not limited to interviews, pre-hire screening.

Intended Beneficiary

The elderly and those looking for employment.

Estimated Cost

35,000 - 50,000

Project Management Experience

Seeds of Promise has been awarded grants previously.

Federal Funds Experience

Seeds of Promise has been awarded federal grants and has the structure to properly allocate funds to build programs.

Studies on Impact

n/a

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$35,000

Maximum Cost: \$50,000

Submitter Info

Name: Westly Johnson

Organization: Seeds Of Promise

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Roads and Transportation

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

Philanthropy and other Available grants

Partnership

n/a

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

Assistance with transportation to and from a jobsite is eligible

Need more timeline information



PROJECT #283

Grand Rapids Sidewalk Connectivity

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$9,500,000

Maximum Cost: \$9,500,000

Submitter Info

Name: Tim Burkman

Organization: City of Grand Rapids

Project Overview

Funding Group: Infrastructure

Project Theme:

Roads and Transportation

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

The City of Grand Rapids will match up to \$250,000 per year from the Vital Streets/Sidewalk fund.

Partnership

n/a

Identify the need for the proposed project

The City of Grand Rapids evaluates and ranks potential walkway improvement projects based on the following factors: Demonstrated need; connectivity to transit routes and facilities; connectivity with community facilities, places of worship and commercial centers; proximity to school; walk score (i.e. access to amenities such as groceries, shopping, parks, schools, entertainment); continuity (i.e. gaps); additional funding sources; major, minor, or local roadway; existing infrastructure, and community support. The proposed project addresses sidewalk gaps with high scores indicating a critical need for improvements.

Brief Description

In 2019, over 6,200 pedestrians in the United States are killed in traffic crashes and more fatalities occurred in urban areas (82%) than in rural areas (18%). (U.S. Department of Transportation, Traffic Safety Facts.) Sidewalks are separated from the roadway and are the preferred accommodation for pedestrians. Over the past 20 years, Grand Rapids and the whole metropolitan region have grown, increasing tension between vehicles, buses, bicyclists, and pedestrians forced to compete for safe accommodation in limited space. The City of Grand Rapids' 2016 Vital Streets Plan was created to guide development of complete streets with safe, accessible, multi-modal and attractive streets that serve all people. The City recognized the need to provide greater accommodation for non-auto users and the Plan incorporates street design focusing on multi-modal transportation. It advances the goal to provide efficient transit corridors and safe walking facilities by 2035. Grand Rapids' sidewalk system has about 90 miles of gaps. The City has identified 13 unfunded, high priority critical gaps totaling an estimated \$10.8 million. Most of these are on high volume streets that pose a safety risk to pedestrians, especially during the winter. The City is working systematically to close these gaps but has about \$250,000 total per year for this work. The City proposes building sidewalks in six to ten of these high priority locations to close gaps and increase safety.

Long-Term Benefit

Sidewalks provide many benefits including safety, mobility, and healthier communities. Closing these gaps will provide safe pedestrian access to destinations. It ensures residents have available and affordable options to meet their travel needs regardless of economic status. It encourages and enables active forms of transportation such as walking, which can, over time contribute to reductions in obesity and improve public health outcomes.

Intended Beneficiary

Residents, including children, students, workers, and low income households.

Estimated Cost

\$9,500,000.00



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$9,500,000

Maximum Cost: \$9,500,000

Submitter Info

Name: Tim Burkman

Organization: City of Grand Rapids

Project Overview

Funding Group: Infrastructure

Project Theme:

Roads and Transportation

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

The City of Grand Rapids will match up to \$250,000 per year from the Vital Streets/Sidewalk fund.

Partnership

n/a

Project Management Experience

Incorporated in 1850, the City of Grand Rapids is the second largest city in Michigan with a population of 198,917 within about 45 square miles. Grand Rapids is a full-service city providing a wide range of public services including development services, planning, engineering, drinking water, sewer, wastewater treatment, street maintenance, traffic safety and parking, trash and recycling, parks, recreation, forestry and cemeteries, fire, police, and so forth. These functions are fully supported by administrative/central service departments. The Engineering Department employs 37 staff and performs project services for road maintenance and reconstruction, sidewalks, utilities, city facilities, and vital streets (complete streets + green infrastructure). The department also provides support for permitting, surveying, city GIS data, and asset management. Over the past three fiscal years, the department has initiated 286 new Capital Projects and awarded 148 projects with a total value exceeding \$260.4 million. The Engineering Department's internal structure supports the award and management of projects of any size. It utilizes a web-based bidding system, Accela for permitting, and Microsoft Project to manage engineering projects. The Department is experienced in managing projects with multiple funding sources. The City maintains a financial system that includes fund accounting and assigns codes to track grants. This allows proper tracking of project details and prevents commingling of funds. Staff tracks time worked by project. Engineering's own accounting staff audit each disbursement by funding source in compliance with the OMB Uniform Administrative Requirements (2CFR 200).

Federal Funds Experience

The City has extensive experience managing federal funds including EPA, FEMA, EDA, DOE, HUD, and FHA. The Engineering Department has a full-time staff person to support grants.

Studies on Impact

Federal Highway Administration https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/ped_bike/tools_solve/walkways_trifold/

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

Using funding for sidewalks is only eligible in disproportionately impacted communities so this can only be done in areas in a QCT



PROJECT #117

Kent County Transportation Assistance for Vulnerable & Underserved

Identify the need for the proposed project

As the main public transportation provider for Kent County, The Rapid works on transportation challenges and solutions every day. The Rapid has the vision of providing transportation solutions that enhance quality of life in the County, ensuring that everyone has access to the opportunities our region provides. As part of this work, The Rapid is in the process of completing a Human Service Transportation Coordination Plan, working closely with the community to determine what transportation needs exist and how to best fill the gaps. This process has identified numerous transportation service gaps in our county, particularly in areas outside The Rapid's current service area. Additionally, The Rapid is about to create a Transit Master Plan (TMP). The TMP will look at transportation needs throughout Kent County and beyond and create a visionary document that will map out what public transportation in our region will look like moving forward. The information gathered through the TMP process will inform this project, and the information and data gathered by this project will likewise inform the TMP, enhancing the value of both projects. There are also several other groups examining the transportation ecosystem in Kent County- W. MI Veterans Coalition (Feonix - Mobility Rising), the Essential Needs Task Force, and Kent County. The County is currently launching a task force to study transportation needs in the County and will also benefit from the data gathered from this project. The proposed Transportation Bank works in tandem with all those other efforts. The consensus in almost every survey, working group, and task force is that there are some transportation resources in the community that work well and meet many needs, but there are also gaps in the ecosystem that need to be addressed to create a robust transportation landscape that addresses the needs of the most vulnerable citizens in the community: individuals living with low or moderately low incomes and individuals with disabilities.

Brief Description

Feonix-Mobility Rising and The Rapid will collaborate with transportation providers and community organizations to establish a Transportation Bank, modeled after a Food Bank. The Transportation Bank provides a one-stop shop, supporting the mobility ecosystem and sourcing transportation funding.

- Staffing: Mobility Manager: Collaborates with community organizations to address transportation needs and maintain mobility ecosystem Mobility Community Health Worker: Connects with community organizations on rider intake, works with riders to understand mobility options, schedules travel training, and provides education to support transportation needs Fundraiser: Secures funding for transportation for individuals that cannot afford to pay and matching funds for services Technology: Community Operations Support Center (Call Center) MaaS Technology (Online and Mobile App) Mobility Wallet: Allows social service providers to load passenger accounts with credits for public/private transportation services Portal for organizations to book rides on behalf of the passenger
- Capacity: Public Transportation Partnerships with other Transportation Providers (must meet safety and customer service standards) Volunteer Drivers
- Community Support: Mobility Leadership Circle: Stakeholder group of community leaders and transportation providers Transportation Directory with contact information Transportation Subsidy Library of Options for Access to Social Determinants of Health

Long-Term Benefit

The US Bureau of Labor Statistics says 15 million Americans face transportation challenges. Despite the tremendous effects of a lack of transportation, it is a need that remains hidden in plain sight, causing challenges accessing healthy food, medical care, and employment. Transportation Banks are a solution for those that need wrap-around financial and supportive assistance - enabling other organizations to focus on their core missions and creating a better outcome for community members.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$2,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$7,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Kevin Wisselink

Organization: The Rapid

Project Overview

Funding Group: Infrastructure

Project Theme:

Roads and Transportation

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

Direct Partners: Feonix - Mobility Rising; West Michigan Veterans Coalition; HOPE Network; Disability Advocates of Kent County; North Kent Connect; Kent County Essential Needs Task Force; Ride Your Way. Organizations we having ongoing conversations with: All private mobility options; All nonprofit organizations providing mobility options; Public, Private, and Non-profit organizations as members of the Mobility Leadership Circle and referrals for riders



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$2,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$7,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Kevin Wisselink

Organization: The Rapid

Project Overview

Funding Group: Infrastructure

Project Theme:

Roads and Transportation

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

Direct Partners: Feonix - Mobility Rising; West Michigan Veterans Coalition; HOPE Network; Disability Advocates of Kent County; North Kent Connect; Kent County Essential Needs Task Force; Ride Your Way. Organizations we having ongoing conversations with: All private mobility options; All nonprofit organizations providing mobility options; Public, Private, and Non-profit organizations as members of the Mobility Leadership Circle and referrals for riders

Intended Beneficiary

Transportation is a complicated and intensive social service, and all too often - health care, senior care, veterans, and other organizations are left to "figure it out" with the remaining 3% of capacity left of their staff resources, and often it creates major barriers in delivery of resources and a cascade of downstream effects. In almost every community health needs assessment for the past 20 years and countless research articles, the need for transportation support as a top priority is well-documented. The fragmented labyrinth of resources, policies, and programs for transportation is not working for those who rely on it the most and the bar of progress is not moving in the right direction. Conversations with community partners best illustrate some of the ways a Transportation Bank can serve the residents of Kent County. In talking with North Kent Connect, clients experience challenges using the food pantry because they do not have transportation to get to the food pantry. Sometimes, when they get a ride, they sit for 2 hours or more waiting for their ride to return. A Transportation Bank model can solve this challenge in multiple ways. A partnership with a private provider would allow for on-demand transportation in an area of the county without ample coverage. In addition, a Transportation Bank model would allow us to explore an arrangement with volunteer drivers where the food is delivered to the client's homes. These are just two possible solutions, and the Mobility Leadership Circle would be crucial in coming up with more! Additional conversations with stakeholders in the West Michigan Veterans Coalition reveal that transportation to medical appointments outside of Grand Rapids is a challenge. Veterans who need to access the VA hospital or clinics often have to travel at times and to locations where public transportation cannot fulfill the trip. A Volunteer Driver program can help match those that want to help Veterans with the Veterans in the community that need a ride and fill in the gaps for medical appointments. Right now, Feonix - Mobility Rising operates a pilot program that is doing exactly that. In a little over a year, Feonix Volunteer Drivers have provided about 325 rides to Veterans and their immediate family members. Each of the rides occurred at no cost to the Veteran because of fundraising efforts amongst W. MI Veterans Coalition members. The goal is to maximize mobility options, providing enhanced services for everyone, with an emphasis on underserved populations. The key feature is to provide funding for rides for those that cannot afford transportation. Individuals with low to moderately low incomes and individuals with disabilities, especially those with mobility needs that are currently falling through the cracks will benefit most from a Transportation Bank. The social workers and other service providers will also benefit from the time and energy savings that comes with finally having transportation options for their patients/clients that do not take hours to source. Ultimately, the whole community benefits because increasing wellness in the community strengthens the community as a whole.

Estimated Cost

\$5 million set-up and maintenance for 2023-2026 and \$2 million in ride vouchers for veterans, seniors, and people in poverty, for a total of \$7 million in investment.

*Source of Funding

Committed sources of funding include: \$30,000 local fundraising dollars for rides for Veterans, Veteran family members, and Veteran caregivers. \$10,000 over 2 years from Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation of Michigan for rides, admin support, and volunteer driver recruitment. The Kent County Essential Needs Task Force has indicated that they are committed to supporting the work with some in-kind capacity assistance, and willing to explore additional funding sources to help support the overall project. There would also be a potential to use some 5310/5311/5339 funding to complement the program.



(Page 3)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$2,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$7,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Kevin Wisselink

Organization: The Rapid

Project Overview

Funding Group: Infrastructure

Project Theme:

Roads and Transportation

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

Direct Partners: Feonix - Mobility Rising; West Michigan Veterans Coalition; HOPE Network; Disability Advocates of Kent County; North Kent Connect; Kent County Essential Needs Task Force; Ride Your Way. Organizations we having ongoing conversations with: All private mobility options; All nonprofit organizations providing mobility options; Public, Private, and Non-profit organizations as members of the Mobility Leadership Circle and referrals for riders

Project Management Experience

The Rapid has extensive experience coordinating and implementing count-wide projects. Most basically, The Rapid provides transportation service throughout the County, from fixed-route service in the core urban area to coordinating Rideline service to seniors throughout the County. The Rapid has a history of implementing large scale capital projects, including the Laker Line and Silver Line Bus Rapid Transit services, both of which came in on time and under budget.

Federal Funds Experience

The Rapid has a long history of utilizing federal funds, primarily as the local recipient of transit funds from the Federal Transit Administration. This funds most of The Rapid's capital purchases, including buses and infrastructure improvements such as the Bus Rapid Transit lines.

Studies on Impact

There are hundreds of research studies and articles about the effects of transportation on medical care, employment, and access to healthy food. We have listed a sample of the research below. Each article demonstrates the challenge and the need - access to healthcare, access to employment, and access to healthy food, and each piece of research illuminates that transportation as one of the top underlying challenges to that access. When transportation resources are available, individuals experience improved access to healthcare, employment, and healthy food. One important point to make is that the rides must be affordable to have any positive effect. Transportation options that individuals cannot afford do not do any good. In locations all across the United States, Feonix - Mobility Rising has implemented community transportation projects like this one to increase transportation options and access.

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Eligible under revenue replacement as a government service.



Sustainability

Lacking guaranteed funding after 2026 though partners were identified



Feasibility

PROJECT #226

Transforming Kent County's Road Network



Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$10,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$20,000,000

ARPA Request: \$10,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Macy Barcheski

Organization:

Kent County Road Commission

Project Overview

Funding Group: Infrastructure

Project Theme:

Roads and Transportation

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

KCRC works collaboratively the Grand Valley Metro Council, community partners, businesses, and the 21 townships of Kent County to ensure equitable distribution of services and improvements through a data-driven approach to determining projects.

Identify the need for the proposed project

Roads are the “arteries through which an economy pulses,” serving as the critical link to a community’s jobs, schools, services, attractions, parks, and commerce. Building and maintaining high quality road infrastructure is vital to the county’s prosperity because the enhanced mobility supports safer, more efficient, and more equitable access to such social and economic opportunities. The Kent County Road Commission (KCRC) has implemented a strategic plan to become a road network in better condition than any other urbanized county in Michigan, making gains to achieve 90% good/fair condition on its primary road system. From 2016 to 2019, KCRC surpassed annual primary road improvement targets and matched the rising investment from townships. However, COVID-related challenges and reduced revenue, coupled with rising material costs have compromised KCRC’s ability to accomplish its annual program and achieve this vision. The requested \$20 million ARPA infusion would allow KCRC to regain momentum and expedite the timeframe to achieve its transformational objective. With the vision to construct and maintain the premier network of county roads and bridges in Michigan, KCRC’s board, staff and community came together to build a strategic plan. From that, a long-range program was formed, and performance measures were identified to gauge progress towards achieving the collective vision. Expanding the scope beyond the network’s high-volume roads, KCRC continues to partner with the county’s 21 townships to match their investment in local roads and tailor improvement strategies to meet the specific needs of each township. The transformational impact of a \$20 million ARPA infusion would be two-fold. First, on the primary road network, a \$10 million allocation would allow KCRC to complete long-term pavement replacement (resurfacing) improvements targeted at high-volume corridors throughout Kent County for which federal funding assistance is not allocated. Second, an additional \$10 million would be directed to local road improvement. KCRC currently supplements the local road program by approximately \$15 million annually, but the pressure of increased costs and the uptick in township participation threaten KCRC’s ability to keep pace with township investment.

Brief Description

High quality roads have a transformative impact because they are crucial to providing safe and efficient access to serve the daily needs of county residents and the economic prosperity of the region, thus combining long-term investment with an immediate return. \$10 million would translate to 32 lane miles of full depth resurfacing on 11 high-volume, geographically diverse primary roads: 17 Mile Rd, US131 to City Limit Belmont Ave, Jupiter Ave to Post Dr 4 Mile Rd, West River Dr to Alpine Ave Hunsberger Ave, Plainfield Ave to Airway St Pettis Ave, 3 Mile Rd to 5 Mile Rd Vergennes St, Alden Nash Ave to Flat River Dr Alden Nash Ave, Foreman St to Vergennes St Reeds Lake Blvd, Hall St to City Limit Kraft Ave, Broadmoor Ave (M-37) to 60th St Patterson Ave, 36th St Intersection Eastern Ave, 84th St to 68th St Another \$10 million would help sustain the township cost-sharing program, leveraging \$20 million in overall local road investment. Collaboration and data-driven improvement plans have generated steady increases in township investment, with 20 of 21 townships participating in a \$16 million program in 2022. Three years of reduced revenue combined with escalating costs have challenged KCRC’s ability to match townships’ growing demand.

Long-Term Benefit

An improved road network correlates to the region’s competitiveness in addressing population growth, enhancing access, and attracting future investment. This project would not only help advance KCRC’s goal to achieve 90% good/fair primary road condition rating but would also keep good roads in good condition longer. With timely preservation treatments and routine maintenance, the pavement life of the identified roads would be extended by 30 to 40 years.



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$10,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$20,000,000

ARPA Request: \$10,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Macy Barcheski

Organization:

Kent County Road Commission

Project Overview

Funding Group: Infrastructure

Project Theme:

Roads and Transportation

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

KCRC works collaboratively the Grand Valley Metro Council, community partners, businesses, and the 21 townships of Kent County to ensure equitable distribution of services and improvements through a data-driven approach to determining projects.

Intended Beneficiary

The primary roads identified for improvement in this application are geographically diverse, high-volume corridors across the county spanning ten townships and collectively serving nearly 100,000 motorists per day (an estimated 28,000,000 vehicle miles traveled annually). In addition, the \$10 million that would be dedicated to the local road cost-sharing program would directly impact each township and their ability to customize and finance a local road improvement program to best serve the residents and road users within their given community.

Estimated Cost

\$20 million

*Source of Funding

KCRC exhausts all avenues for funding, but unfortunately no federal or state aid has been allocated for the primary road improvement projects identified. Notably, based on the FY23 state budget, KCRC estimates it will receive an increase of approximately 4.8% or \$2.8 million. However, based on rising material and fuel costs, we estimate inflation will cost KCRC at least \$7 million in 2023. The \$10 million requested to support the township cost-sharing program for local roads would be matched by township investment, thus equating to a \$20 million overall investment in local road improvements.

Project Management Experience

KCRC oversees the improvement projects and maintenance program for nearly 2,000 miles of county road infrastructure. KCRC consistently collaborates with its stakeholders and is guided by sound financial principles to exhaust all available resources to best serve the county's residents, business, and road users.

Federal Funds Experience

Road funding includes a complex mix of federal, state, and local funds. During its daily operation, KCRC incorporates myriad grants, successfully meeting each grant's specific restrictions and requirements.

Studies on Impact

Countless studies have been conducted by various agencies about the impact of infrastructure on the region's commerce, quality of life, and economic growth. KCRC would be happy to share links to such studies upon request.

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

Eligible under revenue replacement as a government service. Ineligible under all other categories.



PROJECT #284

US-131 Alternatives Study

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$250,000

Maximum Cost: \$500,000

Submitter Info

Name: Warren Rempel

Organization: Retired

Project Overview

Funding Group: Infrastructure

Project Theme:

Roads and Transportation

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

Downtown Grand Rapids Inc. (DGRI) has an allowance for a corridor study which, according to my discussions with a representative, may be available.

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Identify the need for the proposed project

As part of their plan to widen and rebuild the segment of US-131 from Market St to 28th St SE, MDOT has sent out PEL Study surveys and posted survey results. Since the project was announced, online forums have seen many discussions expressing frustration over the project, but nobody seemed to be taking any action. This is unacceptable for such a large scale piece of infrastructure cutting through the heart of Grand Rapids and the nearby previously redlined neighborhoods.

Brief Description

According to MDOT, the project entails adding lanes, adding or widening shoulders, and removing some on/off ramps to restrict access to the downtown. MDOT contends that US131 is crucial to the success of the west Michigan economy and must be 'improved'. However, if this widening is successful, one can assume that there will be pressure to widen it again in the future, which will further burden the downtown and affected neighborhoods. MDOT publicly refuses to consider impacts beyond traffic issues, yet US-131 disrupts previously redlined neighborhoods, spreads dangerous PM2.5 pollution, noise and exhaust, and locks up valuable tax-generating land downtown, which could be used for new economic development, affordable housing, parks, reconnecting neighborhoods, expanding the downtown walkable street network, and redressing social equity issues. Possible alternatives to the MDOT plan include routing through-traffic around the city and replacing the freeway with a traffic-calmed boulevard, or fully reclaiming the downtown street grid. The residents and businesses in Grand Rapids need and deserve to have meaningful input into the project, to determine the alternative that works best for all. This can't simply be an engineeringcentric project. This requires a 'Full Fair Study of All the Alternatives' in order to obtain input from those most affected by the freeway before committing to an expanded freeway, bisecting the heart of Grand Rapids.

Long-Term Benefit

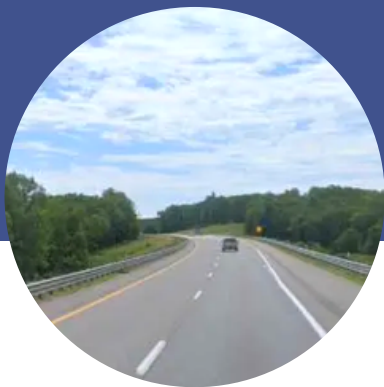
Create more vibrant, attractive pedestrian-oriented urban environment
Improve pedestrian access to and across the Grand River
Remove unsightly freeway structures and unsafe spaces beneath them
Attract more businesses and residents to downtown
Provide opportunities for more tax-generating development
Make more land available for parks
Provide new opportunities for affordable housing
Reconnect previously redlined neighborhoods
Reduce exposure to deadly exhaust and fine particulate emissions

Intended Beneficiary

People living near the freeway
People who live, work, shop downtown
Downtown businesses
Tax payers

*Partnership

City of Grand Rapids Planning Department: Grand Rapids is undertaking an update to the City Master Plan and this would be a perfect opportunity to address US-131 as it impacts the city and its residents
Downtown Grand Rapids Inc (DGRI) All affected communities should have a voice in this and a series of public workshops would allow them to participate in the process



(Page 2)

Estimated Cost

\$250,000 - \$500,000

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$250,000

Maximum Cost: \$500,000

Submitter Info

Name: Warren Rempel

Organization: Retired

Project Overview

Funding Group: Infrastructure

Project Theme:

Roads and Transportation

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Project Management Experience

We are not an "organization", but DGRI and/or Grand Rapids Planning Department would undoubtedly be able to manage this study

Federal Funds Experience

We are not an "organization", I do not know if DGRI and/or Grand Rapids Planning Department have experience working with federal funds

Studies on Impact

There is a large and growing body of evidence that freeway removal and/or downsizing provides many benefits. With the passing of ARPA, the federal government recognizes the importance of reconnecting (especially previously-redlined) neighborhoods that were torn apart by urban-renewal era highway projects as well as the danger posed by freeways in the form of PM2.5 fine particulate matter, and exhaust emission pollution. A Full Fair Study of All the Alternatives to US-131 expansion is perfectly suited to the ARPA plan:

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-02-01/urban-highway-removals-could-get-federal-help>

<https://www.route-fifty.com/infrastructure/2021/11/highway-removal-funding-infrastructure-bill/186714/>

[https://www.businessinsider.com/highway-closing-city-transformation-2018-5?](https://www.businessinsider.com/highway-closing-city-transformation-2018-5?utm_content=buffer35eed&utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook.com&utm_campaign=buffer&fbclid=IwAR3xPWYAU048SLa58WwiOtalBQ_9jRLEWMOJvq-B6lubVS_r-vJP2tiAu6E)

[utm_content=buffer35eed&utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook.com&utm_campaign=buffer&fbclid=IwAR3xPWYAU048SLa58WwiOtalBQ_9jRLEWMOJvq-B6lubVS_r-vJP2tiAu6E](https://www.businessinsider.com/highway-closing-city-transformation-2018-5?utm_content=buffer35eed&utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook.com&utm_campaign=buffer&fbclid=IwAR3xPWYAU048SLa58WwiOtalBQ_9jRLEWMOJvq-B6lubVS_r-vJP2tiAu6E)

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-019-44561-0> <https://www.lung.org/blog/highway-air-pollution-and-your-health>

Source of Funding

Downtown Grand Rapids Inc. (DGRI) has an allowance for a corridor study which, according to my discussions with a representative, may be available.

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Roads are not eligible under any criteria except revenue replacement.



Sustainability

One time study



Feasibility

PROJECT #234

GR Cable Car



Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$25,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$30,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Sam Moore

Organization:

Kent County Parks Foundation

Project Overview

Funding Group: Infrastructure

Project Theme:

Roads and Transportation

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

This project would qualify for transportation funding and private philanthropy would also be involved.

Partnership

Groups that could be involved include: DGRI, CAA, Experience GR, Grand River Inc

Identify the need for the proposed project

Creating connectivity to Millennium Park from the core downtown has always been a priority and renewed efforts to continue the Grand River Greenway from Ottawa County through Kent County via nonmotorized trails is one way to accomplish this. The lack of public transit has also been discussed over the years as has the deteriorating condition of Butterworth Road to Millennium Park. There have been planning studies conducted to review unique concepts and proposals to connect Millennium Park to the core downtown and a cable car or aerial gondola is the preferred method. We believe that once the community witnesses the cable car in operation, the desire to extend and expand the system would rapidly occur. Disney recently installed a system at their park in Florida. London has a two-station system that was installed over the river for the Olympics and is still a large tourist attraction today. Paris is in the process of planning for a system. A cable car system would not only be a unique amenity, it would provide an additional form of public transit to Millennium Park. It's clean and green technology with generator backup systems. It's one of the only forms of transit (outside of a bus or vehicle) that's able to navigate the Medical Mile due to the grade of the hill if the system were expanded to the Medical Mile. It could connect the hotel district to Millennium Park. Once the river restoration is completed, the system could bring paddlers and kayaks back downtown. Conventions could host events in the pavilions out at Millennium Park or guests would have easy access to the beach. It would allow for additional winter activation of the park and would instantly become one of the things to do in West Michigan during the winter months (the cabins are heated!). Fall color tours from the city to nature would be a spectacular experience. The opportunities are endless and the unique programming that can be done around a cable car system can be a significant economic driver in the region.

Brief Description

A cable car system would be installed linking the downtown area to Millennium Park. The system would be designed with future expansion in mind and would be constructed with that goal. Every 20-30 seconds a ten-passenger cabin would depart the station with 4 to 6 cabins stacked up in a station at any given time. Cabins roll slowly through a station allowing wheelchairs and strollers easy access. A station attendant has the ability to completely stop a cabin for those needing additional assistance. Allowing residents and visitors easy access to Millennium Park from the downtown area would be a significant boost and unique amenity in the Midwest! Millennium Park is more than twice the size of Central Park in NYC, this would be a tremendous feature that boosts attendance and enjoyment at the park. New strategic partnerships could be formed allowing residents that live along a Rapid bus route to finally gain access to the park since the cable car system would be connected to downtown and in very close proximity to a bus stop. The health and wellness of our community should be a top priority following the past two years of COVID and providing more access to our parks, trails, and beach would be a boost for future generations to enjoy

Long-Term Benefit

As the river corridor and Whitewater project move forward, this project would complement those efforts and would provide Experience Grand Rapids another tool in their toolkit as they are selling our community as a destination. When additional expansion of the system occur, other entities can be tied into a new mode of transit and made more accessible for visitors to move with ease through our downtown area. You could bike from a downtown hotel and this system could bring you back.



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$25,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$30,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Sam Moore

Organization:

Kent County Parks Foundation

Project Overview

Funding Group: Infrastructure

Project Theme:

Roads and Transportation

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

This project would qualify for transportation funding and private philanthropy would also be involved.

Partnership

Groups that could be involved include: DGRI, CAA, Experience GR, Grand River Inc

Intended Beneficiary

It would be an amenity that all residents could enjoy with the added benefit of being a significant tourist attraction. A GR Cable Car system would likely be featured in most ads featuring Grand Rapids and serve as a key attraction to lure visitors.

Estimated Cost

\$25 million - \$30 million

Project Management Experience

We have facilitated raising over \$25 million for the construction and enhancements at Millennium Park over the past 20 years.

Federal Funds Experience

We don't have experience in this field, but would seek other partners with the necessary experience to manage and facilitate all of the necessary reporting requirements that go along with this funding.

Studies on Impact

We have contracted an outside firm to conduct outside planning studies that validate the effectiveness of a cable car system in Grand Rapids and the tremendous boost in tourism that will result with the construction of this type of system.

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Individuals or communities served is not clear or does not align with Treasury guidelines' definition of 'impacted' or 'disproportionately impacted'.



Sustainability

Requires startup costs. Does not include a funding plan or fund availability after expending all the ARPA dollars.

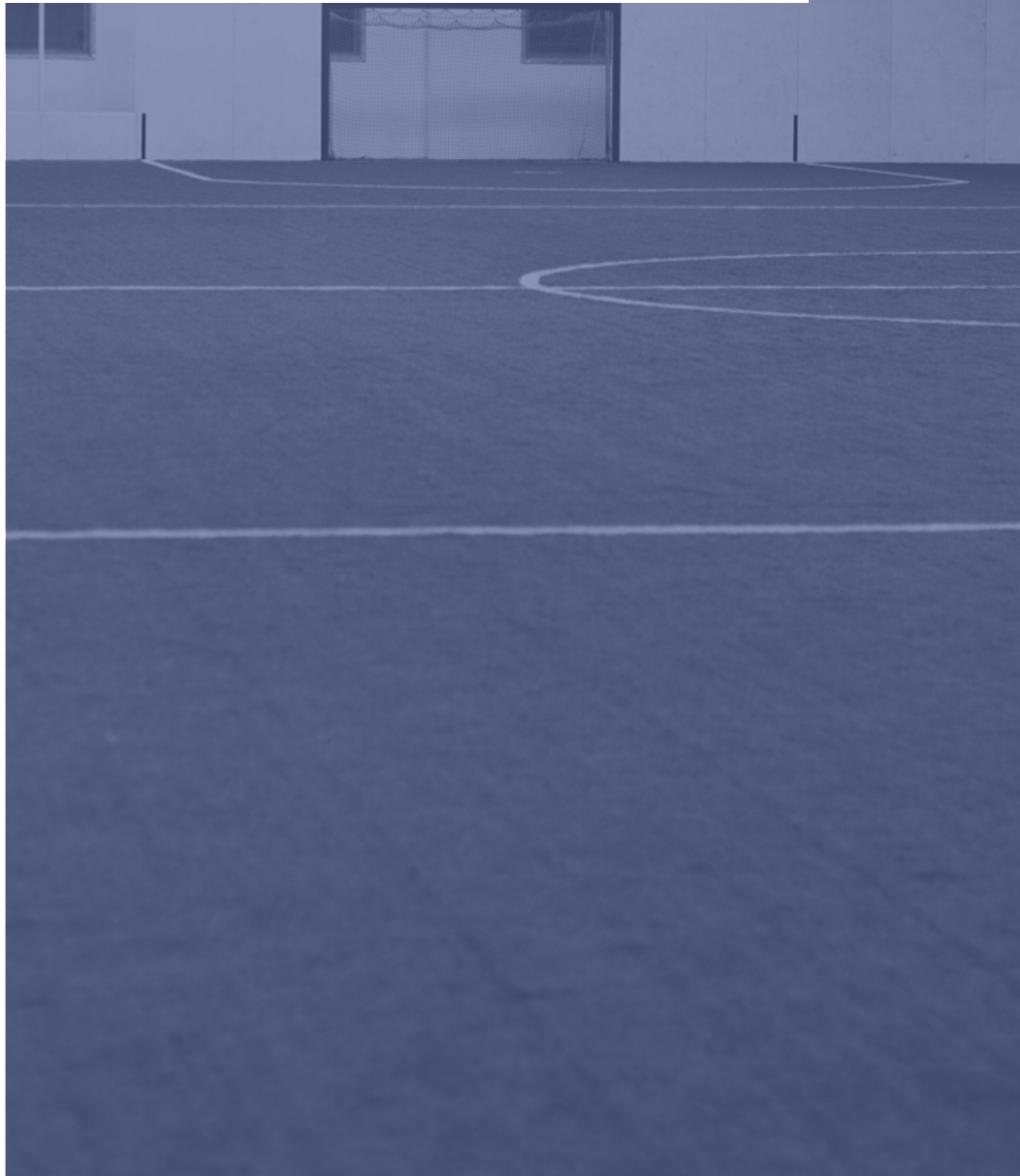


Feasibility

Risk to 2026 completion

21

ROCKFORD ICE AND TURF





PROJECT #3

Rockford Ice and Indoor Field Arena

Identify the need for the proposed project

The ice arena and indoor field in Rockford needs major renovations

Brief Description

Rockford needs a fully functioning ice arena with indoor fields on the other side to accommodate all of the outdoor sports that need to take place indoor during the winter and spring months. The ice arena currently there is for sale and would be detrimental to the sports community of Rockford. The arena provides a place for youth and teens to embrace sports and stay out of trouble.

Long-Term Benefit

Providing a place for Rockford and surrounding area residents to play hockey, Ice skate, indoor soccer, indoor lacrosse, host tournaments. It would generate income for the community and county.

Intended Beneficiary

The youth of the community of Rockford and surrounding areas. I know there is a huge need for more indoor soccer/lacrosse/baseball fields. And surrounding businesses would benefit when we host hockey tournaments or other sporting events.

Estimated Cost

5000000

Project Management Experience

Unknown. Would have to ask the president of Rams Hockey

Federal Funds Experience

Unknown

Studies on Impact

n/a

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$50,00,000

Maximum Cost: \$50,00,000

Submitter Info

Name: David Huckstep

Organization: Rams Hockey

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Rockford Ice & Turf

Project Status: Existing Project

Matching Funds: n/a

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact:  

Source of Funding

None

Partnership

Rams Hockey

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

This project is not located in a Qualified Census Tract.



Sustainability

This project will incur large operations costs in the future



Feasibility

Risk to 2026 completion



PROJECT #17

Multi-use facility in north Kent county with ice and turf

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: n/a

Maximum Cost: n/a

Submitter Info

Name: n/a

Organization: n/a

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Rockford Ice & Turf

Project Status: Existing Project

Matching Funds: n/a

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Other Funding Source

n/a

Partnership

SCOR & Rockford Youth
Lacrosse

Identify the need for the proposed project

The facility we use to play hockey has been purchased, and the cost of rent is increasing enough that our program may no longer be competitive with other local hockey programs, in effect, potentially making our youth hockey program defunct. The building would then be used for something else, like cold storage, so that the investor can make a return on his money.

Brief Description

Cedar Rock Sportsplex has been sold and purchased by an investment firm looking to earn their money back on the building itself. The firm does not care what the building is used for; however, several local programs are currently run out of this facility (SCOR "Soccer Club of Rockford", Rams Hockey Association and Rockford Youth Lacrosse) and would like to keep it as a hockey rink and soccer/LAX field. The new owner will be raising rent, and therefore more money is needed to cover the costs of these sports. If Cedar Rock Sportsplex shuts down, there is no other youth enrichment facility that houses ice and turf for Northern Kent County residents. Without the ice facility, specifically, Rams Hockey will have no place for our youth to play which could mean the end of hockey for several players. There are no other ice facilities within a 50 mile radius that have available ice time to meet the needs of our current ~180 skaters.

Long-Term Benefit

Northern Kent County residents get to maintain access to a nearby, local ice rink and turf field for youth hockey, soccer & LAX. Youth enrichment activities are critical to youth mental and physical health.

Intended Beneficiary

Youth hockey, soccer and lacrosse players in Northern Kent County.

Estimated Cost

n/a

Project Management Experience

n/a

Federal Funds Experience

n/a

Studies on Impact

n/a

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Not located in a QCT. Would also violate the general outline of 'stop the spread of COVID' as it is an indoor facility with no additional countervailing health benefits (such as a health clinic)



Sustainability

This project will incur large operations costs in the future



Feasibility

Risk to 2026 completion



PROJECT #20

Multi use facility with Ice and turf

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: Unsure

Maximum Cost: Unsure

Submitter Info

Name: n/a

Organization: n/a

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Rockford Ice & Turf

Project Status: Existing Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Other Funding Source

Rams hockey

Partnership

Rams hockey org

Identify the need for the proposed project

Obvious need

Brief Description

n/a

Long-Term Benefit

Activity and exercise for current and future generations. Expand on the reputation of Kent county being a great area for families and recreation.

Intended Beneficiary

Children of all ages as well as adults of all ages.

Estimated Cost

Unsure

Project Management Experience

n/a

Federal Funds Experience

n/a

Studies on Impact

n/a

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

*Not located in a QCT.
Would also violate the general outline of 'stop the spread of COVID' as it is an indoor facility with no additional countervailing health benefits (such as a health clinic)*



Sustainability

This project will incur large operations costs in the future



Feasibility

Risk to 2026 completion



PROJECT #12

North Kent County Sports Center (currently Cedar Rock)

Identify the need for the proposed project

The Cedar Rock Sports Plex has been used for years in northern Kent county to house recreational hockey rink and turf area for local youth and adult recreational activities. This facility is in the process of being sold, and our organization aspires to continue the use of this facility or consider the construction of a new facility to serve the communities' recreational needs

Brief Description

The Cedar Rock Sports Plex has been used for years in northern Kent county to house recreational hockey rink and turf area for local youth and adult recreational activities. This facility is in the process of being sold, and our organization aspires to continue the use of this facility or consider the construction of a new facility to serve the communities' recreational needs

Long-Term Benefit

Grow the engagement of Rockford/Cedar Springs communities in recreational activities year round through indoor turf and ice facilities. Over 5000 residents use the existing facility and with improvements or new facilities, this utilization could grow substantially. Long term mental health and wellbeing is aided through physical recreational activities that we strive to keep alive in these communities!

Intended Beneficiary

Residents of North Kent County (Rockford/Cedar Springs areas primarily) - predominantly youth and some adult programs

Estimated Cost

\$100,000 - \$1M

Project Management Experience

None

Federal Funds Experience

None

Studies on Impact

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6933572/>

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$100,000

Maximum Cost: \$1,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Michelle Hall

Organization:

Project Advantage (501c3)

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Rockford Ice & Turf

Project Status: Existing Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

Private donors, fundraising activities, and possibly corporate sponsorships will be sought to fund this project, aside from any county, state or federal funding that may be secured.

Partnership

RAMS Hockey, Rockford Boys Lacrosse, SCOR Soccer, YMCA, and more

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Not located in a QCT. Would also violate the general outline of 'stop the spread of COVID' as it is an indoor facility with no additional countervailing health benefits (such as a health clinic)



Sustainability

Does not include a funding plan or fund availability after expending all the ARPA dollars.



Feasibility

Risk to 2026 completion



PROJECT #209

Cedar Rock Sportplex

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$6,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$6,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Ryan Montgomery

Organization:

Project Advantage (501c3)

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Rockford Ice & Turf

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Other Funding Source

Fundraising and financing.

Partnership

Soccer Club of Rockford, Rams Hockey, Rockford Lacrosse, Michigan Cornhole League, Rockford Public Schools, Cedar Springs Public Schools, and more.

Identify the need for the proposed project

The Cedar Rock Sportsplex has been in operation for the past 20 years giving north Kent county the only ice rink and indoor soccer field for nearly 30 miles. It has grown to become a central community gathering place and a home for many local leagues and clubs. Thousands of families use the Sportsplex every year for everything from training and tournaments to adult leagues, birthdays, fundraisers and more. But after many years in operation the building and its facilities are in dire need of repair and revitalization. The need for this project is evident to everyone who visits Cedar Rock. They see the potential. A diamond in the rough. Truly. It has succeeded over the years in spite of itself and because the community has no other option. Losing this community asset would be a huge blow. That's why we stepped up and formed Project Advantage, a 501c3 nonprofit, to own and operate Cedar Rock for the community.

Brief Description

Our proposal is to transform the Cedar Rock Sportsplex into the hub of a community Sports Park. To do this we intend to purchase the Cedar Rock Sportsplex building and the land adjacent to it. The building is functional but requires much improvement to bring it up to an acceptable standard. We also plan to expand its capacity with new fields, rinks and parking. All of this is being done in partnership with the cities, townships, schools, and clubs in the area as well as the Sports Commission to promote community and commerce for the northern part of Kent County.

Long-Term Benefit

The Cedar Rock Sportsplex promotes community and commerce, health and wellness, and improves the quality of life of every patron who visits the facility. As the only yearround hub for sports and recreation in the area it makes Cedar Rock a critical part of the local economy and establishes generational well being for an area that isn't blessed by billionaires.

Intended Beneficiary

Everyone will benefit but perhaps the children who play sports in the area will benefit the most.

Estimated Cost

\$6,000,000.00

Project Management Experience

While this would be new to us, our board is very capable and the number of volunteers in the community is staggering. Our board includes Pete MacGregor the current Kent County Treasurer, Michelle Hall a Senior Vice President at Meijer, Tom Conkwright of Sun Title and many more capable executives and entrepreneurs from the area.

Federal Funds Experience

It's new to most of us but our Secretary, Pete MacGregor, has direct experience working with the government at a state, county and federal level.



Studies on Impact

The list is long in this regard but this document from the Department of Health summarizes it pretty well and provides ample citations for other studies showing the same.

https://health.gov/sites/default/files/2020-09/YSS_Report_OnePager_2020-08-31_web.pdf

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$6,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$6,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Ryan Montgomery

Organization:

Project Advantage (501c3)

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Rockford Ice & Turf

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Other Funding Source

Fundraising and financing.

Partnership

Soccer Club of Rockford, Rams Hockey, Rockford Lacrosse, Michigan Cornhole League, Rockford Public Schools, Cedar Springs Public Schools, and more.

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

This project is not located in a Qualified Census Tract.



Sustainability

Does not include a funding plan or fund availability after expending all the ARPA dollars.



Feasibility

Risk to 2026 completion

22

SENIOR CITIZENS SUPPORT





PROJECT #151

Walker Senior Neighbors Senior Center

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$175,000

Maximum Cost: \$200,000

ARPA Request: \$75,000

Submitter Info

Name: Robert Barnes

Organization: Senior Neighbors

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme:

Senior Citizens Support

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

The City of Walker is committed to being a major partner in the development of this project. The Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan is open to pledging \$10,000 toward one-time costs (e.g., furnishings). The Kent County Senior Millage has pledged \$125,000 for the project, pending final Commission approval.

Partnership

City of Walker, Meals on Wheels of Western Michigan, Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan

Identify the need for the proposed project

The growth of the senior population is well known and there is significant evidence to support the idea that seniors who remain active and engaged live longer, healthier lives that require less expensive medical intervention and help them maintain their independence longer. According to the 2019 census estimates, 20% of the population of the City of Walker were aged 60+ and 14% were aged 50-59, making 34% of the Walker population qualified or nearly qualified for this service based on their age. This suggests a continued growing population of older adults in Walker. In addition, we have been operating a senior center in Walker for 12 years prior to the COVID shutdown and we have seen firsthand the community need for these services. Prior to closing the center due to COVID, we had regular daily attendance of 30-75 seniors and believe a new, enhanced building site would serve more seniors and have a positive impact on their physical and mental health.

Brief Description

The project is to reopen and expand the capacity and service offerings at the Walker Senior Neighbors Center (formerly the Walker Firehouse Café, which has been closed since near the start of COVID due to public safety issues) in a new location. The funding will allow us to renovate portions of Walker Fire Station 3 to make it into a new and improved senior center. The center will require new fixtures, furniture, and equipment to accommodate the provision of meals and senior center programming. We serve hot and nutritious meals to seniors every day of operation, so we need to upgrade the kitchen considerably to meet health department requirements. We also need to renovate the floors and walls and add tables and chairs that are safe and functional for seniors and meet the requirements of the program. The goal of this project is to create a modern, inviting senior center that will attract hundreds of seniors to participate in programming regularly, which will enhance their health and sustain their independence as long as possible. The partnership with the City of Walker, which is offering rent-free space for the center helps make the project sustainable for the long term.

Long-Term Benefit

Social determinants of health (SDH) are factors that influence health. This includes housing, nutrition, access to medical care and other services and social connections. As people age, their connections often erode, creating unhealthy isolation, leading to poorer mental and physical health. Senior Centers connect seniors to others and local services that address SDH. Active seniors live longer, healthier lives, decreasing stress on caregivers and systems that provide health and residential care

Intended Beneficiary

Senior Citizens age 60+ who reside in or around Walker and their caregivers

Estimated Cost

\$175,000-\$200,000

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$175,000

Maximum Cost: \$200,000

ARPA Request: \$75,000

Submitter Info

Name: Robert Barnes

Organization: Senior Neighbors

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme:

Senior Citizens Support

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

The City of Walker is committed to being a major partner in the development of this project. The Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan is open to pledging \$10,000 toward one-time costs (e.g., furnishings). The Kent County Senior Millage has pledged \$125,000 for the project, pending final Commission approval.

Partnership

City of Walker, Meals on Wheels of Western Michigan, Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan

Project Management Experience

Senior Neighbors has been serving seniors throughout Kent County since 1972, focusing on our mission of "Enhancing the Lives of Seniors". We annually serve over 4,500 seniors through our varied programs. Our services include five senior centers (Lowell, Walker, Grand Rapids-Heartside, Grandville, Sparta), the Rideline transportation program, minor home repairs program, and volunteer opportunities. We have social workers who assist seniors with challenges of aging on low fixed incomes, a refugee program and a housing coordination program, as well as Medicare/Medicaid assistance. We also offer several evidence-based health and wellness programs such as A Matter of Balance classes, which help seniors avoid falls, EnhanceFitness, Tai Chi, and the Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program.

Federal Funds Experience

The project is to reopen and expand the capacity and service offerings at the Walker Senior Neighbors Center (formerly the Walker Firehouse Café, which has been closed since near the start of COVID due to public safety issues) in a new location. The funding will allow us to renovate portions of Walker Fire Station 3 to make it into a new and improved senior center. The center will require new fixtures, furniture, and equipment to accommodate the provision of meals and senior center programming. We serve hot and nutritious meals to seniors every day of operation, so we need to upgrade the kitchen considerably to meet health department requirements. We also need to renovate the floors and walls and add tables and chairs that are safe and functional for seniors and meet the requirements of the program. The goal of this project is to create a modern, inviting senior center that will attract hundreds of seniors to participate in programming regularly, which will enhance their health and sustain their independence as long as possible. The partnership with the City of Walker, which is offering rent-free space for the center helps make the project sustainable for the long term.

Studies on Impact

According to the National Council on Aging (NCOA), senior centers are community focal points and one of the most widely used services for older adults. The NCOA states that center participants have higher levels of health, social interaction, and life satisfaction than non-participants. Older adults who participate in senior center programs can learn to manage/delay the onset of chronic disease and experience measurable improvement in their physical, social, spiritual, emotional, mental, and economic well-being. (www.ncoa.org/article/get-the-facts-on-senior-centers). Numerous center services offer great benefits to older adults and many are "evidence based," offering proven benefits such as decreased falls, better disease management, improved health, and increased mobility. Administration for Community Living (ACL) research indicates that 80% of participants say a congregate meal program improved their health, and 54% say their attendance at a senior center supplies 50%+ of their total food for the day. The ACL research also addresses the importance of socialization for older adults. The ACL study indicated that 54% of participants in congregate meal programs say their social opportunities increased because of the program.

Supporting Documentation

- [1. Letter of Support](#)
- [2. Project Summary](#)
- [3. Project Update](#)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$175,000

Maximum Cost: \$200,000

ARPA Request: \$75,000

Submitter Info

Name: Robert Barnes

Organization: Senior Neighbors

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme:

Senior Citizens Support

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

The City of Walker is committed to being a major partner in the development of this project. The Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan is open to pledging \$10,000 toward one-time costs (e.g., furnishings). The Kent County Senior Millage has pledged \$125,000 for the project, pending final Commission approval.

Partnership

City of Walker, Meals on Wheels of Western Michigan, Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Eligible under public health or non-profit support - pending more information



Sustainability

One time capital expenses



Feasibility

PROJECT #214

Lowell Senior Neighbors Senior Center



Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$2,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$2,000,000

ARPA Request: \$1,700,000

Submitter Info

Name: Robert Barnes

Organization: Senior Neighbors

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme:

Senior Citizen Support

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Identify the need for the proposed project

The growth of the senior population is well known and there is significant evidence to support the idea that seniors who remain active and engaged live longer, healthier lives. They require less expensive medical intervention, and they can better maintain physical and mental health, and their independence longer. According to the 2020 census, the population in the city of Lowell and surrounding areas, including Vergennes Township, Saranac, and Lowell townships, is estimated to be at around 10,259, with 15.71% of those residents being age 65 or older. Because the location of the senior center in Lowell is considered a rural area, it's important to consider that it will benefit seniors in surrounding communities who will travel to Lowell, as is often the case in rural areas. According to the National Council on Aging (NCOA) senior centers "serve as a gateway to the nation's aging network- connecting 1 million older adults to vital community services. The NCOA also states that senior centers are recognized by the Older Americans Act (OAA) as community focal points and are one of the most widely used services among America's older adults. In fact, more than 60% of senior centers are delivery points for OAA funded services, allowing older adults to access multiple services in one place. (<https://www.ncoa.org/article/get-the-facts-on-senior-centers>). This is especially true in rural settings where senior centers provide community-based services that may be more lacking. Research shows that rural area patients may tend to travel greater distances, experience longer wait times, and face affordability issues when in need of health services.

(<https://www.ncsl.org/research/health/home-and-community-based-services-meeting-the-need>). .

Another study done by the University of Minnesota examined the importance of social cohesion and engagement in rural areas. This study concluded that "ensuring the social wellbeing and quality of life of rural older adults aging in place is paramount to ensuring the vitality of their communities as a whole" (<https://3pea7g1qp8f3t9ooe3z3npx1-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/U>). There is research that supports the importance of using community-based services such as senior centers to better assist rural older adults in staying healthy and active. We have been operating a senior center in Lowell for more than 35 years and have seen first-hand the need for the services we provide. Unfortunately, the building we have no longer serves the current needs and requests of the seniors in the community, and we recognize that it will not meet the needs of those who will seek our services in the coming years. The Center, in its current state, has restricted our growth and ability to meet the growing senior population in the community. Without any other senior center options in the area, seniors are forced to find other ways to stay connected in the community or face potential isolation and the negative health benefits that come with it.

Brief Description

This project is to expand the Lowell Senior Neighbors Senior Center. The goal of this project is to create a much larger, modern, inviting senior center that will attract hundreds of seniors to join in the center programming regularly. The programs at this center help address social determinants of health, enhance health and well-being, and helps sustain their independence long term. Our current senior center is a 100+ year old farmhouse, which has a lot of history and character, but is ill suited for a senior center because it is too small. Due to the closed off and inaccessible layout the center is unable to host more than 35 people comfortably. Since COVID, people want more physical distancing when gathering and the current site is suppressing growth. The plan includes moving the current building to another place on the same property and adding another building of roughly 5,000 square feet to serve as the main senior center. We need a significantly bigger center to serve more seniors and help them maintain their physical and mental health. Improving this center will also enhance the work of Gilda's Club, which uses the site to provide free emotional healthcare to children, adults, families, and friends on any kind of cancer journey or those grieving the death of someone in their life due to any cause.

Source of Funding

We do not have funds pledged to support this project yet, but we would seek private and government funding to fill any gaps between the project's actual costs and what the ARPA funding provides.

Partnership

Meals on Wheels of Western Michigan, Gilda's Club, Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$2,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$2,000,000

ARPA Request: \$1,700,000

Submitter Info

Name: Robert Barnes

Organization: Senior Neighbors

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme:

Senior Citizen Support

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

We do not have funds pledged to support this project yet, but we would seek private and government funding to fill any gaps between the project's actual costs and what the ARPA funding provides.

Partnership

Meals on Wheels of Western Michigan, Gilda's Club, Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan

Long-Term Benefit

Social determinants of health (SDH) are factors that influence physical/mental health, e.g., housing, nutrition, access to medical care and other services/social connections. Active seniors live longer, healthier lives, decreasing stress on caregivers and systems providing health and residential care. As people age, their connections often erode, creating unhealthy isolation, leading to poorer mental/physical health. Senior centers connect seniors to others and local services that address SDH.

Intended Beneficiary

Senior Citizens age 60+ who reside in or around Lowell and their caregivers

Estimated Cost

\$2,000,000.00

*Source of Funding

We may have an opportunity to partner with The Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan for some of the ARPA money they are distributing and would be open to looking at applying for Kent senior millage funding for other costs. In addition, we would be seeking more grant funds and donors to help with this project.

Project Management Experience

Senior Neighbors has been serving seniors throughout Kent County since 1972, focusing on our mission of "Enhancing the Lives of Seniors". We annually serve over 4,500 seniors through our varied programs. Our services include five senior centers (Lowell, Walker, Grand Rapids-Heartside Neighborhood, Grandville, Sparta), the Ridelink transportation program, minor home repairs program, and volunteer opportunities. We have social workers who assist seniors with challenges of aging on low fixed incomes, a refugee program and a housing coordination program, as well as Medicare/Medicaid assistance. We also offer several evidence-based health and wellness programs such as A Matter of Balance classes, which help seniors avoid falls, EnhanceFitness, Tai Chi, and the Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program.

Federal Funds Experience

Senior Neighbors has been receiving federal funds annually for many decades, perhaps even for the entire 50 years of its existence. We currently administer Older American Act Funds annually and have three federal AmeriCorps Seniors programs, including the Foster Grandparent Program, Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) and Senior Companion Program. In addition, we have received federal funding for the purchase of vehicles from the Michigan Department of Transportation, which was 80% federal funding. We also receive a CDBG grant. Although we have not reached the \$750,000 threshold for a Single Audit, we are prepared for this eventuality. We have Federal Financial Internal Control and Procedures in place to comply with "Title 2 U.S Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 200, OMB Uniform Guidance, and the Compliance Supplement".



(Page 3)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$2,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$2,000,000

ARPA Request: \$1,700,000

Submitter Info

Name: Robert Barnes

Organization: Senior Neighbors

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme:

Senior Citizen Support

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Studies on Impact

The NCOA states that center participants have higher levels of health, social interaction, and life satisfaction than non-participants. Older adults who participate in senior center programs can learn to manage/delay the onset of chronic disease and experience measurable improvement in their physical, social, spiritual, emotional, mental, and economic well-being. (www.ncoa.org/article/get-the-facts-on-senior-centers). Those who attend centers can also connect to numerous services offering great benefits to older adults, including many that are evidence based. Proven benefits include decreased falls, better disease management, improved health, and increased mobility. Meals and socialization are key components of our program. Administration for Community Living (ACL) research indicates that 80% of participants say a congregate meal program improved their health, and 54% say their attendance at a senior center supplies 50%+ of their total food for the day. The ACL research also addresses the importance of socialization for older adults. The ACL study indicated that 54% of participants in congregate meal programs say their social opportunities increased because of the program, positively impacting their mental health.

Supporting Documentation

1. [Letter of Support](#)

2. [Concept Package](#)

3. [Lowell Senior Neighbors Project Outline](#)

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Eligible under public health or non-profit support - pending more information



Sustainability

Funds are only for facility expansion



Feasibility

Source of Funding

We do not have funds pledged to support this project yet, but we would seek private and government funding to fill any gaps between the project's actual costs and what the ARPA funding provides.

Partnership

Meals on Wheels of Western Michigan, Gilda's Club, Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan



PROJECT #94

Residential Treatment Adult Foster Care Provider Network Viability

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$6,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$7,000,000

ARPA Request: \$7,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Jacquelyn Johnson

Organization: Thresholds Inc

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Senior Citizens Support

Project Status: Existing Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

MOKA, Spectrum Community Services, and Thresholds Inc

Identify the need for the proposed project

Our service industry supporting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) in the community has been in a staffing crisis for decades, primarily due to low Medicaid reimbursement rates resulting in low wages. The pandemic pushed the crisis into a staffing emergency with our organizations experiencing 20-30% position vacancy rates. These nonprofits' expenses are primarily in staffing, and overtime inflates staffing costs by as much as 30%. These vacancy rates result in enormous, unreimbursed overtime expenses that put providers at risk as these costs become untenable. Providers have received some premium pay to support standard wages but there is no funding for the unsustainable overtime costs resulting from the staffing emergency.

Brief Description

This project would provide direct relief to local nonprofits by covering their overtime costs. ARPA funds would bridge the gap in funding, allowing nonprofits to become and remain viable for the most vulnerable Kent County citizens. This funding would also allow nonprofits to focus more resources on program adaptations and innovations necessary given the staffing crisis. These funds would help ensure the population served receives the best care possible.

Long-Term Benefit

Nonprofits that perform a vital, community safety net service will remain viable. Vulnerable people will continue to receive necessary care and support in the most appropriate setting. Emergency rooms will not be flooded with people needing care because Adult Foster Care homes are closing.

Intended Beneficiary

Kent County non-profit providers of Medicaid covered specialized residential services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. MOKA, Spectrum Community Services and Thresholds Inc. will benefit from having a funding source for the overtime costs that are not funded by any other public or private source. While 3-6% overtime is an expected business cost for operations that are required to provide 24/7 support, our overtime costs are excessive (15-30%) given the severe employee workforce shortage. If this expense were funded, these nonprofits would be able to use precious resources to focus on innovations that might reduce the need for and burden on staff, and on employee retention and recruitment.

Estimated Cost

\$6 - \$7 million for 3 years of overtime

Project Management Experience

MOKA, Spectrum and Thresholds are three of the four largest providers of Medicaid services for people with IDD in Kent County. We have been publicly funded for over 40 years, contracting and collaborating with Community Mental Health (Network180) to meet the needs of people with IDD in a way that makes best and most efficient use of taxpayer dollars. We have been partners with the county for a decades-long, county-wide project dating back to the beginning of deinstitutionalization, managing hundreds of millions of county dollars and successfully caring for tens of thousands of Kent County residents.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$6,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$7,000,000

ARPA Request: \$7,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Jacquelyn Johnson

Organization: Thresholds Inc

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Senior Citizens Support

Project Status: Existing Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

MOKA, Spectrum Community Services, and Thresholds Inc

Federal Funds Experience

All three nonprofits are contracted service providers for Network180, serving a Medicaid population. We also receive Social Security and Medicare funding. We are familiar with billing codes for all services we provide and are able to provide the services according to the guidelines set by the federal government. We have experience billing electronically to the payor and have a compliance system in place to monitor billings for accuracy. Each of our organizations has over 40 years of experience managing federal funds.

Studies on Impact

No, however in "Forging a Path Forward to Strengthen Michigan's Direct Care Workforce" There is a notation that states "ARPA, which passed in 2021, allowed states to tap into enhanced federal funding to support the direct care workforce. Potential activities include: creating financial incentives to recruit and retain DCWs; supporting training; increasing rates to support increased compensation for DCWs; providing leave benefits; and providing specialized payments, including hazard pay, overtime pay, and shift differential pay."

<https://www.chcs.org/media/Forging-a-Path-Forward-to-Strengthen-Michigans-Direct-Care-Workforce.pdf>

Supporting Documentation

1. [Making Care Work Pay Report](#)

2. [Workforce Survey Report](#)

3. [America's Direct Support Workforce Crisis Report](#)

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

Eligible under non-profit support

Limited project.



PROJECT #246

Senior Housing targeting GLBT people, 55 and older

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$20,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$20,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Sabrina Minarik

Organization: Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme:

Senior Citizens Support

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

Grand Rapids LGBTQ+ Healthcare Consortium and the LGBTQ Eldering Community of West Michigan. We are also in contact with other organizations that are supportive of the idea and are figuring out how they can be a part of the project.

Identify the need for the proposed project

Currently there are more than 39 million people in the U.S. who are 65 years or older. The older adult population will increase from 12.8 percent to an estimated 19 percent in 2030. There are currently estimated to be around 3 million LGBT+ adults over 50. The older adult LGBT+ population is expected to grow to around 7 million by 2030. In the past few years, there has been more focus on older adults in the LGBT+ community in terms of recognizing the struggles they face when looking for safe and affordable housing, aging services, etc. While this community of older adults has been highlighted, there is still minimal data on the population of older adults in the LGBT+ community as well as what services are needed in order to ensure they have the best quality of life as they age. After some research, it was noted that there are no housing options that specifically serve the older adult LGBT+ population in Kent County. Furthermore, safe, stable, and affordable housing was identified as a community need, specifically within the older adult population in the 2019 Kent County Community Health Needs Assessment. The Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan attended a meeting with the LGBTQ Eldering Community of West Michigan and formed relationships with individuals in the group that are passionate about making sure there is a safe space to live for older adults in the LGBT+ community. The LGBTQ Eldering Community of West Michigan believes that housing for LGBT+ older adults is a needed in West Michigan.

Brief Description

In Chicago, Philadelphia and large cities across the US, recently, LGBT+ housing has been constructed in order to meet the needs of the LGBT+ community. This project would create independent living housing in Kent County for older adults in the LGBT+ community. There would be a mix of low-income and private pay units available. While there is not an identified location for this housing complex we are currently looking and open to building on land that is not yet developed or renovating an existing building into housing units. This housing structure would have different sized units to fit the needs of single individuals as well as those who are partnered or married. This complex would also include common areas and spaces where events can be held to create a larger sense of community. While the housing units will be designated to older adults, the common/event spaces can be utilized by community groups per approval in order to have a safe space for LGBT+ individuals to go for meetings, programs, etc. While this is an independent living complex for older adults, we want this to be more than just a place to live. This project also includes senior programming and case management services for those living in the complex to utilize as navigating services and community resources can be a difficult task to do alone. There are many reports of seniors in the LGBT+ community who have been discriminated against and denied housing based on their sexual orientation or gender identity.

Long-Term Benefit

Some senior living communities may in fact leave LGBT+ older adults more vulnerable to discrimination and abuse. This housing project will be an asset for the community for decades to come. First, stable housing is a pillar for quality of life that directly relates to the overall health and well-being of an individual. By providing a safe and affirming space to live for those who have been marginalized, this project will allow older adults to live independently and free to be themselves.



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$20,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$20,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Sabrina Minarik

Organization: Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme:

Senior Citizens Support

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

Grand Rapids LGBTQ+ Healthcare Consortium and the LGBTQ Eldering Community of West Michigan. We are also in contact with other organizations that are supportive of the idea and are figuring out how they can be a part of the project.

Intended Beneficiary

LGBT+ seniors will benefit most from this housing project, yet the space will also benefit family members who have peace of mind that their loved ones have a safe space to live and can be their true authentic self. Furthermore, we would like there to be a communal space that can be reserved for meetings/events that would be safe and affirming for individuals of all ages in the LGBT+ community.

Estimated Cost

LGBT+ seniors will benefit most from this housing project, yet the space will also benefit family members who have peace of mind that their loved ones have a safe space to live and can be their true authentic self. Furthermore, we would like there to be a communal space that can be reserved for meetings/events that would be safe and affirming for individuals of all ages in the LGBT+ community.

Project Management Experience

The Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan (AAAWM) has quite a bit of experience managing and leading county-wide projects. We are the fiduciary of the Kent County Senior Millage and manage funding from the Senior Millage that is awarded to partnering agencies. Furthermore, AAAWM manages RideLink, a county-wide transportation program for older adults 60+ that operates using senior millage dollars and is a collective of 5 community organizations that provide the transportation service. AAAWM also has ongoing projects and initiatives such as the Kent County Elder Abuse Coalition, Dementia Friends, Caregiver Resource Network and Family Caregiver University that are county and some, region-wide projects that help support older adults and their caregivers/community members.

Federal Funds Experience

The Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan is a fiduciary of Older Americans Act (OAA) funding. AAAs were created in 1974 by the federal Older Americans Act with the mission of creating home and community-based services to maximize the independence and dignity of older adults.

Studies on Impact

There are a number of instances where older adults feel the need to hide their sexual orientation and/or gender identity (SOGI) when they enter certain living arrangements. It has been found that hiding one's gender identity and/or sexual orientation due to fear of discrimination, violence, or disapproval, among other reasons have proven short and long-term effects on an individual's health and well-being. LGBT+ seniors have also faced a lifetime of discrimination, specifically in housing and employment, leading to economic insecurity which compounds with health disparities. A LGBT+ Senior Needs Assessment completed in San Diego proved that older adults identifying as LGBT+ prioritized social support, healthcare/quality of life, and housing. Should funding be granted for this proposal, we would be able to address all three prioritizations in one project by creating a safe, affirming space for LGBT+ older adults. Please see below for links to important studies and data.

https://nhchc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Housing-Health-and-LGBTQIA-Older-Adults-2021-9.20_21.pdf

<https://www.lgbtagingcenter.org/resources/pdfs/senior-needs-report.pdf>

<https://www.sageusa.org/resource-posts/understanding-issues-facing-lgbt-older-adults/>



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Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Affordable housing is eligible



Sustainability

May have large operation costs but there are multiple partners



Feasibility

Would require the creation of a new division. Can this be completed by 2026?

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$20,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$20,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Sabrina Minarik

Organization: Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme:

Senior Citizens Support

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

Grand Rapids LGBTQ+ Healthcare Consortium and the LGBTQ Eldering Community of West Michigan. We are also in contact with other organizations that are supportive of the idea and are figuring out how they can be a part of the project.



PROJECT #307

Senior Housing targeting GLBT people, 55 and older

Identify the need for the proposed project

By noting there is no low cost housing specifically serving the dedicated needs of the Elder GLBT population in Grand Rapids.

Brief Description

In Chicago, Philadelphia and large cities across the US, recently, GLBT housing has been constructed in order to meet the needs of that population. There are construction groups who have specific skills in this area. One notes GR has done an excellent job with low income housing at say, Mount Mercy, Ransom, etc., for general population yet has the opportunity to show itself a friendly city by considering funding housing for a vastly underfunded group of citizens. Especially those impacted from 1981 onward by HIV, housing as well employment discrimination and with the SCOTUS taking on settled case law with regard to abortion, no doubt, gay marriage is next. We have a once-in-a-lifetime chance to show kindness and forethought in this city housing GLBT people. Given many live at poverty or below levels, indeed, housing is crucial on fixed incomes

Long-Term Benefit

Housing our citizens who have toiled in the arts, education, hospitality as well industries which did not pay living wages

Intended Beneficiary

LGBT seniors.

Estimated Cost

15-25 million dollars

Project Management Experience

There are people who have extensive experience with this who are being communicated with to build a coalition.

Federal Funds Experience

None

Studies on Impact

There are centers throughout the US, in conjunction with SAGE, who have done studies indicating the veracity of this need.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$15,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$25,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Anthony Cherette

Organization: TBD

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme:

Senior Citizens Support

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

n/a

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Affordable housing is eligible



Sustainability

This project will have large operational costs and currently has no organization supporting it



Feasibility

Unclear who will do the work



PROJECT #61

Care Resources - Expansion of Second Center for the Program of All-Inclusive Care of the Elderly (PACE)

Identify the need for the proposed project

In Kent County there are over 130,000 seniors with 3 out of 4 adults age 50 + wanting to age at home. Care Resources began in 2006 as a Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) located in Kent County currently serving over 300 55+ frail elderly adults. Our goal is to help seniors age at home and live safely in the community with the support of Care Resources - PACE. The PACE model of care includes eleven disciplines providing Comprehensive Care Management, Day Center, Primary Care, Rehab Services, Transportation and other supportive services. Care Resources has seen an increasing need for PACE services. Over the last two years, we have experienced a 33% increase in our census. Our current space at 4150 Kalamazoo SE is coming close to capacity and as part of our overall strategic plan for growth – we are planning on adding an additional PACE site in Eastern Kent County. We would also like the opportunity at the Eastern Kent County center to have the ability to provide Adult Day Care services for non-PACE Kent County residents. In reviewing the ARPA Kent County Grant opportunity specific to Funding Grant 1 - Community Health – we believe this grant funding would allow us to serve additional eligible PACE residents and the ability to provide Adult Day Care Services.

Brief Description

Care Resources is planning to build, purchase or lease and renovate a 12-15,000 square foot building to provide a second location for Care Resources. This center will include – adult day care, primary care clinic, pharmacy, rehabilitation, transportation and supporting services. This center will be able to serve daily 125 - 150 frail elderly PACE residents living in the community. We also have the potential to provide day care services to people not enrolled in the PACE program. We are including in the project fund request for additional vehicles to provide transportation for the new Eastern Kent County site. Our goal is to have this second center operational in 2024. We plan to work with other community resources including Senior Meal Program, local health and hospital systems and Alzheimer's Association to name a few.

Long-Term Benefit

The Long Term Benefit would be for Care Resources to provide PACE services to more frail elderly adults living in Kent County. This program has ongoing funding from both Medicare and Medicaid which makes it sustainable past the ARPA funding. Care Resources has been in the community since 2006 and has a long history of providing high quality services for the frail elderly.

Intended Beneficiary

The beneficiary of the program are the frail elderly, those 55+ living in the community who meet the State of Michigan Facility Level of Care for nursing home placement. With the support of Care Resources -PACE these people are able to live in their homes and prevent nursing home placement.

Estimated Cost

\$3.25 Million. This would include the cost of the site and cost of furnishing the center. This also include cost of additional vehicles.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$3,250,000

Maximum Cost: \$3,250,000

Submitter Info

Name: Tracey McKnight

Organization: Care Resources

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme:

Senior Citizens Support

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Other Funding Source

n/a

Partnership

We are currently partnering with University of Michigan Health - West, Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services, Holland Home, Reliance Community Care Partners, Grand Rapids Dominican Sisters



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$3,250,000

Maximum Cost: \$3,250,000

Submitter Info

Name: Tracey McKnight

Organization: Care Resources

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme:

Senior Citizens Support

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

We are currently partnering with University of Michigan Health - West, Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services, Holland Home, Reliance Community Care Partners, Grand Rapids Dominican Sisters

Project Management Experience

Care Resources is a \$30M county wide program with over 150 + employees that has been in existence nearly 16 years serving the community. We have been very successful in providing PACE services throughout the county for this time with demonstrated quality outcomes and continued growth.

Federal Funds Experience

Yes - we receive Federal Funds for this program to provide services

Studies on Impact

Yes - research has shown that PACE programs reduce hospitalizations, emergency room visits and nursing home stays. Participants survive longer than similar patients in less comprehensive programs. A study last year by the Federal Department of Health and Human Services noted that the PACE program "stands out from our analysis as a consistently high performer". During and after the Pandemic there are many studies that show impact of the PACE model of care compared to nursing death rate. The rate that PACE enrollees have contracted the COVID virus or died as a result are one-third the rate of nursing home residents according to the National PACE Association Research. There are also many additional studies that can be found in the literature on the impact of the PACE Model of Care.

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Potentially eligible under public health. Additional information will be needed if the proposal moves forward in the process.



Sustainability

Private, existing organization that would likely be able to continue.



Feasibility



PROJECT #72

Direct Care Worker Workforce Development

Identify the need for the proposed project

There is an ongoing crisis of direct care workers in Adult Foster Care and Assisted Living made even worse by the pandemic. There is no current resource for marketing, recruiting, and training a workforce to carry this critical area of need into the future. Most care workers are aging toward retirement and there is not a sufficient pipeline of young, right minded, and well trained replacements. At a time when we need more homes, more beds and more care givers, we are seeing facilities close across the county and the state due to staffing shortages.

Brief Description

Form an organization to market Assisted Living Direct Care as a career path in schools, create training and internship programs, and start building up a work force to care for those in need.

Long-Term Benefit

We face a crisis in the long term care of Mentally Ill, Developmentally Disabled, Physically Handicapped and the elderly. Steps need to be taken to build up a work force, and we can't just throw money at it going forward.

Intended Beneficiary

Building a workforce will prevent future closures, and enable investment in assisted living to start anew. Workforce shortage is the single biggest impact limiting growth in this space, and leading to reduced beds when many more are needed.

Estimated Cost

\$1.5M - \$3.0M est

Project Management Experience

None, would be seeking guidance from Kent County Health Department, Network 180, MDHHS, etc.

Federal Funds Experience

We are a provider of Medicaid Waiver services as an operator of Adult Foster Care Homes, and would be seeking guidance and assistance from more experienced resources as well.

Studies on Impact

No

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$1,500,000

Maximum Cost: \$3,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Corey Husted

Organization: Brightside Living

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Senior Citizens Support

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

n/a

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Proposal lacks details. Could qualify as on-the-job training or job training for unemployed/underemployed



Sustainability

Does not include a funding plan or fund availability after expending all the ARPA dollars.



Feasibility



PROJECT #46

Kent County Older Adults Needs Assessment

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$150,000

Maximum Cost: \$175,000

Submitter Info

Name: Sabrina Minarik

Organization: Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme:

Senior Citizens Support

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

Hispanic Center of West Michigan

Identify the need for the proposed project

While there have been needs assessments completed in the past, to identify needs for older adults, a few very important pieces of information have been left out of the surveys. Sexual orientation and gender identity questions have not been asked in previous needs assessments. As time goes on, there is more data coming out about the needs of older adults in the LGBTQ+ community, yet it is still quite limited. There are currently estimated to be around 3 million LGBTQ+ adults over 50. The older adult LGBTQ+ population is expected to grow to around 7 million by 2030. AAAWM values diversity, equity, and inclusion and wants to ensure that we are providing programs and services that fit the needs of the entire older adult population in Kent County as well as the other counties we serve. We also noticed in our demographics of individuals who received services in 2021 were primarily Caucasian. While we have just created a position for a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Advisor at our agency who is creating relationships with diverse groups of individuals and organizations, having a needs assessment to further understand the needs of all of our community members would be of great help.

Brief Description

AAAWM would conduct a needs assessment for older adults in Kent County. We would gather information via surveys sent through the mail as well as community listening sessions where individuals could attend in person and have help completing the survey and talk to a representative from the agency to share their thoughts and needs. Listening sessions would focus on outreach to marginalized communities by partnering with organizations who serve diverse populations to ensure that all voices in the community have equal and adequate representation in the needs assessment. A specific focus of this needs assessment would be on the LGBTQ+ community by including sexual orientation and gender identity questions in the surveys as there have been no previous needs assessments done for older adults in Kent County that has included this information. This assessment would help AAAWM identify the needs of ALL older adult residents in the county 60+, making sure to be inclusive of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation and gender identity, and disability.

Long-Term Benefit

A needs assessment would allow us to identify the demographic breakdowns of the 60+ population and highlight the needs of ALL older adults in Kent County (BIPOC, Caucasian, and LGBTQ+). AAAWM would then look at our current programs and services we fund and attempt to tweak programs to the needs of the community or look to fill gaps in the community by creating new programs or services. This would also give a voice to older adults in the community who respond to surveys, which builds trust.

Intended Beneficiary

Older adults (60 yrs+) of Kent County

Estimated Cost

150,000-175,000



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$150,000

Maximum Cost: \$175,000

Submitter Info

Name: Sabrina Minarik

Organization: Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme:

Senior Citizens Support

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

Hispanic Center of West Michigan

Project Management Experience

The Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan (AAAWM) has quite a bit of experience managing and leading county-wide projects. We are the fiduciary of the Kent County Senior Millage and manage funding from the Senior Millage that is awarded to partnering agencies. Furthermore, AAAWM manages RideLink, a county-wide transportation program for older adults 60+ that operates using senior millage dollars and is a collective of 5 community organizations that provide the transportation service. AAAWM also has ongoing projects and initiatives such as the Kent County Elder Abuse Coalition, Dementia Friends, Caregiver Resource Network and Family Caregiver University that are county and some, region-wide projects that help support older adults and their caregivers/community members.

Federal Funds Experience

The Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan is a fiduciary of Older Americans Act (OAA) funding. AAAs were created in 1974 by the federal Older Americans Act with the mission of creating home and community-based services to maximize the independence and dignity of older adults.

Studies on Impact

"Using the Social Ecological Model To Inform Community Needs Assessments" is one of many studies to validate the importance of a needs assessment

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

The individuals or communities in the project proposal is unclear or does not align with the US Treasury Guidelines.

23

SUBSTANCE ABUSE





PROJECT #289

Chrysalis Women's Recovery

Identify the need for the proposed project

March 2020 started a challenging time of isolation, stress, and serious worries about illness, death, personal finances, and social uncertainty. Particularly for community members struggling with substance use disorders, this has been a deadly combination of factors. In fact, while there has been legitimate fear and concern over COVID-19 itself, another epidemic has been occurring at the same time: various national surveys saw alcohol-related deaths outnumbered COVID deaths for adults under 65 in 2020. Alcohol-related deaths increased by 25%, compared to the standard average increase of 3.6%. Drug overdoses increased by 30%. Locally, recovery treatment options for women in Kent County are Sandford House, which can cost between \$15,000 and \$20,000 per month, and Our Hope Association, primarily insurance and Medicaid based. Many women have children, are single parents, and are the primary provider for their families, which complicates treatment options as well. Guiding Light will offer programming at no cost to the community member. Guiding Light sees the need to not just support our female community members in "getting sober", but in providing opportunities and structure for lives transformed. Instead of demanding extensive willpower, feeding into shame and frustration when that eventually fails or sending clients back out alone after a few weeks of sobriety, Guiding Light offers something unique: we will walk alongside individuals for as long as they will let us. The current men's recovery program sees many clients connected to Guiding Light for 2, 3, or more years - yes, YEARS - while they start careers, finish education, restore family relationships, build community, and give back. Tailored appropriately for the unique needs of disadvantaged women in Kent County, long-term, transformational programming is something we have been fully invested in becoming excellent at over the last 7 years. Our program logic model for a women's recovery program is based on extensive research, and innovative program methodology, and addresses the person holistically. Providing extensive mental health and physical health services is crucial, as co-occurring disorders are common. That along with ensuring sustainability through improved employment and affordable housing is Guiding Light's proven way of meeting needs we see and hear about regularly. Getting sober is merely the beginning. The need for intensive, thoughtful care through the gift of time and space is something Guiding Light would be honored to offer to the women in our community.

Brief Description

Guiding Light's Chrysalis Women's Recovery is an intensive drug and alcohol treatment program designed to give space and time to engage in transformational change. This residential program addresses co-occurring disorders, livable wage employment, and affordable housing alongside substance use disorder. Combining evidence-based practices, health and wellness, life-coaching, therapy, support groups and resources empower women to stay sober and live life in a new way. Entirely free to participants, Chrysalis Women's Recovery would offer women a safe environment, basic life needs, family support, and individualized care. Our goal for women is lifelong recovery and a new way of being in relationship with the world, where they can live fully, secure in employment and housing. Clients entering the women's recovery program first complete Foundations, a four-month phase of focused treatment aimed at addressing their entire being. A significant part of our program is the environment we create in partnership with our clients: we believe it is essential to have a culture which believes honesty, healthy relationships, and desire for change are necessary elements of long-term sobriety. Intentionally building relationships and community within Guiding Light and within the community at large are daily activities. Women would be offered education, training, and coaching to either gain or improve their employment, while working on financial empowerment, savings, and any debt reduction.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$2,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$5,500,000

ARPA Request: \$2,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Brian Elve

Organization: Guiding Light

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Substance Abuse

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

n/a



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$2,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$5,500,000

ARPA Request: \$2,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Brian Elve

Organization: Guiding Light

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Substance Abuse

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

n/a

Long-Term Benefit

- A life full of possibilities and different choices. -Long-Term benefits will include steady employment, housing, healthy relationships with friends' families, Improved physical and mental health, self-worth, and spiritual connection. - Long-term benefits will be to appreciate the life they are given and become more of service to this world and their community.

Intended Beneficiary

Women who are experiencing co-occurring disorders, women at risk of losing their children, and Women who are experiencing substance use disorders.

Estimated Cost

Guiding Light is requesting 2,000,000.00 from Kent County American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA).

*Source of Funding

Guiding Light is 100-percent private donor funded. While we have been planning for and saving for the initial facility and staffing expenses from starting up a women's recovery program, we have yet to have the resources to do so. This grant would give us the initial boost to begin, and we would be able to continue funding the program entirely through private donations and social enterprise in the next three years.

Project Management Experience

None

Federal Funds Experience

Guiding Light uses a sophisticated integrated accounting software (Sage Intacct) that allows precise tracking of funds down to the dollar, and would be very capable of producing Interim, Quarterly, and Recovery Plan Performance Reports to whatever granularity is required. We have no experience with federal funds as of yet.

Studies on Impact

Evaluation Review journal published an article studying the outcomes through an 8-year-long study in regards to abstinence and long-term changes. Their research suggests that while mental health and physical health still need attention through year 3 of sobriety, the longer the individuals were sober, the greater the decrease in living below the poverty line was and fewer instances of homelessness, including a significant decrease in illegal activity. Length of sobriety had a strong positive relationship to having increased self-efficacy, clean and sober community, and spiritual support (Dennis et al, 2007). Kruk and Sandberg (2013) conducted a study that showed significant overall effectiveness in women's treatment centers when addressing substance abuse disorders. The study also concluded that normalization/structure, safety, and social connection are the core needs for a successful women recovery program. Guiding Light will be able to mirror the same success as our men's recovery program because we share the same core values.



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Supporting Documentation

- [1. Letter of Support #1](#)
- [2. Letter of Support #2](#)
- [3. Letter of Support #3](#)
- [4. Women's Recovery Budget](#)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$2,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$5,500,000

ARPA Request: \$2,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Brian Elve

Organization: Guiding Light

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Substance Abuse

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

n/a

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Substance use prevention and affordable housing is eligible



Sustainability

In the next three years this project should be completely funded by private donations



Feasibility



PROJECT #182

Clean Works Harm Reduction Program

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$750,000

Maximum Cost: \$750,000

ARPA Request: \$200,000

Submitter Info

Name: Stephen Alsum

Organization:

The Grand Rapids Red Project

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Substance Abuse

Project Status: Existing Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

We have secured 350,000 to support staffing and overhead for our harm reduction program through MDHHS. We are working on securing \$200,000 for our supply budget from community fundraising, and private foundations, and are asking ARPA to fund the additional \$200,000 of our supply budget.

Partnership

Spectrum Health, Mercy Health,
Seeds of Promise, Linc Up,
Salvation Army Turning Point,
Network 180, Pine Rest, Cherry St
Health Services

Identify the need for the proposed project

The Grand Rapids Red Project began providing the Clean Works program in Grand Rapids in August of 2000, following the recommendation of Mayor Logie's Task Force on Drug Policy Reform. At that time 25% of all HIV cases in Kent County were related to injection drug use. Currently this has decreased to 8% largely as a result of our program. As the years have progressed, we have seen Red Project's services expand- from becoming the first and largest opioid education and naloxone distribution program in the state, to expanding through our 7 county region of West Michigan, to being contracted by MDHHS for the last 4 years to train new syringe access programs in the state as we have seen the number of programs statewide expand from just 4 to over 30. While our services and reach have continued to grow, the situation in our community had continued to deteriorate, and get harder to address. In the 2000s we were addressing largely prescription opioid use, which then transitioned to heroin use, and now fentanyl is ravaging our community and causing over 100 deaths a year. Red Project has been a leader in developing innovative evidence based programming in the state of Michigan, and the Kent County community has benefited from our presence, seeing less death than other similarly sized communities in Michigan but still far too much. Year after year our program continues to grow by about 150% every year, and the major financial need continues to be funding for supplies. Without supplies we can not run our program. COVID has increased the isolation, trauma, mental health, physical health needs in our community, and we are seeing more people turn to substances. With the transition of the illicit market primarily to fentanyl and other synthetics, we are seeing more and more negative health impacts, including overdose, skin and soft tissue infections, complications of Hepatitis C. From 2016-2020 MDHHS estimates the cost of skin and soft tissue infections caused by injection drug use to have cost the state over 2 billion dollars. An HIV case prevented can save the public healthcare system \$400,000, the lifetime cost of treating HIV. A prevented trip to the emergency room to treat an overdose can save the community \$16,000. Beyond the human impact, these are some of the very real costs Red Project programming saves our service delivery systems. To continue making an impact on the Grand Rapids community it is imperative that the Grand Rapids Red Project can stock our harm reduction program with supplies ranging from gauze, antibiotic, alcohol pads, and band aids, to hazardous material containers, and sterile water. The Grand Rapids Red Project's supply budget for our harm reduction program in 2023 we be greater than \$400,000. We are making a request to ARPA to fund half of this, or \$200,000. We have seen the impact Red Project programming has already made on our community, and it is imperative that in this time of greater need and struggle we can continue to grow service delivery to meet emerging needs.

Brief Description

The Grand Rapids Red Project operates the Clean Works program, a harm reduction program where people struggling with substance use can explore health decisions in a safe and supportive environment. Through the Clean Works program Red Project provides syringe access, syringe disposal, safer sex supplies, naloxone rescue kits, recovery coaching, access to treatment, and other basic life and health needs. We are applying for \$200,000 through ARPA to support supply distribution at our program. This is about half our annual supply budget which annually becomes harder to sustain with increases in service delivery caused by COVID and the progressing opioid epidemic. Through our Clean Works program we have over 17,000 interactions with community members annually.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$750,000

Maximum Cost: \$750,000

ARPA Request: \$200,000

Submitter Info

Name: Stephen Alsum

Organization:

The Grand Rapids Red Project

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Substance Abuse

Project Status: Existing Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

We have secured 350,000 to support staffing and overhead for our harm reduction program through MDHHS. We are working on securing \$200,000 for our supply budget from community fundraising, and private foundations, and are asking ARPA to fund the additional \$200,000 of our supply budget.

Partnership

Spectrum Health, Mercy Health, Seeds of Promise, Linc Up, Salvation Army Turning Point, Network 180, Pine Rest, Cherry St Health Services

Long-Term Benefit

Decrease in HIV, Hepatitis C, overdose deaths. Less preventable health issues filling up emergency departments. Better quality of life for participants and surrounding communities. Decreases in syringe litter in communities. Saved tax payer dollars. All these effects are well documented in the scientific literature for the past 50 years.

Intended Beneficiary

People suffering with substance use disorder, people impacted by mental health, people insufficiently housed

Estimated Cost

750000

Project Management Experience

We started the Kent County Opioid Task Force in 2016 through securing a grant from Steelcase Foundation before passing it to KCHD. We operate over a seven county region providing direct service delivery, and statewide for technical assistance. We are sub recipients under 8 federal grants, and have contracts with all community mental health in the areas in which we operate.

Federal Funds Experience

We are annually a sub recipient on 8 federal contracts through MDHHS and the LRE.

Studies on Impact

Yes. Almost any on syringe access or naloxone distribution since the late 90s in the United States will validate our methods. If you would like we can provide a well sourced summary of the research.

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Substance use treatment is eligible



Sustainability

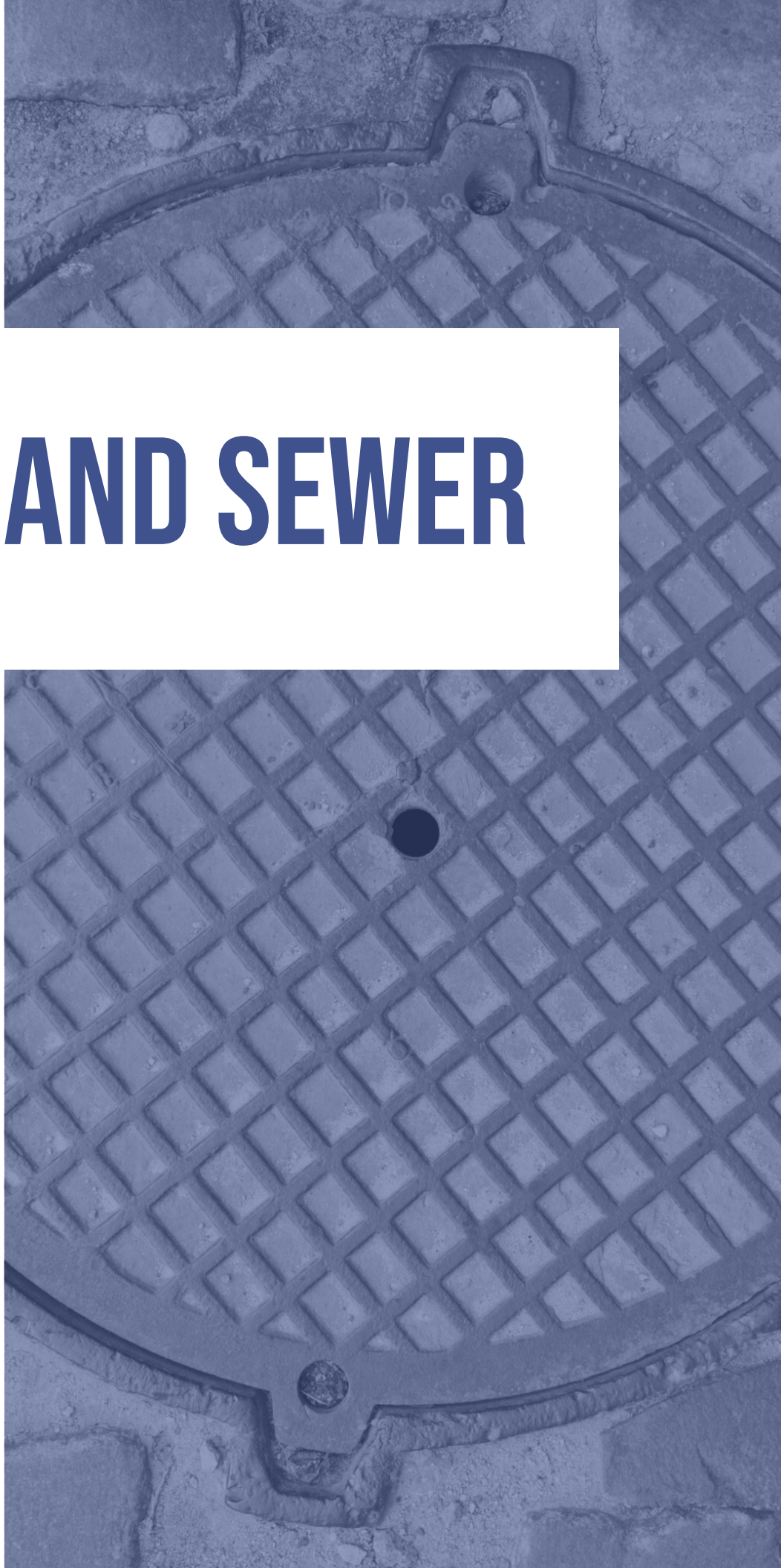
Program will not continue without funding. However, it sounds like they already have funding partners. This fund is to help meet increased demand. More info needed.



Feasibility

24

WATER AND SEWER





PROJECT #99

Courtland Township Sanitary Sewer System Upgrades

Identify the need for the proposed project

We had a study done using SAW grant money to determine the condition of our sewer system along with an Assessment of Facilities by our engineer.

Brief Description

Our sewer system that services homes all around Myers and Brower Lakes along with two developments, requires replacement of all 10 of the lift stations and 43 grinder pump stations. The components are deteriorating and are impacting the reliability of the system.

Long-Term Benefit

Replacement of the lift stations will ensure the public sanitary sewer system continues to operate reliably to avoid contamination in the lakes.

Intended Beneficiary

All the residents serviced by the system as well as the people who utilize the Kent County Park at Myers Lake.

Estimated Cost

5 - 6 Million dollars

Project Management Experience

None

Federal Funds Experience

We regularly utilize federal funds.

Studies on Impact

No

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$5,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$6,000,000

ARPA Request: \$2,500,000

Submitter Info

Name: Matt McConnon

Organization: Courtland Township

Project Overview

Funding Group: Infrastructure

Project Theme: Water and Sewer

Project Status: Existing Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

If the project is not fully funded, the township will pursue a loan from the State Revolving Fund to cover the balance.

Partnership

n/a

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

Water and sewer infrastructure projects are eligible



PROJECT #128

Butterworth Stormwater Improvements

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$4,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$4,000,000

ARPA Request: \$4,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Mike Grenier

Organization: City of Grand Rapids

Project Overview

Funding Group: Improving Government Operations

Project Theme: Water and Sewer

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

n/a

Identify the need for the proposed project

Butterworth from the west city limits to I-196 does not have stormwater infrastructure. Water sheet flows over steep slopes on the road and over the side of the road. Water over the side of the road causes soil erosion and the sediment deposits on the properties below. Water flowing over the surface of the road causes damage to the surface and impairs driving. In addition, there are locations in which the water floods in the roadways and does not allow cars to pass through. In addition, the road is winding, and it is easily to come upon a flooded area with little to no notice. The road is critical to both commercial/industrial users as well as residents of Grand Rapids and Walker. The runoff affects both the Millennium Park Trailhead and the new Kent County Parks offices. However, steep slopes, lack of easements and utility crossings make installation of traditional gravity storm sewer difficult.

Brief Description

Installation of the force main system removes many complexities and barriers of a gravity system but increases the cost significantly. A stormwater force main can be installed at an approximate cost of \$4.0 M, including a lift station. Traditionally, the City would assess the property owners in the area contributing to the stormwater flow for adding storm sewer to an area. In this case, however, there are only 4 property owners, including the City, to share the cost. The City already has 11 stormwater stations and is fully capable of running the system after installation.

Long-Term Benefit

The road is critical to both commercial/industrial users as well as residents of Grand Rapids and Walker. The runoff affects both the Millennium Park Trailhead and the new Kent County Parks offices. However, steep slopes, lack of easements and utility crossings make installation of traditional gravity storm sewer difficult

Intended Beneficiary

The road is critical to both commercial/industrial users as well as residents of Grand Rapids and Walker. The runoff affects both the Millennium Park Trailhead and the new Kent County Parks offices.

Estimated Cost

\$4,000,000.00

Project Management Experience

The City of Grand Rapids has deep experience managing large projects.

Federal Funds Experience

The City of Grand Rapids has deep experience working with federal funds.



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Studies on Impact

This project is a conventional stormwater project.

Supporting Documentation

[Letter of Support](#)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$4,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$4,000,000

ARPA Request: \$4,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Mike Grenier

Organization: City of Grand Rapids

Project Overview

Funding Group: Improving Government Operations

Project Theme: Water and Sewer

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

n/a

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

Storm water remediation and prevention is eligible



PROJECT #138

Lake Saint Jude Drainage Improvements

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$750,000

Maximum Cost: \$800,000

ARPA Request: \$750,000

Submitter Info

Name: Mike Grenier

Organization: City of Grand Rapids

Project Overview

Funding Group: Infrastructure

Project Theme: Water and Sewer

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

n/a

Identify the need for the proposed project

Backyard flooding has been occurring in Parkway Drive and Waterford Court since 2009. The cause of the flooding is higher than normal rain levels, higher groundwater levels, increased impervious areas around the site, reduced infiltration rates and a lack of a direct stormwater discharge point from the drainage district to the Grand River. When flooding occurs, City of Grand Rapids Staff set up temporary equipment to pump down the flood prone areas. The temporary pumping operation involves extending long lengths of 3- inch hoses which cross driveways and sidewalks. Pumping can be over a long duration and is a noisy operation. A permanent sustainable solution is needed to remedy this flooding. The City studied this drainage area in 2009, including the preparation of an engineering report and addendums with various alternatives and costs. City staff has met with the property owners impacted by the flooding to discuss the recommended alternatives.

Brief Description

The proposed design is to build a gravity storm sewer from the east end of the Parkway Drive subdivision to Eastern Avenue where the new storm sewer will connect to the existing Wells Drain which is in the jurisdiction of the Kent County Drain Commissioner. The gravity storm sewer will address the flooding and reduce energy consumption and maintenance. The estimated cost for this work is \$800,000. City Staff has been in correspondence with the Kent County Drain Commissioner regarding the addition of this water to the Wells Drain and has come to an understanding on how this could be accomplished. Once the improvements have been constructed and connected to the Wells Drain the City would take ownership of the Wells Drain in Eastern Avenue and 4 Mile Road which outlets to the Grand River. The estimated costs for the drainage improvements for the Lake Saint Jude Drainage Improvements is \$750,000

Long-Term Benefit

Funding of this project will reduce backyard flooding in the area as well as relieving the financial burden of funding these improvements to the surrounding homeowners.

Intended Beneficiary

The neighborhoods in teh Lake St Jude area.

Estimated Cost

\$75,000.00

Project Management Experience

The City of Grand Rapids has deep experience managing large projects.

Federal Funds Experience

The City of Grand Rapids has deep experience working with federal funds.

Studies on Impact

This is a conventional stormwater solution to this problem.



(Page 2)

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Storm water remediation and prevention is eligible



Sustainability

One-time spend.



Feasibility

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$750,000

Maximum Cost: \$800,000

ARPA Request: \$750,000

Submitter Info

Name: Mike Grenier

Organization: City of Grand Rapids

Project Overview

Funding Group: Infrastructure

Project Theme: Water and Sewer

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

n/a



PROJECT #228

Glen Echo Restoration

Identify the need for the proposed project

Neighbors notified us of backyard erosion and extreme sedimentation at entry to piped stormwater system from open drain. Maintenance of the area of sedimentation has become burdensome both due to frequency needed to remove sedimentation to open pipe and moving equipment through side yard easements.

Brief Description

Flow restrictors from street stormwater system, green bank armoring, bypass pipes and other techniques will be utilized to reduce velocity and potential for erosion. Estimated construction have doubled since the start of the pandemic.

Long-Term Benefit

The project will substantially reduce sediment flowing to Plaster Creek and backyard erosion for residents.

Intended Beneficiary

Area residents will see direct benefits but downstream residents and communities on Plaster Creek and the Grand River will also benefit.

Estimated Cost

\$600,000.00

Project Management Experience

City of Grand Rapids has led many large projects spanning multiple communities for streets and also multiple counties for streets, sanitary sewer and water.

Federal Funds Experience

We work with multiple Federal grants every year.

Studies on Impact

Green bank armoring has been a proven technique for years and is endorsed by EGLE.

Supporting Documentation

- [1. Letter of Support #1](#)
- [2. Letter of Support #2](#)
- [3. Letter of Support #3](#)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$600,000

Maximum Cost: \$600,000

ARPA Request: \$300,000

Submitter Info

Name: Mike Grenier

Organization: City of Grand Rapids

Project Overview

Funding Group: Infrastructure

Project Theme: Water and Sewer

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

We have \$300,000 in capital funds budgeted based on the original construction estimate.

Partnership

We had some assistance from Plaster Creek Stewards, Lower Grand River Organization of Watersheds and West Michigan Environmental Action Council while educating neighbors. Through a 319 grant for a separate site, a green infrastructure education pop-up was held in the Glen Echo neighborhood in 2021.

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

Storm water remediation and prevention is eligible



PROJECT #139

Timberland Drainage Improvements

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$75,000

Maximum Cost: \$75,000

ARPA Request: \$75,000

Submitter Info

Name: Mike Grenier

Organization: City of Grand Rapids

Project Overview

Funding Group: Infrastructure

Project Theme: Water and Sewer

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

n/a

Identify the need for the proposed project

The condition of the stream and the effects of stormwater behind Timberland Dr are a concern of some of the neighbors. Some of the challenges of this area include it being an easement and the City does not own the property, effects of additional construction in the area and the multi-jurisdictional nature of this tributary of Plaster Creek.

Brief Description

A study of the creek, current stormwater structures in the area and options is being requested. It is estimated that the study would cost \$75,000. The study would provide direction on solutions to the challenges in the area, where they are being contributed from and give us a road map to resolution.

Long-Term Benefit

Funding of this study would allow the City of Grand Rapids to commission the work and share the results with the neighborhood and other entities. Funding the work from this road would then be sought.

Intended Beneficiary

Neighbors in the Timberland Dr area as well as the downstream water quality.

Estimated Cost

\$75,000.00

Project Management Experience

The City of Grand Rapids has deep experience managing large projects.

Federal Funds Experience

The City of Grand Rapids has deep experience working with federal funds.

Studies on Impact

This is a conventional approach to defining the stormwater challenges in the area.

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

*Storm water remediation
and prevention is eligible*



PROJECT #163

PFAS Remediation: Water Main Extension in Cascade Township – Phase 1

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$7,886,000

Maximum Cost: \$7,886,000

ARPA Request: \$1,261,000

Submitter Info

Name: Wayne Jernberg

Organization: City of Grand Rapids

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Water and Sewer

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 76% or greater

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

The City of Grand Rapids and the Township applied for and were awarded a \$5 million grant to begin the extension of municipal water service. An additional \$1.6 million was awarded from the state.

Partnership

Cascade Township

Identify the need for the proposed project

Cascade Township's Burger and Goodwood neighborhoods became an official Michigan PFAS Action Response Team (MPART) Area of Interest in March 2019 due to their proximity to known potential PFAS sources. The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) sampled 364 residential drinking water wells through five sampling phases. More than 60 % of the results detected one or more PFAS compounds and 40 residential wells exceeded the allowable contamination limit. These results demonstrated the need for the City of Grand Rapids and Cascade Township to address PFAS contamination in residential wells. The City of Grand Rapids and the Township applied for and were awarded a \$5 million grant to begin the extension of municipal water service. An additional \$1.6 million was awarded from the state. Unfortunately, due to supply chain issues and an uptick in construction cost, the bids for Phase 1 of the project are 30 % higher than the engineer estimated in January of 2021. We are requesting \$1.26 million of ARPA funding to address the funding gap for a project that would provide clean and high-quality drinking water to residents in this area.

Brief Description

Consolidating residential wells onto the City municipal water main, which only partially serves the neighborhood at this time, has been identified by the Township as the most effective long-term solution. The project will be accomplished in two phases.

Long-Term Benefit

This project will address the PFAS concerns in this neighborhood, protect public health, and provide clean drinking water to the residents of this area.

Intended Beneficiary

The intended beneficiaries are residents in the affected area where high levels of PFAS compounds were found and benefit approximately 671 people.

Estimated Cost

The new estimated cost for Phase 1 of the project is \$7,886,000, and \$1,261,000 is requested from ARPA funding to complete the project.

Project Management Experience

The City of Grand Rapids regularly manages water main projects in its service area, including but not limited to projects in Cascade, Walker, and Grand Rapids Township.

Federal Funds Experience

The City of Grand Rapids was awarded a \$5 million Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grant for private lead line replacements. We report our progress and money expended to the EPA.

Studies on Impact

No.



(Page 2)

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

Clean drinking water projects are eligible

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$7,886,000

Maximum Cost: \$7,886,000

ARPA Request: \$1,261,000

Submitter Info

Name: Wayne Jernberg

Organization: City of Grand Rapids

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Water and Sewer

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 76% or greater

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

The City of Grand Rapids and the Township applied for and were awarded a \$5 million grant to begin the extension of municipal water service. An additional \$1.6 million was awarded from the state.

Partnership

Cascade Township



PROJECT #164

PFAS Remediation: Water Main Extension in Cascade Township – Phase 2

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$9,400,000

Maximum Cost: \$9,400,000

ARPA Request: \$2,200,000

Submitter Info

Name: Wayne Jernberg

Organization: City of Grand Rapids

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Water and Sewer

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 76% or greater

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

Possible funding could be available from the federal Water Resources Development Act of 2022. House Representatives Meijer has requested the allocation of \$7.2 million for Phase 2 of the project. However, it would leave a funding gap of funds needed to complete the project. Ultimately, the funding gap would be paid by the ratepayers of the Township through water rate increases.

Partnership

Cascade Township

Identify the need for the proposed project

In addition to funding for Phase 1 of the Cascade Township's Burger and Goodwood water main extension project, the City of Grand Rapids is requesting funding for Phase 2 of the project. A preliminary estimate from 2021 indicated a total cost of \$7.2 million for Phase 2. Still, due to Phase 1 of the project being 30 % over-engineering estimates, it is expected that it will be the same case for Phase 2. While a revised estimate has not yet been developed for Phase 2, adding 30% to the original Phase 2 estimate would result in an all-in cost of about \$9.4M.

Brief Description

The City of Grand Rapids is requesting \$2.2 million in ARPA funding. The completion of the project is necessary for PFAS remediation and connecting the residents of this area to a municipal water supply.

Long-Term Benefit

This project will address the PFAS concerns in this neighborhood, protect public health, and provide clean drinking water to the residents of this area.

Intended Beneficiary

The project's second phase will benefit residents in the affected area where high levels of PFAS compounds were found and benefit approximately 569 people.

Estimated Cost

Phase 2 of the project is estimated to be about \$9.4M. The City of Grand Rapids is requesting \$2.2 million in ARPA funding.

Project Management Experience

The City of Grand Rapids was awarded a \$5 million Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grant for private lead line replacements. We report our progress and money expended to the EPA.

Federal Funds Experience

The City of Grand Rapids was awarded a \$5 million Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grant for private lead line replacements. We report our progress and money expended to the EPA.

Studies on Impact

No.



(Page 2)

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Water system consolidation is eligible



Sustainability



Feasibility

Risk to 2026 completion

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$9,400,000

Maximum Cost: \$9,400,000

ARPA Request: \$2,200,000

Submitter Info

Name: Wayne Jernberg

Organization: City of Grand Rapids

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Water and Sewer

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 76% or greater

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

Possible funding could be available from the federal Water Resources Development Act of 2022. House Representatives Meijer has requested the allocation of \$7.2 million for Phase 2 of the project. However, it would leave a funding gap of funds needed to complete the project. Ultimately, the funding gap would be paid by the ratepayers of the Township through water rate increases.

Partnership

Cascade Township



PROJECT #58

Mandate Funding to storm water management, HOA accountability, and long range planning.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: n/a

Maximum Cost: n/a

Submitter Info

Name: Todd A Roesler

Organization:
Concerned Citizen GR Township

Project Overview

Funding Group: Infrastructure
Project Theme: Water and Sewer
Project Status: New Project
Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact 

Source of Funding

The City's, Townships, and Drain Authorities who are failing s/b held accountable.

Partnership

Drain and water management need to ask for help
Government is the failure.

Identify the need for the proposed project

All of Kent County shared MDOT roads, and all KC City Infrastructure need to improve the on going flooding and poor management of areas with eroding streets, poorly designed retention ponds, erosion and flooding that continues due to failure in design and planning. This includes water management of retention ponds public or private.

Brief Description

All HOA Ponds, and Public water management should enact or mandate water ways, be cleaned, serviced and fountains to agitate and oxygenate the standing water for no flow. Knapps Corner is a perfect example of poor planning. Look at the results for poor planning on many areas of our cities. East Grand Rapids homes flood every year. Dean Lake project, Byron, Gaines, Plaster Creek, and many other areas. All of the retention ponds around Knapp's corner of algae filled cesspools of water that are killing the wild life and smothering the frogs, turtles and life. Pond agitators s/b mandated to keep the ponds cleaner, less weed and shoreline growth and invasive weeds/species. Grand Rapids East, East GR, Grand Rapids Township, Plainfield Township all have the Grand River Running through it? However these densely populated areas have little stormwater helping the "water to nowhere" issues that are only getting worse. Maryland, Michigan Ave East to The E-Beltline, all of the Grand Rapids Township West of The Beltline, Plainfield Township all have very poorly designed and underserved to meet the growing runoff everywhere with our development in the last 20 years. The time is now to act.....

Long-Term Benefit

Cost savings, less insurance claims, home owners basement flooding, road repair and curb/gutter longevity.

Intended Beneficiary

The people of Kent County, and all cities and townships with poorly designed and poor quality of roads, streets, water management.

Estimated Cost

An Association of public, private and State Water Management. Make if part of GVCM.

Project Management Experience

NONE

Federal Funds Experience

NONE

Studies on Impact

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-announces-65-billion-new-funding-available-water-infrastructure-projects>



(Page 2)

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

Storm water funding is eligible

Feasible project but a responsible organization would have to be identified manage the projects

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: n/a

Maximum Cost: n/a

Submitter Info

Name: Todd A Roesler

Organization:

Concerned Citizen GR Township

Project Overview

Funding Group: Infrastructure

Project Theme: Water and Sewer

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact



Source of Funding

The City's, Townships, and Drain Authorities who are failing s/b held accountable.

Partnership

Drain and water management need to ask for help
Government is the failure.

PROJECT #177

(Name of idea not listed)



Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$7,500,000

Maximum Cost: \$7,500,000

Submitter Info

Name: Tim Mroz

Organization: The Right Place, Inc.

Project Overview

Funding Group: Infrastructure

Project Theme: Water and Sewer

Project Status: n/a

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

The Right Place will partner with each of the various municipalities and water/wastewater utilities in the county.

Identify the need for the proposed project

In The Right Place's ongoing analysis and tracking of Kent County's industrial property portfolio, the county currently has an open vacancy rate hovering around 2%. This extremely low vacancy rate, combined with an extraordinary level of pent-up demand for new investment in industrial, office, and logistical operations is putting the county at risk of retaining businesses already in the region, and losing out on future business attraction projects. To address this need/challenge, The Right Place engaged local architecture and engineering firm, Fishbeck, to perform a technical site analysis of over 100 potential industrial development sites throughout West Michigan. In many cases, water and wastewater service expansion was identified as a key hurdle to achieving development ready status for these sites. Included in this analysis were over a dozen sites in Kent County. The "shovel ready" sites across Kent County have largely been developed in recent years, leaving behind land with limited infrastructure and therefore limited development opportunities. Without investments to extend infrastructure for future development, these sites will either lay fallow for years or develop at low investment levels, limiting the tax base generation that could otherwise occur. As an example, the I-96 interchange at Exit 52 is among the few major freeway interchanges in lower Michigan that lacks development. To develop the four quadrants of the interchange requires lengthy, and costly, water and wastewater investments. By leveraging local, county, state, and federal funds, plus those of private developers, this historic moment represents an opportunity to prepare the site for high quality development. The Lowell exit site is just one of several opportunities identified through an exhaustive site readiness analysis conducted by The Right Place in 2022.

Brief Description

To increase the quantity and quality of available shovel ready office and industrial sites in Kent County, The Right Place is proposing the creation of a \$7.5 million matching grant program to assist local municipalities in the enhancement and expansion of water and wastewater infrastructure to service industrial and commercial office sites throughout the county. Leveraging The Right Place's current analysis and work in site evaluation, the organization will work with private developers and local communities throughout the county to identify potential sites that would benefit from water and wastewater extension opportunities and coordinate applications for funding through this program. As recommended, this program would be designed as a 50% matching program, in which the county would provide 50% of the water and wastewater expansion service cost. The other matching 50% of the funding would be a combination of private developer investment and public municipal investment. The goal of the program would be to fund 2-5 infrastructure projects. The program would be administered by The Right Place, in collaboration with Kent County administration, and all water and wastewater expansion and extension projects will be completed no later than December 31, 2026.

Long-Term Benefit

Establishing a water/wastewater service expansion grant matching program will result in significant benefits for a variety of beneficiaries. Specifically, four key long-term benefits include: 1. Strengthening the county's position to retain and attract large-scale business. 2. Lessen investment burden through cost sharing. 3. Strengthening the county's ability to provide jobs and economic opportunity throughout the county. 4. Increased tax base and revenue for the local community and the county.

Intended Beneficiary

The direct beneficiary of this program will be the local municipal government and its water/wastewater utility. However, through this direct beneficiary, there are numerous secondary beneficiaries including those future expanding businesses as well as new businesses locating in the region, the new jobs created by those businesses, and the tax revenue growth associated with those strategic investments.



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Estimated Cost

\$7,500,000.00

*Source of Funding

As mentioned previously, the funding model for this proposed program would be a 50% matching model, in which the county would provide 50% of the water and wastewater expansion service cost and be matched by a combination of private developer investment, municipal public investment, or other matching grant programs for the remaining 50%.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$7,500,000

Maximum Cost: \$7,500,000

Submitter Info

Name: Tim Mroz

Organization: The Right Place, Inc.

Project Overview

Funding Group: Infrastructure

Project Theme: Water and Sewer

Project Status: n/a

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

The Right Place will partner with each of the various municipalities and water/wastewater utilities in the county.

Project Management Experience

Since 1985, The Right Place has assisted hundreds of growing companies and developers in turning their construction vision into reality. Leveraging the organization's extensive network, our team is able to connect developers and businesses with expert local construction and financial management resources, while we manage real estate development relationships with local and state public resources. Additionally, during the COVID-19 pandemic, The Right Place was contracted by Kent County to lead an emergency rollout of public Wi-Fi access spots throughout Kent County. Nearly 80 parks and other public places across Kent County now offer free WiFi access.

Federal Funds Experience

Specifically, The Right Place has demonstrated expertise in: CDBG Administration: The Right Place current has 3 certified Community Development Block Grant Administrators on staff that will assist in the oversight and management of this grant. Covid-19 Emergency Small Business Grants: During the Covid-19 pandemic, The Right Place managed the oversight of 3 rounds of emergency small business grants (2 state grants, and one federal grant) totaling over \$15 million. Funds were distributed to nearly 1,700 West Michigan small businesses throughout the 13-county Region 4 prosperity region. Each grant passed multiple financial audits with no findings. Michigan Manufacturing Technology Center – West: For over 30 years, The Right Place has managed the federal grant management for the local Michigan Manufacturing Technology Center - West regional office. This grant program is funded through the federal Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP). CARES Act: During the COVID-19 pandemic, The Right Place received a \$600,000 CARES Act subgrant from Kent County to support specific COVID related economic development work outside the normal scope of the organization's standard services. This subgrant also received a clean audit report from the county independent auditing firm.

Studies on Impact

Although the research in the following USDA report pits urban against rural water and sewer facilities, the benefits identified by investing in water and sewer expansions cannot be denied. The report identifies both direct and indirect business beneficiaries as well as the economic impacts of such projects. https://www.ers.usda.gov/webdocs/publications/46984/19351_ra174f_1_.pdf?v=0 The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) partnered with the Value of Water Campaign to commission this study. It is part of ASCE's Failure to Act series, which began in 2011. It is one of five studies in the series that were released in 2020. This study also builds on the Value of Water Campaign's 2017 study The Economic Benefits of Investing in Water Infrastructure. http://www.uswateralliance.org/sites/uswateralliance.org/files/publications/The%20Economic%20Benefits%20of%20Investing%20in%20Water%20Infrastructure_final.pdf



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Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Water and wastewater infrastructure must be "necessary". Site prep in qualified tracts may be eligible.



Sustainability

One time costs



Feasibility

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$7,500,000

Maximum Cost: \$7,500,000

Submitter Info

Name: Tim Mroz

Organization: The Right Place, Inc.

Project Overview

Funding Group: Infrastructure

Project Theme: Water and Sewer

Project Status: n/a

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

The Right Place will partner with each of the various municipalities and water/wastewater utilities in the county.



PROJECT #80

Tyrone Township Funding Enhancement for residents of Geers/Gorby Drain district

Identify the need for the proposed project

We had a Special Board meeting to discuss our Drain bill, and township citizens came out to voice their concern on the severity of bills from the Kent County Drain Commission for the Geer/Gorby Intercounty Drainage District. All the attendees were not happy with having rec'd their bills on June 29th and having them due on July 8th or be put on their tax bills for the Winter cycle.

Brief Description

This project is a vital component to save many homeowners from bankruptcy or lose of their homes; while having the infrastructure of the drain being maintained after 30 years. We are looking for 2-5 million to help these homeowners and local blueberry farmers and other apple farmers to keep their properties. We were trying to let folks know that we would go to bat for them; any possible way we could think of! This is a possible way to help them maintain their properties, during this infrastructure project.

Long-Term Benefit

The long-term benefit of this project will be to have a intercounty drain that is structurally sound. The property owners of the Drainage District(Geers/Gorby),Tyrone Twp. residents in Kent County will have a completed project.

Intended Beneficiary

The property owners of the Drainage District.

Estimated Cost

2-5 million

Project Management Experience

We have been part of a previous project, during the COVID crisis, and done well!

Federal Funds Experience

We have worked with Federal Funds, previously!

Studies on Impact

Engineers were used on this original project makeup; by the County Drain Commission.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$2,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$5,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Shelley A Worley

Organization: Tyrone Township

Project Overview

Funding Group: Infrastructure

Project Theme: Water and Sewer

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Other Funding Source

n/a

Partnership

n/a

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

Debt payment is not eligible.

25

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT





PROJECT #60

West Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Headquarters

Identify the need for the proposed project

For 18 years, the West Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (WMHCC) has advanced economic opportunity for Hispanic/Latino owned businesses and supported the professional growth of Latinx residents in the West Michigan region. Over its history, the WMHCC has focused on gaining exposure around the community and creating relationships with stakeholders, community leaders, corporations, and government agencies. Through community engagement, the WMHCC has formed a unique coalition of individuals, institutions, and corporations all aligned in advancing the region's Latinx community. The organization is able to convene leaders to address the most pressing issues facing our community and develop intentional solutions to creating wealth within communities of color. As the WMHCC has expanded as programs have grown to impact more Latinx businesses and talent. WMHCC Talent Development offers culturally relevant programming that supports the development of Latinx talent to gain the knowledge and skills needed to thrive in the workforce. Emphasis is placed on networking, mentoring, coaching, and the understanding needed to thrive in the workforce. The organization has become a resource for regional Latinx talent and a conduit to diverse professionals for our partner institutions. WMHCC Business Development provides culturally relevant support to local Latinx businesses through a variety of programming, services, and tools designed to develop sustainable infrastructure and realize planned growth. These services are necessary as, although the Latinx community has proven to be entrepreneurial, they account for less than 5% of all business ownership in the region (U.S. Census Bureau, 2019). The WMHCC has become a regional strength, demonstrating to companies considering expansion within the region that West Michigan is serious about supporting its communities of color. Having a strong Hispanic Chamber makes the region more attractive to companies seeking expansion, driving economic development. Also, by supporting Hispanic/Latino businesses and professionals, the WMHCC is an economic driver for the region as it attracts and retains talented persons of color. However, the organization's current facility limits its ability to serve local businesses and Latinx professionals. In 2022, the WMHCC team completed a 10-year plan for expanded impact to meet the growing need for business and talent development services within the Latinx community. Over the next three years, the organization will add 15 administrative and programmatic staff positions to implement its plan to serve more Latinx professionals and entrepreneurs. These positions will be supported by increased earned revenue from services delivered; corporate and community sponsorship; local, state, and federal government grants; and philanthropy. Building from this plan, the WMHCC worked with Tower Pinkster and Erhardt Construction to design a new headquarters that is designed to accommodate a growing staff and expanded services. The project proposed is a result of these planning efforts.

Brief Description

The WMHCC plans to establish a new headquarters within the Southwest side of the City of Grand Rapids. The organization will renovate a 17,000 square foot building located in Grand Rapids' Roosevelt Park neighborhood at 1111 Godfrey Ave SW. This new facility will be a home for the organization's growing staff and serve as a hub where the Latinx entrepreneurial and professional community can access resources and support. The headquarters will provide space for workshops, educational programs, one-on-one consultations, and drop-in workspace. The facility will also include a commercial kitchen to facilitate community and business events within the space. The organization's current facility limits its ability to serve local businesses and Latinx professionals. By building an expanded headquarters, the WMHCC will be able to accommodate its growing staff and expanding programming for the benefit of Latinx businesses and professionals in the West Michigan region. The proposed new headquarters will be transformational, both in terms of neighborhood impact and regional impact as detailed further below.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$6,309,791

Maximum Cost: \$6,309,791

Submitter Info

Name: Guillermo Cisneros

Organization: West Michigan
Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation
and Workforce Development

Project Theme:
Workforce Development

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$6,309,791

Maximum Cost: \$6,309,791

Submitter Info

Name: Guillermo Cisneros

Organization: West Michigan
Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation
and Workforce Development

Project Theme:
Workforce Development

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Long-Term Benefit

The WMHCC's programs and services are designed to address economic inequities. This not only benefits the Latinx community, but the region as a whole. Within a regional equity profile of Grand Rapids, researchers concluded that if the racial/ethnic gaps in income had been closed, in 2014 the region's economy would have grown an additional \$4 billion, or 10 percent (PolicyLink, 2017). Latinx economic advancement will benefit not only the Latinx community, but the region as-a-whole.

Intended Beneficiary

The West Michigan region has significant wealth inequities along racial/ethnic lines. Latinx households in the region have a median income that is 21 percent lower than the household income of the region and 24 percent lower than that of White households (American Community Survey, 2020). In the PolicyLink study referenced above, researchers concluded that if racial/ethnic income inequities in the region are removed, the average Latinx person of working age would realize an income increase of 79 percent (PolicyLink, 2017). The neighborhood in which the facility is located is home to a large percentage of the region's Hispanic/Latino population, the fastest growing group in West Michigan. The WMHCC will anchor commercial development along the Godfrey corridor, enticing other organizations and businesses to redevelop the amazing stock of mid-century industrial buildings, many of which are vacant and blighted. We envision a trendy business district, with a mix of Hispanic/Latino owned businesses and non-profit organizations, creating a vibrant atmosphere to live, work, and visit – similar to the Distillery District in Toronto, Canada (www.thedistillerydistrict.com/); Bricktown in Oklahoma City (www.bricktownokc.com/); and Ponce City Market in Atlanta (www.poncecitymarket.com/). As a result, more businesses will choose to renovate commercial spaces along the Godfrey Corridor as a stronghold of Latinx businesses and culture. Beyond the neighborhood impact, the WMHCC headquarters will be the launching pad for business and talent development programs that serve all of Kent County and West Michigan. The regional impact will be felt by communities that are home to growing Latinx-owned businesses that receive support, companies diversifying their workforce with Latinx professionals, and communities who host companies relocating to the region because of its commitment to inclusive economic development. As a result, disparities in income and business ownership will diminish, leading to more economic growth in Kent County. Finally, investment in the Latinx community will provide a long-term return on investment for its local government investors, such as Kent County. Thriving Latinx businesses and professionals lead to increased tax revenue through property taxes and millage payments. As previously discussed, there is tremendous opportunity in the region to address racial/ethnic economic disparities and increase GDP in Kent County by as much as 10 percent, leading to a more prosperous and equitable region and to increased revenue for local government.

*Partnership

The WMHCC partners with variety of community and educational organizations to deliver program and services to Latino/Hispanic businesses and talent. Partners that support the full spectrum of talent and business development programming, providing expertise and financial commitments include colleges and universities such as Grand Valley State University, Western Michigan University, and Ferris State University. Corporate and business partners include DTE, Bank of America, Flagstar Bank, Huntington Bank, Steelcase, Spectrum Health Amway, Haworth, Bethany Christian Services, Gordon Food Service, Miller Knoll, Kellogg Company, Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital, West Michigan Works, and West Michigan Whitecaps. Strategic collaboration has also historically included partnership with entities such as The Right Place, the City of Grand Rapids, and Kent County. The WMHCC looks forward to continuing and strengthen these relationships as well as forge new partnerships with entities such as the Michigan Economic Development Corporation.



(Page 3)

Estimated Cost

\$6,309,791.00

*Source of Funding

The WMHCC is requesting \$3 million from the Kent County ARPA funding process. The organization will launch a capital campaign in late 2022 to raise the additional funds necessary to complete the construction project. Funds will be sought from the City of Grand Rapids, State of Michigan, regional corporations, foundations, and individual supporters. Kennari Consulting has been hired to support the organization through the planning and implementation of the campaign.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$6,309,791

Maximum Cost: \$6,309,791

Submitter Info

Name: Guillermo Cisneros

Organization: West Michigan
Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation
and Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Project Management Experience

The WMHCC serves the West Michigan region, with most of its reach being within Kent County. As an example, one of the organization's successful programs is Building Bridges Through Education (BBTE). BBTE is an education and workforce development initiative focused on growing a dynamic and inclusive workforce in West Michigan and impact the workplace by cultivating a Latino talent pipeline. Each year, the BBTE program serves 100+ Latinx professionals by providing career readiness training, coaching, and placement for each participant. Graduates of BBTE are assisting Kent County and West Michigan companies in diversifying their workforce and generating upward mobility of Latinx individuals and families.

Federal Funds Experience

The WMHCC has not previously worked with federal funds. However, the organization has built a project team with extensive experience in securing and administering federal funds for construction projects. This team includes Tower Pinkster (design), Erhardt Construction (construction management), Honor Construction (owner's representative), and Kennari Consulting (fundraising and grant writing).

Studies on Impact

Growing Latinx businesses and business ownership was the topic of a study released by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York in 2018. The study documented the emerging trends in Latinx-owned businesses and the barriers they face, all of which are experienced by businesses in Kent County. These trends include a reliance on informal financing to start and grow, high personal finance risk, credit availability, and lack access to talent to scale. The study concluded that "density of existing business networks makes certain geographies more hospitable to Latino business growth, as do mentorship and capacity building programs." This perfectly summarizes the role of the WMHCC in Kent County as the organization fills a much-needed gap in services for Latinx businesses and for professionals to fill much needed jobs. As the region seeks to increase the number and scale of Latinx-owned businesses as well as a more diverse workforce, expansion of the WMHCC is critical to continue current trends to make Kent County's economy truly inclusive and prosperous for all. The study can be downloaded from the following link:

<https://www.newyorkfed.org/medialibrary/media/smallbusiness/2017/Report-on-Latinx-Owned-Small-Businesses.pdf>

Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)



Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Located in QCT; may be eligible as infrastructure/workforce development



Sustainability

Has multiple partners



Feasibility

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$6,309,791

Maximum Cost: \$6,309,791

Submitter Info

Name: Guillermo Cisneros

Organization: West Michigan
Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation
and Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

PROJECT #11

Microenterprise Training and Business Management Support



Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$50,000

Maximum Cost: \$50,000

Submitter Info

Name: Angel Braden

Organization:
Netmark Management

Project Overview

Funding Group:

Economic Innovation and
Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

n/a

Identify the Need for the Proposed Project

Through conversations with micro to small business owners adjusting to doing business after or during a pandemic. Many lack the information needed to make educated decisions on business automation solutions that could have sustained them through the pandemic and or helped pivot to providing remote services. Business owners we have spoken to also struggle with having the funding to hire business support staff to help them grow their businesses.

Brief Description

We propose to implement a 3 step program for eligible businesses to stabilize their operations. Step 1. Assessment. We would meet with individual business owners to assess their operational needs to identify gaps and barriers to stabilization. Step 2. We would complete training sessions on how to improve operations in the areas of accounting systems hr systems, and customer support systems. Step 3. We would offer in-house administrative support to implement any new operational systems.

Long-Term Benefit

Our goal is to help local businesses reduce cost and therefore increase revenue by implementing sustainable operational systems. These systems reduce cost by improving employee and customer retention. If we can help local businesses stabilize their operations, we can help them grow. Our business community is paramount to the success of Kent County. Long-term we believe a healthy business community will encourage individuals to open new businesses as well.

Intended Beneficiary

Our goal is to help local businesses reduce cost and therefore increase revenue by implementing sustainable operational systems. These systems reduce cost by improving employee and customer retention. If we can help local businesses stabilize their operations, we can help them grow. Our business community is paramount to the success of Kent County. Long-term we believe a healthy business community will encourage individuals to open new businesses as well.

Estimated Cost

\$50,000.00

Project Management Experience

The owner of our organization has worked for the past 20 years as an Operations Lead providing similar guidance to the outlined project herein for large multi-state projects.

Federal Funds Experience

While working with nationwide non-profits in the area of operations. The owner of our organization has managed projects with funding from several federal size funders such as Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Lumina Foundation.

Studies on Impact

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/jeffboss/2016/11/01/5-ways-your-business-processes-could-be-hurting-your-business/?sh=8a28b0452e9f>



Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$50,000
Maximum Cost: \$50,000

Submitter Info

Name: Angel Braden
Organization:
Netmark Management

Project Overview

Funding Group:
Economic Innovation and
Workforce Development
Project Theme:
Workforce Development
Project Status: New Project
Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

n/a

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Small business support is eligible



Sustainability

This program is a one time response



Feasibility

PROJECT #70

Fuel the Movement: Innovative Workforce Development for Economic Mobility



Identify the need for the proposed project

The Grand Rapids Center for Community Transformation (GRCCT) has a seemingly simple mission: Creating opportunities for transformation. But what does transformation really mean, and how can it be effective and sustainable? Businesses and nonprofit organizations have been trying for decades to achieve meaningful change, especially in urban communities where inequality too often runs rampant. What is GRCCT doing differently?

To start, GRCCT is building a new way to collaborate by addressing the lack of structured, consistent, and sustainable approaches to providing interagency and cross-sector opportunities for the community. We work together – strategically and intentionally – to develop clear pathways to success for young adults and community residents. Our focus on positive youth development, educational attainment, job training, and community and economic growth requires long-lasting, deep-rooted collaboration. This type of work creates a positive ripple effect across all our community systems, improving outcomes throughout multiple domains. In our expansive, multi-use space right in the heart of the neighborhood, GRCCT has become the perfect platform and ecosystem for transformation.

GRCCT's entire mission is centered around addressing the historical inequities of the 49507 neighborhoods where systemic discrimination and perpetual disinvestment have created under-resourced communities and residents face significant barriers to achieving economic mobility. But the impact of our work is already county wide, and even nationally and globally GRCCT is increasingly gaining attention for our innovative approach to partnership. The issue of racial justice is paramount, as these are communities with the greatest concentration of people of color in all of Kent County. Further, GRCCT is located in the Third Ward of Grand Rapids, where analysis shows a severe disparity in private and public investment compared to the other two wards. Between 2012-17, private investors spent \$1.29 billion on new developments and expansions of old developments citywide, using government tax incentives like the Brownfield Redevelopment Program. Of that, only 1.5 percent – or \$19.4 million – went toward projects in the Third Ward. That is compared to \$750 million and \$516 million in the First and Second wards, respectively. Additionally, the City of Grand Rapids often spends more on infrastructure in the First and Second wards than the Third Ward. Of the \$68.5 million in "location-specific" capital investments in the Fiscal Year 2020 budget, about 12.6 percent went to the Third Ward (1). With minimal investment, these neighborhoods see minimal economic development and job growth.

By focusing on system-level strategies that advance community-wide business growth, workforce development, and authentic community engagement, GRCCT is creating pathways for residents to advocate for their needs, gain skills and credentials, and achieve economic mobility. This is the approach needed to counteract the historical inequities faced by this community. Because of our unique positioning, we are primed to implement our "Fuel the Movement" initiative that leverages and enhances our existing components and strengths to build on local community assets. This is an expansion of our first phase of work – "Ignite the Movement" – which allowed us to purchase and renovate a 33,000 square foot building in the heart of the Madison Square community. In this Fuel the Movement stage, we are designing and implementing strategies that create a cohesive approach, organizational capacity, and infrastructure to expand and sustain innovative workforce development opportunities and support BIPOC businesses and entrepreneurs, which will have a significant impact for residents throughout Kent County.

(1). Hick, J. (2019) Mlive.com. Grand Rapids ward with highest black population gets least investment from city.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$3,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$4,000,000

ARPA Request: \$3,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Dr. Justin Beene

Organization: Grand Rapids Center for Community Transformation

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

GRCCT has secured \$330,000 per year for three years for the Fuel the Movement initiative from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and Shine Foundation. We are also actively working with other foundations to support the work.

Partnership

(Listed in main description)



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$3,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$4,000,000

ARPA Request: \$3,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Dr. Justin Beene

Organization: Grand Rapids Center for Community Transformation

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

GRCCT has secured \$330,000 per year for three years for the Fuel the Movement initiative from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and Shine Foundation. We are also actively working with other foundations to support the work.

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Brief Description

Fuel the Movement builds off the successful momentum GRCCT has cultivated over the past several years. With our founding partners (NAACP-GR, Grand Rapids Nehemiah Project, Building Bridges Professional Services, Rising Grinds Café, and Bethany Christian Services), a multi-purpose space, and neighborhood trust, we are well-positioned to implement tangible, results-oriented strategies that engage residents in opportunities that support individual economic mobility and community-wide inclusive growth. Fuel the Movement's multipronged approach falls into two categories, each with a set of aligned strategies:

1. Workforce Development: creating 500 new job placements throughout Kent County by providing employment skills training; vocational training in construction, landscaping, and hospitality; developing career pipelines with at least 45 employers; and facilitating up to 20 innovative partnerships between employers and universities that connect people to training and jobs.
2. Supporting BIPOC businesses and entrepreneurs: providing capacity-building and technical assistance to entities in Kent County:
 - a) training up to 20 businesses/nonprofits in the Entrepreneurial Operating System, a practical framework for optimizing all aspects of an organization.
 - b) training up to 30 leaders of color through a two-year executive coaching process.
 - c) offering space at GRCCT's state-of-the-art event venue and commercial kitchen to uplift up to 25 minority/women-owned food companies; and host

Long-Term Benefit

By expanding vocational training opportunities, facilitating the design of career pathways, creating innovative partnerships that connect people to employment, and providing training, capacity building, and space for BIPOC entrepreneurs and businesses to thrive, GRCCT is putting the infrastructure in place to support small business growth, increase employment rates, and advance equitable community development for the communities that have been the most underserved.

Intended Beneficiary

This type of cohesive, place-based, community-level project is needed to address the increasingly evident impacts of COVID-19 on communities of color, who have experienced greater rates of unemployment due to the pandemic compared to White individuals (1). This project is concentrated in the 49507 neighborhoods which have high rates of individuals who are Hispanic (37%) and Black or African American (31%) (2). Now more than ever, it is imperative to create access and ongoing support for living-wage jobs that cultivate both individual self-sufficiency and inclusive economic growth for under-resourced communities. (1.) Gemelas, J., Davison, J., Keltner, C., & Ing, S. (2022). Inequities in Employment by Race, Ethnicity, and Sector During COVID-19. Journal of racial and ethnic health disparities, 9(1), 350–355. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40615-021-00963-3> (2.) American Community Survey. Table S0501. 2020 5-Year Estimates.

Estimated Cost

\$3 million - \$4 million (\$1 million/year for 3 years)



(Page 3)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$3,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$4,000,000

ARPA Request: \$3,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Dr. Justin Beene

Organization: Grand Rapids Center for Community Transformation

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

GRCCT has secured \$330,000 per year for three years for the Fuel the Movement initiative from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and Shine Foundation. We are also actively working with other foundations to support the work.

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

*Partnership

GRCCT's existence is based on partnership and collaboration; as an entity, GRCCT is comprised of distinct partners who share the same space and are committed to a set of shared goals. All of these organizations will play a part in this initiative. These partners include:

- **Building Bridges Professional Services:** a social enterprise committed to hiring local residents and providing landscape maintenance, design and install, and snow removal services to the community. Young adults can gain employment experience and earn a living wage while also participating in money management classes, employment workshops, resume building seminars, educational support services, anger management exercises, and much more.
- **Rising Grinds Café:** a social enterprise coffee shop hiring local residents and providing a space for community relationship building around good coffee and food. The model utilizes business to meet community and social needs and is committed to creating a place where individuals from all segments of society can relax, be themselves, and connect over coffee.
- **Bethany Christian Services Youth Services Department:** comprehensive, strengths-based programming to provide opportunities for at-risk youth to thrive, including classes that teach life skills and healthy decision making, a leadership and mentoring program, education opportunities such as high school completion/credit recovery and GED classes, and career exploration through vocational training, internships, and more.
- **Grand Rapids Nehemiah Project:** the backbone organization and fiduciary of the GRCCT collaborative work, The Nehemiah Project develops community-based initiatives and social enterprises and create opportunities for engaging the broader community in learning, leadership development, and a rethinking of systemic approaches to change. It is the parent company of Building Bridges and Rising Grinds Café and is focused on increasing innovative supportive employment opportunities that support the individuals and families working within the social enterprise structure and neighboring small businesses.
- **NAACP of Greater Grand Rapids:** as part of the worldwide network of more than 2,200 branches of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the Greater Grand Rapids NAACP is proudly dedicated to eradicating racial discrimination and building a stronger society where all individuals have equal rights. These partners will leverage their unique strengths and assets to contribute to the training, capacity building, and partnership development components that comprise the Fuel the Movement initiative. GRCCT also is planning for additional partnerships to strengthen supportive employment (The Source, Amplify GR); career and entrepreneurial development (Tack Electronics, First Companies, ScottsLawn Care, LLC); and sustainable enterprise (TEC executive coaching, EOS Entrepreneurial Operating System, The 1530 venue).

Project Management Experience

GRCCT has built – from the ground up – an innovative, place-based collaborative that has fueled significant growth and progress in a part of the community that everyone else had left – spurring the movement we see today to revitalize southeast Grand Rapids. The skills and capacity needed to manage and lead such an all-encompassing effort are substantial. Indeed, where else in the county might one go to attend high school completion courses, earn a vocational certificate in construction, find a case manager to help navigate housing instability, get paired with a mentor, participate in an anti-racism workshop, find a job with living wages, and host their quinceanera at the same place? GRCCT is working every day to mobilize the partners and resources needed to catalyze a movement for transformation that affirms the dignity of each and every person while also cultivating systems that are more equitable and effective in building wealth from generation to generation. Additionally, as previously mentioned, GRCCT has extensive experience administering multi-million-dollar federal, state, and county grants, which has required rigorous project and financial management, systematic community engagement throughout all processes, strong communication and collaboration processes, evaluation, and longterm planning. We are well-positioned to continue to grow and scale our work. Specifically, operators at GRCCT have managed multiple Paycheck Protection Program loans, City of Grand Rapids Community Development Block Grant funds, federal grants through the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Labor, and Kent County funds administered through the Area Agency on Aging.



(Page 4)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$3,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$4,000,000

ARPA Request: \$3,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Dr. Justin Beene

Organization: Grand Rapids Center for Community Transformation

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

GRCCT has secured \$330,000 per year for three years for the Fuel the Movement initiative from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and Shine Foundation. We are also actively working with other foundations to support the work.

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Federal Funds Experience

GRCCT staff have administered several federal grants, including the Department of Labor's YouthBuild program, and the Administration for Children and Family's READY4Life program, a Health Marriage and Relationship Education grant, a Sexual Risk Avoidance Education program, and the TANF Family Self-Sufficiency Demonstration Development project, among many others. Dr. Justin Beene, the Founder and Visionary of GRCCT, has managed over 15 federal grants in his role and has spoken at many federal and state conferences on grant management and innovative design. These grants typically include collaboration with other partners, so the organization is also familiar with the processes and requirements associated with federal funding and partnership. GRCCT has a full time CPA on staff to support the work, along with a robust set of federal grant processes and best practices that allow it to capture federal funding while also allowing it to benefit the local community.

Studies on Impact

The Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland published a white paper in April 2022 titled "Successful Workforce Development Programs: Four Lessons from Four Decades of Federal Reserve Research and Outreach." This comprehensive literature review highlighted four components associated with successful workforce development programs that all align with Fuel the Movement's strategies: 1. Collaboration and commitment are essential for building effective programs. Specifically, collaboration across public, private, and nonprofit entities is essential to a successful workforce development program, with an emphasis on highly engaged employers. 2. Communication between employers, workers, and trainers is needed to ensure that programs tackle the right problems. To improve workforce outcomes there needs to be better communication between employers and workers about what each wants and needs. 3. Effective workforce development programs recognize that place matters. Economic opportunity is tied not only to individual circumstances but also to place. Upward mobility – the probability that a child will be better off economically than his or her parents – is dependent not only on the family's characteristics but also on neighborhood characteristics such

Supporting Documentation

- [1. Letter of Support #1](#)
- [2. Letter of Support #2](#)
- [3. Letter of Support #3](#)
- [4. Letter of Support #4](#)

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Workforce development is eligible



Sustainability

Limited project with several strong partnerships.



Feasibility



PROJECT #274

Kent ISD New American Career Pathways Program

Identify the need for the proposed project

Kent ISD supports more than 1300 adult learners in Kent County (46% are low-income and 53% have low-level literacy). Increasingly, Kent ISD's Adult Education programs have served as a critical resource to Kent County's immigrant/refugee population in reducing poverty and assisting them in becoming valuable members of Michigan's workforce. According to KentCountyNewAmericans.org, it is estimated that the economic power of Grand Rapids' immigrant community alone grew by more than \$100 million last year, and immigrants in Grand Rapids hold nearly \$1.5 billion in spending power. This project will not only assist with providing support services needed at an individual/family level, but also advance our local economy by ensuring New Americans are provided an opportunity to reach their full potential. Kent ISD Adult Education seeks to expand under a pilot initiative to serve a cohort of 100 New Americans and refugees. This will build on existing Kent ISD Adult Ed. programs that already serve New Americans. However, our current programs were not designed specifically to address the unique needs of immigrants. This expansion will create a 12-month program, unlike Kent ISD's traditional Adult Education programs that operate on a school year schedule. Disruptions, such as a summer break, can cause delays in assisting vulnerable populations to access services needed to gain employment, and prolonged breaks increase the odds that a student will disengage altogether. Students in poverty and underemployed will be the majority of the participants enrolled in this pilot.

Brief Description

Students engaged in programming will receive assistance in obtaining a GED, English Language Learner services, accessing community resources, and obtaining credentials in high-wage career fields. This project will help New Americans reach self-sufficiency by securing employment in high-demand, high-wage professional trades in West Michigan. This in turn will assist West Michigan employers meet a growing demand for a skilled workforce, resulting in continued economic growth. As part of this initiative, Kent ISD will build on existing partnerships with the following entities to support New Americans: Bethany Christian Services, Samaritas, Michigan Immigrant Rights Center, Hispanic Center of West Michigan, West Michigan Works, Grand Rapids Community College, Grand Valley State University, Michigan Association of Community and Adult Education, and local public school districts in Kent County. Funding will be used to support a Program Navigator, ESL Instructor, transportation supports, job training programs, assistance with foreign transcript evaluations/licensing, and programmatic supplies/technology.

Long-Term Benefit

This project will help New Americans reach self-sufficiency by securing employment in high-demand, high-wage professional trades in West Michigan. This in turn will assist West Michigan employers meet a growing demand for a skilled workforce, resulting in continued economic growth.

Intended Beneficiary

New Americans in Kent County

*Partnership

As part of this initiative, Kent ISD will build on existing partnerships with the following entities to support New Americans: Bethany Christian Services, Samaritas, Michigan Immigrant Rights Center, Hispanic Center of West Michigan, West Michigan Works, Grand Rapids Community College, Grand Valley State University, Michigan Association of Community and Adult Education, and local public school districts in Kent County. Letters of support are provided by MACAE, GRCC, and GVSU.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$350,000

Maximum Cost: \$700,000

Submitter Info

Name: Oogie Lamar

Organization: Kent ISD

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)



(Page 2)

Estimated Cost

\$350,000 (12 months) - \$700,000 (24 months)

*Source of Funding

Kent ISD will leverage funding, such as the Adult Education Section 107 Special Programs grant (\$350,000), as well as pursue additional funding to sustain programming. Kent ISD has a pending federal grant request to support New American Career Pathways programming (\$350,000). If awarded, this grant will supplement ARPA funding, extending the project period for an additional year. The proposed grant range requested from Kent Co. ARPA funding is \$350,000 for one year of funding and \$700,000 for two years of funding (preferred).

Project Management Experience

Kent ISD is an educational service agency serving more than 300 schools, 20 public school districts, three non-public districts, and many public school academies (charters) and non-public schools within its boundaries. Kent ISD provides essential services to local school districts at an economy of scale that individual districts are unable to achieve on their own. These services range from training and professional development, technical assistance, IT support, transportation, finance, special education, career and technical education, early childhood programs, and adult education.

Federal Funds Experience

Kent ISD is experienced in working with federal funding and has the financial controls in place to ensure successful administration and compliance. Kent ISD's federal grants are a combination of formula grants and competitive grant funding. Recent competitive federal grants administered by Kent ISD include U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, Human Trafficking Youth Prevention Education (HTYPE) Demonstration Grant, U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, Phase 1 – Teenage Pregnancy Prevention, U.S. Dept. of Education Community Funding Request, and Project AWARE.

Studies on Impact

Yes. This project is modeled after the Refugee Career Pathways Program through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$350,000

Maximum Cost: \$700,000

Submitter Info

Name: Oogie Lamar

Organization: Kent ISD

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Guidehouse Ranking Notes

 **Eligibility**

Workforce development for the unemployed is eligible

 **Sustainability**

1-2 year program

 **Feasibility**

PROJECT #90

Investing in Minority-Owned Restaurants Impacted by COVID: Building a Cohort to Launch Packaged Foods



Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$281,250

Maximum Cost: \$281,250

ARPA Request: \$281,250

Submitter Info

Name: Kendra Wills

Organization: Michigan State University Extension

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

The Grand Rapids Downtown Market Incubator Kitchen Manager, Start Garden, GROW, West Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, SpringGR, Asian Pacific Foundation, Kent County Health Department, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and Meijer.

Identify the need for the proposed project

According to research by the Global Resilience Institute at Northeastern University, minority-owned independent companies are disproportionately affected by the financial consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. According to the National Bureau of Economic Research, 41 percent of Black-owned businesses shutdown immediately after the pandemic hit in March 2020. Small, minority owned businesses face greater challenges of accessing credit during an average year and this has also been exacerbated by the pandemic. Based on data from the 2018 Small Business Credit Survey, it was found that large banks approve around 60 percent of loans sought by white small-business owners, 50 percent of those sought by Hispanic or Latinx small-business owners, and just 29 percent of those sought by Black small-business owners. In its 2022 State of the Restaurant Industry report, the National Restaurant Association states that the food service industry is expected to grow by 400,000 jobs. In the same report, 88% of restaurant customers indicate interest in purchasing an expanded menu of food items for takeout or delivery and 57% of adults say they are interested in participating in a meal subscription program from their favorite restaurants. The demand for packaged foods from restaurants is increasing. We also remember that in 2015, Forbes ranked Grand Rapids, Michigan as the second-worst U.S. metropolitan statistical area economically for African Americans and according to a 2019 study by the personal finance website WalletHub, Grand Rapids, Michigan ranked 101 out of 182 cities across the nation for Latino entrepreneurship. Kent/MSU Extension and the Michigan State University (MSU) Product Center have a unique set of skills and technical expertise to provide education to entrepreneurs working to launch packaged food products. Since 2020, the MSU Product Center has assisted 184 Kent County entrepreneurs with their food businesses. The MSU Product Center provides shelf stability testing and product classification, which is required for licensing of many products. In addition, MSU provides a wide variety of food safety certification courses, which are required for certain food products. The MSU Product Center believes that investment in an educational program targeted at minority owned restaurants in Kent County that have been negatively impacted by COVID will result in greater profitability and sustainability for these businesses. Investing in minority owned restaurants is

Brief Description

Minority-owned restaurants in Kent County make a positive contribution to the county's tourism industry and quality of life. To offset the negative impact of the pandemic, MSU Extension is proposing an educational program targeted at 60 Kent County minority-owned restaurants over two years (30 businesses each year). Priority will be given to businesses with at least 10 employees and those that serve low-income Census tracts. The results of this educational program will be 60 minority-owned restaurants in Kent County that have the knowledge, skills, funding, and expertise they need to launch one or more packaged food products. By launching a line of packaged foods, these minority-owned restaurants will diversify their business income, become more profitable, and create increased stability for business owners and employees. Several area organizations that support minority entrepreneurs will be tapped as project partners to help recruit and select cohort participants. These organizations will also be asked to provide expertise and support to cohort participants. A one-day trip to attend the National Restaurant Association trade show in Chicago, IL is requested to learn best practices from restaurant industry experts.

Long-Term Benefit

The pandemic negatively impacted minority communities more than others. Minority-owned restaurants are an important job provider, and many serve low-income areas. Investment in minority-owned restaurants can help Kent County become a more equitable and inclusive community. This investment also has the potential to make a positive contribution to our tourism industry. Experience Grand Rapids cites culinary tourism as a strong driver of growth. Minority-owned restaurants are an asset.



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$281,250

Maximum Cost: \$281,250

ARPA Request: \$281,250

Submitter Info

Name: Kendra Wills

Organization: Michigan State University Extension

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

The Grand Rapids Downtown Market Incubator Kitchen Manager, Start Garden, GROW, West Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, SpringGR, Asian Pacific Foundation, Kent County Health Department, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and Meijer.

Intended Beneficiary

600 people who are minority business restaurant owners or employees at 60 Kent County restaurants that have been impacted by COVID and that are interested in launching a packaged food product(s).

Estimated Cost

\$281,250.00

Project Management Experience

Michigan State University Extension is a statewide organization with an office in Kent County, which focuses on serving the needs of Kent County residents. MSU Extension offers many programs on a county-wide basis including: 4H Youth Development, nutrition education programs, Master Gardener, MSU Product Center business counseling, parenting and social-emotional health education.

Federal Funds Experience

Michigan State University Extension (MSUE) is well equipped to provide oversight for this grant and funding. For over 100 years, MSUE helps grow Michigan's economy by equipping Michigan residents with the information that they need to do their jobs better, raise healthy and safe families, build their communities and empower our children to dream of a successful future. The duties and responsibilities of MSU fiscal officers and their delegates include providing daily oversight on how University funds are spent and managed. This oversight includes ensuring funds are budgeted, spent according to fiscal policy and in alignment with the account purpose. Staff ensure processes and controls are in place, assets are safeguarded, transactions are recorded and reported properly, and the account is reconciled monthly. Expenditures must be in conformity with the budget, or appropriate budget changes are made to reflect a change in the original budget. Additional fiscal control and accountability procedures for Michigan State University may be found in MSU's Manual of Business Procedures:

<https://ctrl.msu.edu/combp>. MSU's external funding totaled \$563 million for FY 2021 and the top federal funding agencies are: U.S. Department of Education, Department of Energy, National Science Foundation, Department of Health and Human Services, U.S. Agency for International Development, Department of Agriculture, Department of Defense, and Department of Justice. Examples of successful management of Federal awards include the Facility for Rare Isotope Beams (FRIB) and AgBioResearch.

Studies on Impact

This report from the Center for American Progress outlines some important steps for creating conditions for economic growth and opportunities within Black communities in the U.S. One of the recommendations (#2 on the list) is for federal investment in universities and other minority serving organizations to create programs and incubation spaces to support minority entrepreneurs and business owners

Supporting Documentation

[1. Letter of Support #1](#)

[2. Letter of Support #2](#)



(Page 3)

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Workforce development for the unemployed is eligible



Sustainability

Two year program



Feasibility

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$281,250

Maximum Cost: \$281,250

ARPA Request: \$281,250

Submitter Info

Name: Kendra Wills

Organization: Michigan State University Extension

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

The Grand Rapids Downtown Market Incubator Kitchen Manager, Start Garden, GROW, West Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, SpringGR, Asian Pacific Foundation, Kent County Health Department, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and Meijer.



PROJECT #98

Legal Assistance Center (Legal Self-Help Services)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$400,000

Maximum Cost: \$12,000,000

ARPA Request: \$400,000

Submitter Info

Name: Deborah J. Hughes

Organization:

Legal Assistance Center

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: Existing Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

The LAC receives some grant funding along with charitable gifts each year. Although the other sources are not directly committed as a match for ARPA funds, other funding would more than exceed by 51% or more this grant request.

Partnership

n/a

Identify the need for the proposed project

The people of Kent County, like those across the country, face significant unmet legal needs. For most, traditional legal representation is out of reach. Legal Aid services are only available to a limited number of very low income persons. As a result 70-80% of people who appear in civil court are not represented by a lawyer, but represent themselves. The self-represented encounter a system that was not designed for them and remains complex, opaque, and intimidating. Conceptually developed by visionary local attorneys who collaborated with the community, the Legal Assistance Center (LAC) opened to the public in 2002. In the 20 years since, the community need has only grown. For 2022, the LAC is on track to serve 22,000 people in Kent County solve basic legal problems and use the courts on their own. With a few skilled staff leveraged by trained volunteers, the LAC offers legal information, forms, resources, guidance, and referrals to help people help themselves to meet their legal needs. Providing services in person on a walk-in basis and remotely by phone, those needing legal help can speak directly to someone who can answer their questions, empower them with information, provide them guidance on next steps, and help them navigate the legal process and legal problems.

Brief Description

The LAC seeks support for legally skilled staff to provide direct services, train and support volunteers, and to develop new and innovative tools and resources to assist the public to more effectively and efficiently solve legal problems and use the courts.

Long-Term Benefit

Resolved legal issues, improve lives, families, and the community when solutions decrease the need for court involvement, social services, and law enforcement while increasing the ability to engage in productive work, retain housing, sustain families, minimize conflict, and fully participate in the economic life of the community. Courts work more effectively and efficiently when people are knowledgeable and prepared. Employees are fully present and engaged when free from worry and stress.

Intended Beneficiary

Everyone is welcome to get legal help at the LAC. Those served at the LAC represent the broad diversity of our community including every racial and ethnic group and adults of all ages. Over 90% of those served at the LAC are residents of Kent County, others have matters pending in Kent County courts. 57% have incomes under \$30,000. LAC patrons come from all walks of life including manufacturing, service and retail, medical services, education, banking, and numerous trades.

Estimated Cost

\$400,000 (\$100,000 per year through 2020/2023 - 2026): Total Project Cost: \$12,000,000



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$400,000

Maximum Cost: \$12,000,000

ARPA Request: \$400,000

Submitter Info

Name: Deborah J. Hughes

Organization:

Legal Assistance Center

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: Existing Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

The LAC receives some grant funding along with charitable gifts each year. Although the other sources are not directly committed as a match for ARPA funds, other funding would more than exceed by 51% or more this grant request.

Partnership

n/a

Project Management Experience

The LAC has been a fully functioning program since 2002. As a 501(c)(3) Michigan nonprofit corporation, the LAC has a full-time, experienced Executive Director, a business and operational infrastructure, and an active and engaged Board.

Federal Funds Experience

Our experience with federal funding is limited to a CARES Act grant received in 2020. Some additional accounting infrastructure may be needed the cost of which is not included in the funding request listed above.

Studies on Impact

The LAC's own program evaluation data for 2021 shows of LAC patrons, 99% were satisfied with their experience, 99% received the help they needed, 93% were able to accomplish what they wanted, 93% would return for additional help, and 100% would recommend the LAC to others. The State of California offers legal self-help services across the state. The CA Judicial Council provided these reports to their legislature about the impact of self-help center services in 2021 and 2022:

<https://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/lr-2022-narrative-self-help-supplement.pdf> and

<https://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/lr-2021-self-help-centers-funding-analysis-BA-2018-gov-code-9795.pdf>.

Supporting Documentation

[Supplement to LAC Kent County ARPA Funding Request](#)

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Small business grant eligible



Sustainability

4 year program



Feasibility



PROJECT #105

West Michigan Construction Institute Phase II Expansion

Identify the need for the proposed project

The commercial construction industry is a driving force in the West Michigan economy. As the region continues to prosper, it is the local craft professionals who will build our schools, our civic buildings, our hospitals, and our commercial centers. Their imprint is all around our region. However, there is a looming challenge that directly threatens the success of our economy and the future of our region. The already painful labor gap in the construction industry is only getting worse. Without action not only will the industry suffer, but our communities will feel the ripple effect of not having enough highly qualified tradespeople. In the next 15 years, 48% of Michigan's current construction workforce are expected to retire. Furthermore, the number of high school graduates entering the workforce has declined every year since 2008 and will continue to decline throughout the next decade (Construction Industry Resources, 2018). COVID-19 further exacerbated this issue as retirements continued, but the pipeline of talented workers did not grow. Even though the West Michigan construction industry is projected to grow 8% over the next ten years (2018-2028), a decline in skilled tradespeople will no doubt stifle that growth (Michigan Department of Technology, Management, & Budget, 2018). The commercial construction industry provides a path to fulfilling and well-paying lifelong careers. Many people prefer to work in a hands-on environment where they get to achieve a goal by being active and working as part of a team. In the construction industry, people get to experience the rewards of their hard work every day as the buildings that support our community spring to life right in front of our eyes. The growing skills gap provides tremendous opportunity to our region's students and adults who are seeking a career.

The West Michigan Construction Institute (WMCI) is an industry-led response to the growing skilled labor gap in the commercial construction industry. Three years ago, the Associated Builders and Contractors, Western Michigan Chapter (ABC-WM) convened a working committee of industry leaders to plan and implement the WMCI project. Leaders from the construction industry, post-secondary education, K-12 education, workforce development, and the non-profit sector have been involved with the development process for the WMCI. They were involved in the decision-making process regarding how to proceed in addressing the growing skilled labor gap. Additionally, industry councils have been developed to co-design and customize curriculum delivered at the WMCI. This ensures that the Institute's programming best prepares students with the skills necessary to be successful in their career. Finally, during development of the Institute, focus groups were held with skilled workers within the commercial construction industry to gain their perspective. This work culminated with the opening of the Institute in January 2022. The pent-up demand for a pipeline of talent led to immediate enrollment in the Institute's craft training course, high school program, professional development and certification programs, and summer camps. This success has driven increased demand for new programs and new partnerships which has spurred the WMCI board to advance plans for a Phase II expansion. This expansion is needed to serve the region with additional educational programming preparing craft professionals for high demand, well-paying jobs in the commercial construction industry. As Kent County looks to infuse over \$100 million in capital investment in the region over the next four years, the availability of skilled trades workers within the commercial construction industry will be critical to success. A shortage in talent extends construction timelines, reduces overall quality, and increases construction budgets. This is just one example of how many industries are impacted by the current talent shortage in commercial construction.

WORKS CITED Construction Industry Resources, LLC (2018). "CLMA® Skilled Labor Market Insights Report: Grand Rapids." Prepared for Associated Builders and Contractors. Michigan Department of Technology, Management, & Budget (2018). "Industry Employment Projections: 2018-2028." State of Michigan.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$3,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$3,000,000

ARPA Request: \$1,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Jen Schottke

Organization: West Michigan Construction Institute

Project Overview

Funding Group:

Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

The WMCI has secured \$2 million from the State of Michigan through an appropriation in the 2023 Budget. These funds will be matched with \$1 million from the Kent County ARPA grant (if approved) to complete the project.

Partnership

(Listed in main description)



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$3,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$3,000,000

ARPA Request: \$1,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Jen Schottke

Organization: West Michigan Construction Institute

Project Overview

Funding Group:

Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

The WMCI has secured \$2 million from the State of Michigan through an appropriation in the 2023 Budget. These funds will be matched with \$1 million from the Kent County ARPA grant (if approved) to complete the project.

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Brief Description

The WMCI is planning a 4,765 square foot expansion to its educational facility located at 801 Century Ave SW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 within the Roosevelt Park Neighborhood. This expansion will include two new construction education labs and an office for Institute staff. The labs will be used for hands-on instruction related to craft trades educational programs. When completed, the two education labs, combined with the three existing labs, will allow for specialty areas dedicated to craft trades. Currently, instructors must set up and tear down temporary worksites prior to and after classes. This limits the quality of instruction, creates a burden on instructors and students, and puts strain on the human resources of WMCI to serve its students and the West Michigan commercial construction industry. The expansion will provide for the following specialty education labs: Concrete/Masonry, Interior/Exterior Finishes, Plumbing, Electrical, and one flexible/multipurpose lab. Each of these careers are listed on West Michigan Works! "Hot Jobs List" as the highest-growing and most in-demand jobs in the region. The opportunity for individuals to build their skills and secure a well-paying job within a period of months is open to anyone. These jobs pay between \$18.83 to \$26.03+ per hour, well above the per-capita income for Kent County.

Long-Term Benefit

The expansion will allow WMCI to offer more specialized instruction pertaining to high-demand jobs. Anyone with a desire to learn and work will be able to gain a meaningful, well-paying career, lifting families out of poverty. These workers are necessary to sustain growth in the regional commercial construction industry. If labor shortages persist, construction costs will continue to rise and projects will be delayed, stifling economic growth.

Intended Beneficiary

Individuals who reside in Kent County and aspire to obtain employment within the commercial construction industry or advance in their careers in the industry will benefit most from this project. The WMCI serves as a commercial construction talent pipeline by preparing the workforce and matching workers with companies seeking high skilled workers. As a result, Kent County residents are able to build their employable skills and obtain a meaningful, well-paying career in the commercial construction industry.

*Partnership

ABC-WM is a founding partner and is a tenant within the WMCI. The organization ensures there is ongoing engagement with the commercial construction industry as they are involved in planning and delivering curricula, exposing students to construction sites, and promoting the industry to local schools and other groups. Another critical partner of the WMCI is Grand Rapids Community College (GRCC). GRCC and ABC-WM have partnered on educational programming for decades. As a continuation of this partnership, GRCC houses its successful Electrical Apprenticeship program at the WMCI. Finally, the WMCI will partner with school districts and non-profit organizations to serve the region's students. The WMCI has already secured partnerships with Grand Rapids Public Schools (GRPS), Northview Public Schools, and Jenison Public Schools. Among the first programs ran during the pilot semester was a partnership with the Literacy Center of West Michigan to provide construction-specific ESL training to a cohort of Hispanic/Latinx students. Moving into the first full academic year, WMCI and the Literacy Center of West Michigan will host a Spanish for Construction course for non-native English speakers.



(Page 3)

Estimated Cost

\$3,000,000.00

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$3,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$3,000,000

ARPA Request: \$1,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Jen Schottke

Organization: West Michigan Construction Institute

Project Overview

Funding Group:

Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

The WMCI has secured \$2 million from the State of Michigan through an appropriation in the 2023 Budget. These funds will be matched with \$1 million from the Kent County ARPA grant (if approved) to complete the project.

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Project Management Experience

In December 2021, the WMCI completed renovation of its 14,000 square-foot educational facility and launched educational programming for craft professionals and high school students in January 2022. Within the past six months, the WMCI has solidified numerous community partnerships and served 50 craft professionals in three trades, 11 high school seniors through work-based learning (many of whom are now working in construction), and 75 industry professionals in professional development and certification courses. Moving into the 2022-2023 academic year, WMCI has expanded high school district partners by greater than 50% and has a waitlist of students interested in enrolling in the program. Many of the students on the WMCI waitlist are also waitlisted at the Kent Career Tech Center, an example of the level of pent-up demand there is for construction education at the high school level. WMCI will expand craft training offerings to include additional levels of the concrete and carpentry programs and will pilot a plumbing program and an exterior envelope program.

Federal Funds Experience

The WMCI does not have experience working with federal funds. However, the organization did receive a \$1 million appropriation from the State of Michigan in 2021 which it is currently administering for the initial buildout of its headquarters.

Studies on Impact

The WMCI uses the nationally recognized curriculum developed by the National Center for Construction Education & Research (NCCER), which has been thoroughly vetted by educators and construction industry experts. This curriculum is a national-portable certification program and meets and exceeds the standards of DOLregistered apprenticeship programs. NCCER has been used by other ABC-affiliated institutes around the U.S., which the WMCI consulted when developing its model. In 2018, the NCCER released a collaborative research report titled "Restoring the Dignity of Work: Transforming the U.S. Workforce Development System Into a World Leader." This study reviewed successful workforce development and educational models and proposed policies that regions can adopt to prepare and place skilled workers in high-demand construction jobs. The recommendations align well with the WMCI's approach, namely, revitalizing work-based learning programs, strengthening career awareness, increasing the recruitment of underrepresented groups, promoting industry involvement, and investing into postsecondary career and technical education (CTE) programs. That study can be downloaded at: <https://www.nccer.org/news-research/research/rt335>.

Supporting Documentation

1. [LAB Addition](#)
2. [Letters of Support](#)
3. [Addition Schedule](#)
4. [WMCI Campaign Leadership](#)



(Page 4)

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Workforce development for the unemployed is eligible



Sustainability

WMCI can sustain operations after construction



Feasibility

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$3,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$3,000,000

ARPA Request: \$1,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Jen Schottke

Organization: West Michigan Construction Institute

Project Overview

Funding Group:

Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

The WMCI has secured \$2 million from the State of Michigan through an appropriation in the 2023 Budget. These funds will be matched with \$1 million from the Kent County ARPA grant (if approved) to complete the project.

Partnership

(Listed in main description)



PROJECT #124

SMB & Workforce development, support, and training

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$34,500

Maximum Cost: \$138,000

ARPA Request: \$138,000

Submitter Info

Name: Keith Morgan

Organization:

Wyoming Kentwood Chamber

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

We would seek out partnerships as we do with many of our endeavors, but there are no formal partnerships. Examples of community organizations we partner with currently, Spring GR, other local chambers, Express Employment, just to name a few.

Identify the need for the proposed project

We serve currently or served in the past 1600+ small and medium sized business clients at the Wyoming Kentwood Chamber. Many are communicating how they are struggling with not being supported, educated, and connected. Many of our underserved, disadvantaged, and disenfranchised businesses struggle with finding appropriate training & resources local to the proximity of where they do businesses and where they service a large portion of their clients. The chamber has fielded calls, coached, and mentored multiple businesses needing support, training and access from businesses ranging from startup organizations to established businesses in the for-profit and non-profit arena. Our membership base is comprised of 8 out of 10 businesses fitting the SBA small businesses criteria. As the local chamber for the City of Wyoming and City of Kentwood we represent businesses, provide political and policy advocacy, as well as work to drive community economic growth. We feel we are in the best position to create a synergistic program that has the most well rounded individual and business development for our local businesses.

Brief Description

Wyoming Kentwood Chamber of Commerce requests \$138,000 to help our existing 350 local businesses and new businesses starting up by providing free business development & training resources over the next 4 years. Most of our members and new businesses are small businesses that need additional support to stay in business and navigate since the global pandemic. Funds would cover host events, venue, catering, materials, and presentation costs for a new monthly series over a four year period.

TRAINING SERIES 2022-2026 Some of the topics for our new Lunch & Learn / Happy Hour Series include the following.

TOPICS: *Employee Mindset, Post Covid Workforce Mastermind *How to Re-Introduce Employees in a Post Covid Climate *Teleconferencing: How to Present Your Best *HR Benefits, Changes based on Covid Protocols *Mental Health Respite for Employees, Resources You Need to Know* *Employee Stress and Triggers, Notice and Reduce in the Workplace* *How to Advocate for Your Employees Mental Health* *Employee Retention. How to Create a Balanced Compromise. *Workplace Life Balance, Coaching for Success.* *Soft Skills, What You Should Know & How to Incorporate Them *Personal Presentation, Calming Anxiety and Nerves. Being Your Best, When You Do Not Want To. *Active Shooter Training For our SMB's, disadvantaged, and women's groups we will provide training, networking, and financial health and wellness workshops throughout the program.

We are requesting \$34,500/ year to facilitate monthly class

Long-Term Benefit

Individuals in business will be more valuable to the marketplace, increasing business production & output. Organizations will experience increased efficiencies. Leading to better employees, who stay in jobs longer, and allowing businesses to service clients better. Leading to increased profits for the businesses, and household income increases. Participants will connect with local service partnerships within our cities and nonprofit organizations, providing needed community involvement.

Intended Beneficiary

3 groups: small business owners, the BIPOC community, and women business owners and leaders.



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$34,500

Maximum Cost: \$138,000

ARPA Request: \$138,000

Submitter Info

Name: Keith Morgan

Organization:

Wyoming Kentwood Chamber

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

We would seek out partnerships as we do with many of our endeavors, but there are no formal partnerships. Examples of community organizations we partner with currently, Spring GR, other local chambers, Express Employment, just to name a few.

Estimated Cost

\$34,500/year

Project Management Experience

little. We have individuals who support our organization who have helped in large projects for other organizations

Federal Funds Experience

little. we received and managed funds for covid PPE

Studies on Impact

I am not aware of any research studies

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Workforce development for the unemployed is eligible



Sustainability

4 year program



Feasibility

PROJECT #134

WMCAT: Employer-Aligned Workforce Development and Guaranteed Income as Driver for Family Economic Security



Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$4,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$5,000,000

ARPA Request: \$3,999,998

Submitter Info

Name: Leanne Rhoads

Organization: West Michigan Center for Arts and Technology

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

\$400,000 - W.K. Kellogg Foundation (confirmed), \$120,000 - Heart of West Michigan United Way (pending), \$200,000 - Amway (pending), Annually participate in WIOA and MiLeap funding

Partnership

Nonprofit partners for family supports including Arbor Circle, The SOURCE and the Literacy Center; employer partners including Spectrum Health, Meijer, and Mercy Health; public sector partners including West Michigan Works!.

Identify the need for the proposed project

The West Michigan Center for Arts + Technology (WMCAT) has provided tuition-free career training in health information, pharmacy technician and information technology for 17 years, placing an average of 80 percent of graduates into careers with West Michigan employer partners like Spectrum Health, Meijer and Mercy Health. While we have been successful in helping adults living with under and unemployment increase their household incomes through new careers, we still see a significant barrier to income stability for adults engaged in workforce development. Through our expertise and experience we see two needs converging:

First, the need for a skilled workforce aligned with growing industries and the needs of regional employers. WMCAT provides career training in medical administration, medical billing, medical coding, pharmacy technician, and information security analyst. According to West Michigan Works! there is an 18 percent expected increase in information security analyst positions in West Michigan through 2023. These positions are in-demand and widely seen as an entry to the cybersecurity field. In the last 12 months only 1 in 4 open information security analyst positions was filled. There is an employer demand for trained specialists in governance, risk and security. Health information and pharmacy tech positions are consistently included in the Hot Jobs list from West Michigan Works! with anticipated annual growth due to the growing healthcare sector in West Michigan. Kent County's largest employer, Spectrum Health, has a consistent need for a skilled workforce in medical administration, medical coding, medical billing, pharmacy technician, and information risk analysts. Second, is the need for family income stability and security. As we prepare adults for these in-demand careers we must address barriers to family income stability and security. In Kent County 25 percent of households live below the ALICE threshold, meaning they are working adults who do not earn family sustaining wages (Michigan Association of United Ways). This figure belies the economic disparity that is prevalent in Kent County as 48 percent of households live below ALICE in Grand Rapids, 45 percent live below the sustaining wage threshold in Kentwood and Wyoming, and 44 percent of households in Sparta live below the ALICE benchmark for economic security.

According to the United Way, the annual survival budget for one adult with one child in childcare is \$42,840; and the survival budget for two adults with two children in childcare is \$68,840. This represents surviving, meaning the bare minimum to meet expenses in Kent County with no opportunity to build wealth or savings for future security and stability. An annual stable budget for two adults with two children in childcare is \$119,712, which accounts for viability over time and putting 10 percent of household income into savings.

Brief Description

WMCAT is proposing an innovative pilot program that can change our county's approach to workforce development, by which we will directly address employer talent needs while providing adults with greater income stability on the road to economic security and prosperity. This program will be a hybrid between an earn-and-learn training model and a guaranteed basic income pilot. WMCAT will engage adults living with under and unemployment in one of five tuition-free career training pathways. Participating adults will be provided a monthly stipend of \$1,000 for a minimum of one year and up to two years depending on the increase in their household budget through employment. This will ensure greater income stability for adults while they focus on full time training, as well as provide transitional economic support as they move into living or thriving wage careers with regional employers. By ensuring adults can better focus on and participate in training, we will also address the skilled workforce needs in health information and cybersecurity that exist in Kent County.



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$4,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$5,000,000

ARPA Request: \$3,999,998

Submitter Info

Name: Leanne Rhoads

Organization: West Michigan Center for Arts and Technology

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

\$400,000 - W.K. Kellogg Foundation (confirmed), \$120,000 - Heart of West Michigan United Way (pending), \$200,000 - Amway (pending), Annually participate in WIOA and MiLeap funding

Partnership

Nonprofit partners for family supports including Arbor Circle, The SOURCE and the Literacy Center; employer partners including Spectrum Health, Meijer, and Mercy Health; public sector partners including West Michigan Works!.

Long-Term Benefit

This project will: Incentivize career training during a tight labor market when employers need new, specially trained employees. Provide a foundation for wellbeing during a period of transition for adults moving from underemployment to new career environments. Informing public policy around aligning public benefits with workforce development. Serving as a model, elevating Kent County's role in national conversations around guaranteed income and workforce development.

Intended Beneficiary

This pilot program will be targeted to Kent County residents who are living with under and unemployment. We anticipate students will be receiving one or more sources of public assistance, will be currently working full or part time in lower wage careers, will be head of households, and will have completed high school and potentially some post-secondary. We see the need for this program being aligned with both rural and urban communities, but we have a particular interest in our impact on the racial wealth gap in the City of Grand Rapids where the median household income is \$42,000 but is only \$24,000 for Black residents and \$31,000 for Hispanic residents; and the poverty rate for Hispanic and Black residents 42 and 38 percent, significantly higher than the 19 percent for white residents.

Estimated Cost

\$4,000,000 - \$5,000,000 over three years

Project Management Experience

WMCAT works with county-wide systems like West Michigan Works! to deliver aligned workforce development programs. We also serve in leadership with county-wide collective impact organizations like KConnect, the Kent County Essential Needs Taskforce, and Heart of West Michigan United Way.

Federal Funds Experience

WMCAT receives funds from the federal Workforce Investment Opportunity Act (WIOA) through West Michigan Works!, Community Development Block Grant funds from the City of Grand Rapids; and federal grants from the National Endowment for the Arts for our Arts + Tech programming with young people.

Studies on Impact

In regards to employer demand for skilled workforce, we have looked to data from West Michigan Works!, including a report on information security analysts. We also consult the Hot Jobs list that affirms the need for medical administration positions. <https://jobs.westmiworks.org/hot-jobs/> In regard to guaranteed income, we have consulted several demonstration projects around the country and research around policy work in this area. Compiling much of this research is Guaranteed Income Community of Practice. https://gicp.info/resources/?resource_tax=fact-sheets-briefs And a toolkit from the Jain Family Institute: <https://www.jainfamilyinstitute.org/assets/JFI-U.S.-Guaranteed-Income-Toolkit-May-2021.pdf>



(Page 3)

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

*Workforce development
is eligible*



Sustainability

3 year program



Feasibility

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$4,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$5,000,000

ARPA Request: \$3,999,998

Submitter Info

Name: Leanne Rhoads

Organization: West Michigan
Center for Arts and Technology

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation
and Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

\$400,000 - W.K. Kellogg Foundation
(confirmed), \$120,000 - Heart of
West Michigan United Way
(pending), \$200,000 - Amway
(pending), Annually participate in
WIOA and MiLeap funding

Partnership

Nonprofit partners for family
supports including Arbor Circle,
The SOURCE and the Literacy
Center; employer partners including
Spectrum Health, Meijer, and Mercy
Health; public sector partners
including West Michigan Works!.

PROJECT #155

Flex-Immersive IT apprenticeship Program for BIPOC community



Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$720,000

Maximum Cost: \$800,000

ARPA Request: \$720,000

Submitter Info

Name: Aghuinyue Umenei

Organization:

African Collaborative Network

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

Tech Defenders willing to provide highly subsidized equipment (laptops and tablets), along with curriculum oversight and mentoring for free. - ACN & WMAAA will provide advertising & community sensitization services for free

Partnership

Tech Defenders IT Company,
Beriven Consulting, UCC (Fiduciary),
GRAACO

Identify the need for the proposed project

African immigrant country association townhalls & surveys - New Americans in Kent County Report - GRAACO insights Given the high dropout rate amongst African immigrant and BIPOC men from the school and foster care system, along with the gross underemployment within BIPOC & African immigrant circles, this is program targeted at circumventing important barriers for this group entering high paying IT jobs, that could be transformational to them, their families & immigrant community in the county(whose numbers are only on the increase -15% growth over 5 years). These barriers include access to flexibility in training programs (given their unconventional schedules that make conventional study almost impossible), inadequate transportation options, for immigrants - access to contextualization and language translation services in most IT programs, availability of mentors and industry partners/apprenticeships.

Brief Description

This project provides mentoring, IT skills and job apprenticeships to at-risk immigrants & BIPOC, by providing a customized Flex immersive program that eliminates the high difficulty barriers faced by this group in becoming contributing members of W. Michigan economy. The program curates curricula & IT skills (A+, security+, etc.) that are needed by local industry, that can be quickly acquired (6-9 months of study and internship). It is a supervised distributed online study model (google classroom), with language translation and study material contextualization services available on call for participants. It is designed around participant schedules and locations, utilizing KDL facilities and amenities, with coordination, mentoring and internships by Tech Defenders (industry partner). Sustainability is built in with a pay-it-forward model, where all students become mentors and provide other resources to keep the program going, as it provides visible value to themselves and their communities. This model is transformational to a population that because of historical inequities and current systems, access to available opportunities is difficult, and hence they are trapped within a destructive cycle

Long-Term Benefit

Improved economic outcomes for immigrant and BIPOC families - Improved diversity index in Kent County (229th of 430 counties) - Employment pipeline of skilled workers for local IT companies - Reduced reliance on federal & local government programs/funds for BIPOC families impacted by program - Reduced encounters with law enforcement and judicial system - Reduced recidivism within the at risk population (BIPOC adolescent men) - Increased workforce participation by immigrants in the County

Intended Beneficiary

BIPOC, refugee, and immigrant at-risk men, their families, and community at large

Estimated Cost

720000 - 800000



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$720,000

Maximum Cost: \$800,000

ARPA Request: \$720,000

Submitter Info

Name: Aghuinyue Umenei

Organization:

African Collaborative Network

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

Tech Defenders willing to provide highly subsidized equipment (laptops and tablets), along with curriculum oversight and mentoring for free. - ACN & WMAAA will provide advertising & community sensitization services for free

Partnership

Tech Defenders IT Company,
Beriven Consulting, UCC (Fiduciary),
GRAACO

Project Management Experience

Our organization has strong partnerships within industry and other BIPOC West Michigan organizations, with collective experience in executing each part of this program across the County. The Urban Core Collective (UCC), which is the mentoring organization also brings large project management experience.

Federal Funds Experience

Our fiduciary partner(UCC) has years of experience with federal grants, and currently administers all our programs

Studies on Impact

Demographics - New Americans in Kent County Report (2019) Immigrant successes in IT in the US - research.newamericaneconomy.org Successful Flex Immersive program model with extended partnerships in industry <https://generalassemb.ly/how-we-work/social-impact>

Supporting Documentation

1. [Letter of Support #1](#)

2. [Letter of Support #2](#)

3. [Letter of Support #3](#)

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Job training for underemployed is eligible



Sustainability

Pay-it-forward model



Feasibility



PROJECT #241

Step Forward in Healthcare

Identify the need for the proposed project

Prior to the pandemic, unemployment was at an all-time low at 3.5% nationally and even lower in Kent County at 2.6%, according to US Bureau of Labor Statistics. Yet many people were not thriving. In Kent County, Michigan, according to the 2019 United Way ALICE (Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed) report 35% of the population was not able to meet their basic needs. In addition to emphasizing the number of families who are employed but unable to make ends meet, the pandemic also highlighted the need for and shortage of frontline healthcare workers and direct care workers, particularly in the long-term care and skilled nursing settings. Healthcare facilities, such as nursing homes, must ensure that they meet specific ratios of certified and licensed staff to residents. Prior to the pandemic, healthcare employers were experiencing the challenges associated with not having enough staff and not being able to find qualified staff to fill their openings, but the pandemic and the “great resignation” have only made that worse. According to O*NET Online, CNAs are considered “Bright Outlook” occupations, or jobs that are expected to grow rapidly over the next several years. This outlook only causes the gap between the job openings and the qualified candidates to grow, pointing to the need for more well-trained CNAs. Certified Nurse Aides (CNA) spend approximately 87% of their time with their residents or patients. Nurses often refer to them as the eyes and ears of the facility because they spend the most time with the residents. Goodwill’s CNA Training Program has existed for more than 25 years, and currently trains approximately 275 individuals per year. Over the last 5 years we have found success in serving individuals who have social and economic barriers to employment, particularly those who are unlikely to gain entry to other programs. Many living in the poorest neighborhoods in Kent County, these are the people who were most negatively affected by the pandemic in terms of economic, social and health implications. Goodwill has designed our program to ensure that we are flexible, supportive, and innovative in helping such students reach their goals. We are a person-centered program. Our program focuses on the individual student and how to help each individual be successful.

Everyone’s journey is different; and our program is designed to be more accessible to and supportive of those who have not done well in a traditional learning environment, those who are likely to be screened out of other CNA programs, those who don’t have options for funding, those who may not have a lot of support at home, and those who just need someone to give them one more chance. We screen these individuals into our program and then provide the support necessary to help them be successful. Our program is different from other CNA programs because we provide 115 hours of training, 40 more than the state requirement, to include extra time to absorb the material and feel comfortable with the skills needed to be a CNA. We have built in workshops related to soft skills and employability skills, and we offer individualized training supports. Additionally, we offer one-on-one tutoring, refresher courses, and other resources to ensure individuals have what they need to be successful. Our program is also more accessible than others because we use assessments to understand where the person is starting from and then provide the support they need to be successful, and we do not use assessments to prevent individuals from enrolling. In life, things don’t always go as planned, and this is especially true for the individuals living in poverty and below the minimum level needed to meet basic needs. For this reason, Goodwill gives each student three opportunities to complete training. This has allowed many students, who may have otherwise felt like they were not good enough to reach their goal (or like this is one more thing they failed at), to have the space and time needed to complete training and eventually go on to pass the state exam and become amazing CNAs. We are more than just a training program, we have career coaches who assist individuals with needed resources, troubleshooting, and setting goals, financial literacy, job placement and retention. We stay in contact with graduates long after they have completed training, and provide the support and guidance needed to help them successfully get a job, maintain a job, and even move into a better job. Over the past year, Goodwill’s training program has supported graduates in obtaining and employment with an average starting wage of \$19.33 per hour. Eighty percent of graduates have been able to keep their job for 90 days. With rising inflation, continued pandemic-related shortages and a housing crisis, these individuals have fewer resources to face the future. It is important that they have an opportunity to break out of low wage jobs and gain skills that lead to jobs that pay living wages. This proposed project will do just that by establishing new training locations that are ingrained in the neighborhoods who that can benefit the most, and then upskilling un and underemployed members of those neighborhoods and placing them into sustainable healthcare jobs.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$1,600,255

Maximum Cost: \$3,640,255

ARPA Request: \$1,600,255

Submitter Info

Name: Amanda Perez

Organization: Goodwill Industries of Greater Grand Rapids

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$1,600,255

Maximum Cost: \$3,640,255

ARPA Request: \$1,600,255

Submitter Info

Name: Amanda Perez

Organization: Goodwill Industries of Greater Grand Rapids

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Brief Description

Goodwill proposes expanding their existing and successful CNA Training Program into more neighborhoods throughout Kent County, specifically neighborhoods with the lowest levels of household income. Bringing the training right to the people will remove some of the obstacles that have stood in their way, such as transportation. This project will provide CNA Training, job placement, and retention services to individuals interested in starting a sustainable career in healthcare who meet one of the following criteria: Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed (ALICE), living at or below the poverty line, unemployed and looking to join (or rejoin) the workforce, or underemployed and looking to gain a skill. Over the next three years, Goodwill's existing program is planning to train approximately eight hundred individuals using a model of braided funding which includes already secured community grants, as well as fee-for-service payments from a variety of community partners and employers. Expanding the CNA Program by \$1,600,255 will allow us to train an additional 600 individuals by December 31, 2026 specifically focused on low income, diverse neighborhoods. The need for CNAs continues to rise as does the need for quality training providers who are flexible, innovative, and focused on the success of the student. Expansion would include the expenses related to hiring 3 instructors, hiring 3 career coaches to support the students, and establishing additional classroom sites.

Long-Term Benefit

This project will benefit the community in 4 ways: (1) the long-term impact to individuals who complete training, pass their state exam and become CNAs making \$15-\$28 per hour; (2) the impact on the families of students. The obvious impact is that of financial security. What may not be as obvious is the impact our program has on the child who watches their parent commit to a goal and accomplish it; (3) increasing healthcare workers in Kent County is a benefit to employers and the community.

Intended Beneficiary

The intended beneficiaries of this project are (1) our community members who are unemployed and underemployed and their families, (2) healthcare employers in our community who care for our most vulnerable loved ones, but have struggled to find and hire qualified staff, (3) the community.

*Partnership

This proposal is an expansion of our existing programs and we intend to continue working with our existing partners. Goodwill's CNA Training Program works closely with Grand Rapids Urban League, Hispanic Center of West Michigan, Literacy Center of West Michigan, West Michigan Works, Michigan Rehabilitation Services, and others to recruit a diverse group of individuals who are interested in taking the first step in a healthcare career. We also partner with a variety of employers in the Greater Grand Rapids Area who (1) participate in monthly career fairs and hire our graduates, and (2) allow us to use their facility as a clinical practicum location for our students. Our partners including but not limited to Samaritas Senior Living, Medilodge of Wyoming, Clark Retirement, Edison Christian Health Center, Valley View Care Center, Mission Point (Cedar Springs, Grandville, Forest Hills), HealthBridge Post Acute Rehabilitation, Medilodge of Grand Rapids, SKLD, Beacon Hill at East Gate, Holland Home, Porter Hills, St. Ann's Home, Covenant Living of the Great Lakes, Spectrum Health Rehabilitation and Nursing Center (both Fuller and Kalamazoo), Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital, University of Michigan Health West, Laurels of Kent, Maxim Healthcare Services, and CareerStaff Unlimited. For the clinical sites, we have formal contracts in place that have been approved by the State of Michigan's Bureau of Community and Health Systems (within Licensing and Regulatory Affairs [LARA]). Related to recruitment and hiring graduates, our partnerships have been supported in a way that MOUs and formal agreements have not been required. However, we do understand federal grants and their requirements; if awarded funding we will put formal agreements in place with all partners.



(Page 3)

Estimated Cost

\$1,600,255.00 - \$3,640,255

*Source of Funding

Existing funding sources include: Heart of West Michigan United Way Financial Security Grant (110,000 per year), Huntington Bank Foundation (\$10,000 per year), Tuition Payments from GoodSTART WIOA Youth Program (\$30,000 per year), Tuition Payments from Employers and Community Partners (approximately \$200,000 per year – exact amount fluctuates based on number of referrals), Tuition Payments from Private Sources (approximately \$40,000 per year – exact amount fluctuates based on number of individuals who pay out of pocket for training), and funding from Goodwill's internal Donated Goods Retail (DGR) Operations (approximately \$290,000 per year).

Project Management Experience

Goodwill has managed several projects that have included partners countywide. Most recently was a project called the Employment Services Collaborative. It was funded by Heart of West Michigan United Way to bring together eight Kent County service organizations to share resources with each other's program participants. This ensures each person has access to all services no matter which door they come in first. Goodwill was the fiduciary and convener of this group. Even two years after the grant period has ended, the community partners continue to collaborate in service provision. Goodwill also served in the fiduciary and leadership role on the 1.5 million dollar USDOL Training-to-Work grant. This grant involved coordinating the efforts of eight organizations toward reaching common outcomes and goals. The grant ended with all goals met. Goodwill launched and built the West Michigan Veteran's Coalition to bring together service providers who serve veterans so that they could better work together to serve our former service members. Goodwill grew that group to over 60 members organizations. When it was large enough to become its own entity, Goodwill helped it find funding to hire its first coordinator. The group now has over 700 members and four committees focusing on healthcare, education, employment, and quality of life.

Federal Funds Experience

Goodwill has been the direct recipient of many federal grants including the US-DOL Training-to-Work (\$1.5K), DOL Reentry Program (\$1.5K), DOL-ETA Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program (\$208,500), DOL Veterans Workforce Investment Program (\$682,221), and the VA Per Diem Only (\$252,367). Many of these were awarded multiple times. Additionally, Goodwill has been a subrecipient on many federal grants since 1992. Goodwill's Vice President of Workforce Development and Vice President of Finance oversee processes and procedures for federal grants and have completed the 3-day "SMART" training on the Uniform Guidance for Federal Grants. Compliance is ensured by an internal audit process by Goodwill's Internal Audit and Compliance Manager. Goodwill has been designated low risk status on federal audits.

Studies on Impact

In "What Works In Job Training: A Synthesis of the Evidence" (jdt.pdf (dol.gov)) the Department of Labor outlines the relevant themes for providing job training to adults. Those themes are (1) focusing trainings on in-demand jobs, (2) providing training that is flexible and innovative in its approach, (3) specifically related to the skills needed on the job, (4) in alignment with the needs of the employer, (5) being data-informed to ensure that the training continues to be improved leading to better outcomes, and (6) use strategies that integrate training, education and support services to provide lower-skilled workers with multiple barriers the support needed to be successful.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$1,600,255

Maximum Cost: \$3,640,255

ARPA Request: \$1,600,255

Submitter Info

Name: Amanda Perez

Organization: Goodwill Industries of Greater Grand Rapids

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)



(Page 4)

Supporting Documentation

[Links to Training Program Videos](#)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$1,600,255

Maximum Cost: \$3,640,255

ARPA Request: \$1,600,255

Submitter Info

Name: Amanda Perez

Organization: Goodwill Industries
of Greater Grand Rapids

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation
and Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

*Workforce development
is eligible*

PROJECT #255

3T @ GVSU: Transformative Tech Talent



Identify the need for the proposed project

The need for this project was identified through an extensive scan of regional capabilities and capacities, and a personal “customer discovery” process in which GVSU leadership, including the President, directly engaged with regional business leaders to identify their greatest needs in workforce development and skills. Kent County is home to nearly 1,100 technology businesses, with projected job growth rate over 18% through 2026 (Brookings Institute, Metropolitan Policy Program, 2019). Kent County is currently not prepared to meet this employment demand. Production of tech talent is tracking at one-fourth the national pace, with noted gaps in workforce digital literacy that limit employability options in technology further exacerbated by pandemic fall-out and a strong demographic shift toward a more diverse population, magnifying historical inequities in access to education and higher wage employment.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$5,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$20,000,000

ARPA Request: \$5,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Stacie R. Behler

Organization:
Grand Valley State University

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme:
Workforce Development

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

Business sponsorships are possible as well as potential federal and state financial aid sources.

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Brief Description

GVSU will accelerate a new joint venture, on behalf of our community, partnering with enterprises to address the tech talent shortage. This investment will create a new pilot program and develop the first 250 graduates/new professionals with foundational human-centered and critical analysis skills and literacy in the technology, system thinking, and data analytics that drive enterprise transformations. These types of professionals are in the highest demand and shortest supply today. As part of this pilot, these new professionals will make a commitment to at least thirty partner companies in Kent County to fill their severe talent gaps. The County’s investment will kickstart this market-changing program along with participating companies and the university who will share in providing on-the-job experience and sponsored education. This new talent pipeline will allow arts and science graduates who want to remain in West Michigan to enter the workforce by adding an important one-year upskilling pathway to their education. 3T will work with industry to stand up new programs to build a sustainable pool of tech talent through new degree options that merge engineering, business, and computing. 3T seeks to make Kent County an innovation ecosystem known for tech development, support, and production of tech talent. The County’s investment will enable startup funding for curriculum design and implementation to provide both immediate benefit to the workforce and meet ongoing needs.

Long-Term Benefit

The project will graduate the first 250 skilled tech professions and engage thirty partner companies committed to the development of future talent to fill gaps in the technology workforce. The long-term benefit of the proposed project is to create a steady pipeline of highly-qualified technology workers to meet the strong demand in regional technology employment and impact the social mobility of underserved and/or underemployed individuals through well-paying tech occupational pathways.

Intended Beneficiary

Implementation of this proposed project will benefit all sectors seeking technology education and training resources, and well as individuals seeking to upskill, reskill, or earn credentials that offer reliable economic and employment stability. Business will benefit from an expanded and steady pipeline of diverse talent that effectively operate at the intersection of business and technology. The workforce will benefit from higher-wage employment.



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$5,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$20,000,000

ARPA Request: \$5,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Stacie R. Behler

Organization:
Grand Valley State University

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme:
Workforce Development

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

Business sponsorships are possible as well as potential federal and state financial aid sources.

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

*Partnership

Acrisure, Consumers Energy, Spectrum Health, Michigan Software Labs, Amway, Steelcase, Meijer, Community Organizations including but not limited to: The Right Place, Incorporated (Technology Council), Kent Intermediate School District, WMCAT (West Michigan Center for Arts and Technology), The West Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce, Urban League of Grand Rapids

Estimated Cost

The \$5M requested will shape a first of its kind accelerated pathway to address the regional talent shortage in areas that require critical human skills, business acumen and technical competencies. It will design the program itself, prepare the first 250 graduates of this new sustainable pipeline and study early outcomes. The funds will be used for curriculum design, student support, faculty start-up, and content development in the areas of business transformation, systems thinking, cybersecurity, emerging technology, tech compliance, tech sales, data science analytics, project and process management, and informatics. Total Project Cost: \$20,000,000

Project Management Experience

For more than 60 years, GVSU has been a partner in educating the Kent County community as a critical educational institution, economic driver, and talent engine. GVSU is conducting research for the benefit of the Kent County, performing economic impact studies, serving on community-impact committees, contributing hundreds of millions of dollars to the local economy (\$28,386,098 in construction investment in 2021 alone), and employing nearly 3,800 people in Kent and Ottawa counties. Overall economic impact of GVSU in the region is approximately \$850M annually, with 60% benefitting Kent County. When GVSU opened the Eberhard Center in downtown Grand Rapids in 1988, it signaled the start of an incredible commitment to Grand Rapids and more broadly to Kent County. There are many examples of impactful county-wide projects. · GVSU's Annis Water Resources Institute and the Cell and Molecular Biology Department's work with the Kent County Health Department to test and detect genetic markers of COVID-19 in wastewater. · GVSU's free tuition program, benefitting qualified secondary students throughout the county, coupled with programming to increase the number of adults in Kent County pursuing post-secondary education and credentialing ensuring a well-educated, well-trained workforce for county employers. · GVSU's Seidman College of Business conducts several economic impact studies for various organizations in Kent County (i.e., the Gerald R. Ford International Airport) to determine the effects of event and area business decisions, which in turn, informs future decision-making to improve the economic welfare of the county. · GVSU has expanded its footprint in Kent County since the inauguration of the Eberhard Center in 1988. Large scale projects like the Pew Campus and the Heath Campus were a massive undertaking, demonstrating GVSU's expertise in leading and managing large projects that benefit the county.



(Page 3)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$5,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$20,000,000

ARPA Request: \$5,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Stacie R. Behler

Organization:
Grand Valley State University

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme:
Workforce Development

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

Business sponsorships are possible as well as potential federal and state financial aid sources.

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Federal Funds Experience

GVSU is exceptionally suited and experienced in managing federally funded projects. Currently, GVSU oversees 125 active federal awards. All sponsored programming at GVSU is in full compliance with sponsor mandates, including timely financial and program reports. In alignment with GVSU's policies regarding sponsored program activities, the grant project director will provide administrative leadership in managing and evaluating activities, deliverables, and performance measures. Project Director will also manage the project work plan, meet all project timelines, and prepare all required reports. GVSU will comply with the University's Purchasing Policy, which outlines a procurement process designed to meet federal procurement requirements. Finally, GVSU's General Counsel will provide contract review, as applicable. The GVSU Business and Finance Office ensures that all financial systems and records are maintained in accordance with state and federal guidelines. A dedicated Grants Accountant will oversee all grant funds, which are assigned a unique account number to track and manage all drawdowns and expenditures. Funds will be expended only as allowed by federal OMB/sponsor regulations, as applicable. Accounting records are electronically maintained, and the system administrator and vendor provide ongoing support by closely monitoring changes in governing regulations, making recommendations, and providing software updates that facilitate compliance with federal regulations and Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.

Studies on Impact

As good stewards of public dollars, all decisions at GVSU are evidenced-based. We rely upon many studies in support of this project. One example: The Brookings Institute's 2019 "Talent-Drive Economic Development Report" states: "The dual mandate embedded in sector partnerships and career-connected learning delivers good outcomes for both businesses and individuals, especially lower-income workers. But currently there are limited resources to support the infrastructure costs of these partnerships. A portion of state funds recouped from traditional tax incentives could be redeployed directly to support the necessary civic infrastructure to sustain regional training partnerships." P.42 "Businesses can't outgrow their local talent bases. To move statistics such as the number of jobs created, economic development organizations must work to provide environments in which firms can invest and grow. If their top binding constraint to growth is an available workforce, then even the most traditional practice of economic development is impossible without talent development." P.45

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

Workforce development is eligible

Limited number of trainees.

PROJECT #285

Kent County's Tech Talent Pipeline Program: Expanding and Diversifying the Future Tech Workforce

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$1,500,000

Maximum Cost: \$1,500,000

ARPA Request: \$1,500,000

Submitter Info

Name: Victor Joaquin

Organization: The Right Place, Inc.

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation
and Workforce Development

Project Theme:
Workforce Development

Project Status: n/a

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Identify the need for the proposed project

Over the past two years, The Right Place has completed two significant, strategic studies that have identified two major gaps in the future of Greater Grand Rapids' regional workforce: the need for increased career opportunities for BIPOC members of our community, and the need to dramatically increase our region's tech talent pipeline. The need for increased career opportunities for BIPOC members of our community was identified as one of the findings of The Right Place's year-long "Inclusive Economic Development Lab" in partnership with the Brookings Institution. That study found that while the region's demographics are continuing to become more diverse, career opportunities for advancement are not keeping pace. In fact, from high school and college graduation rates, to average income, skill attainment and unemployment, significant gaps exist between BIPOC members of our community and the white demographic in the region. The need to dramatically increase our region's tech talent pipeline was identified as one of the objective outcomes of The Right Place's most recent Regional Tech Strategy that identifies the steps that are needed over the next 10 years for Greater Grand Rapids to be the tech leader of the Midwest. This strategy, which engaged more than 300 businesses, community leaders, educators and other stakeholders from across the region, found that our region must increase the concentration of its tech workforce to 10% of the overall labor pool in the next decade. That equates to 20,000 additional people we must attract, retain, and educate in the next 10 years

Brief Description

This countywide tech talent program combines the needs identified in above into an innovative, collaborative initiative to increase the diversity and availability of tech talent. We will provide resources for both students and adults, amplifying the capabilities of existing tech training providers with proven track records in serving BIPOC populations in Kent County. The program creates a seamless tech talent pipeline, beginning with K-12 support programs (STEM Greenhouse), after school and extracurricular programming (WMCAT), workforce training (Urban League), credentials and degreed programs (Davenport University) and on-the-job training (Nexus Technologies). The tech talent pipeline to Kent County employers will be secured through the outreach of The Right Place. This employer engagement will ensure participating students and trainees are connected to career opportunities. This systems approach to tech training will increase Kent County students' exposure to technology-related careers in the K-12 system, inspiring the next generation of technologists here in the county. The program will provide adults with tech-related training and resources necessary to be part of the region's tech future. It will grow the number of workers capable of meeting the growing demand for tech talent. It will provide Kent County residents with sustainable career pathways and upward mobility. Finally, it will supply Kent County employers with the tech workers they need for long-term growth.

Long-Term Benefit

This program impacts two significant workforce challenges facing Kent County employers: 1. The need to upskill BIPOC adults with tech training to pursue high-growth, high-demand careers, providing citizens with sustainable career pathways and economic mobility; 2. The need to supply Kent County employers with the tech workers needed for long-term growth. Addressing these needs builds a more equitable economic future for Kent County and improve the overall economic competitiveness of the region.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$1,500,000

Maximum Cost: \$1,500,000

ARPA Request: \$1,500,000

Submitter Info

Name: Victor Joaquin

Organization: The Right Place, Inc.

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: n/a

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Intended Beneficiary

Three segments of Kent County's community will benefit most from this program: K-12 Students interested in a future tech career, adults seeking new career opportunities, and Kent County employers desperately seeking diverse tech talent.

*Partnership

- STEM Greenhouse: o STEM Greenhouse will accelerate the growth of their award-winning tech education services by adding STEM Scholars 2.0, which supports high school students with: a) afterschool homework hub; b) STEM College and Career Exploration; c) Leadership Development; d) Tech-focused Field Trips; e) Summer STEM Academy. These student-focused programs will be complimented with curriculum support for area teachers as well as parent and family outreach and engagement. This top-of-the-funnel tech talent work is critical for the community to achieve its long term talent goals. - West Michigan Center for Art & Technology (WMCAT): o WMCAT will provide certification programs for Information Security Analysts, which was the most in-demand occupation noted in a recent employer survey by The Right Place. Utilizing the curriculum and trainers of nationally-recognized GRC for Intelligent Systems out of Silicon Valley, WMCAT will offer a training-with-stipend program to support those un- and under-employed individuals seeking to jumpstart their career. The GRCIE program is a proven model that has shown to increase wages of those participants by over 60% upon completion. - Urban League of West Michigan: o The Urban League will develop a new STEM Center, including workforce development and recruitment, educational programming and STEM Career promotion beginning in middle school through adult workforce. This new STEM Center will build upon the Urban League's successful computer training programs, which are among their highest performing training offerings. - Davenport University o Davenport will leverage its current high- demand programming in Computer Science/CIS, Project Management and Cybersecurity in support of other partner organizations. Participants in the program will be offered free admission to Davenport, receive a Prior Learning Assessment to advance their pursuit of tech credentials, and support the development of partner instructors. ARPA funds received by Davenport in this proposal will be used to support new training equipment, scholarships and co-op support. - Nexus Technology Services: o Nexus is the largest black-owned tech company in Michigan, excelling at systems design, installation, and management. Nexus has developed a model of hiring relatively inexperienced workers and providing extensive on-the-job training, resulting in rapid development and growth for those participating. Nexus will offer additional OJT and co-op opportunities, leveraging online certification programs to help further develop participants. - The Right Place: o RPI will leverage its 150+ annual visits to Kent County employers, its West Michigan Tech Council, Manufacturing Council and Board of Directors to recruit employers to welcome these newly trained tech workers into their employment. Bringing all these organizations together in a collaborative effort will allow the clientele of each individual organization to access the resources, expertise and opportunities provided by the others that are otherwise not readily available.

Estimated Cost

\$1,500,000.00

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$1,500,000

Maximum Cost: \$1,500,000

ARPA Request: \$1,500,000

Submitter Info

Name: Victor Joaquin

Organization: The Right Place, Inc.

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: n/a

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

*Source of Funding

The matching funds would be in addition to the \$1.5M request of the County. The proposed matching funds are readily available, though will vary depending on the qualifications of the participants. We expect \$500,000 or more in matching support. The matching funds are dependent on clientele qualifications, though our experience is the vast majority of participants will qualify for matching funds from MichiganWorks training programs, state training programs, particularly employee-sponsored GoingPro projects. In addition, the program anticipates company participation through internships, co-ops and direct hire.

Project Management Experience

Since 1985, The Right Place has assisted hundreds of growing companies and developers in turning their construction vision into reality. Leveraging the organization's extensive network, our team is able to connect developers and businesses with expert local construction and financial management resources, while we manage real estate development relationships with local and state public resources. Additionally, during the COVID-19 pandemic, The Right Place was contracted by Kent County to lead an emergency rollout of public Wi-Fi access spots throughout Kent County. Nearly 80 parks and other public places across Kent County now offer free Wi-Fi access.

Federal Funds Experience

Specifically, The Right Place has demonstrated expertise in: CDBG Administration: The Right Place currently has 3 certified Community Development Block Grant Administrators on staff that will assist in the oversight and management of this grant. Covid-19 Emergency Small Business Grants: During the Covid-19 pandemic, The Right Place managed the oversight of 3 rounds of emergency small business grants (2 state grants, and one federal grant) totaling over \$15 million. Funds were distributed to nearly 1,700 West Michigan small businesses throughout the 13-county Region 4 prosperity region. Each grant passed multiple financial audits with no findings. Michigan Manufacturing Technology Center – West: For over 30 years, The Right Place has managed the federal grant management for the local Michigan Manufacturing Technology Center - West regional office. This grant program is funded through the federal Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP). CARES Act: During the COVID-19 pandemic, The Right Place received a \$600,000 CARES Act subgrant from Kent County to support specific COVID related economic development work outside the normal scope of the organization's standard services. This subgrant also received a clean audit report from the county independent auditing firm.

Studies on Impact

As referred to above, we are using data from Brookings Institute and The Right Place's Tech Strategy.

Supporting Documentation

- [1. Letter of Support #1](#)
- [2. Letter of Support #2](#)
- [3. Letter of Support #3](#)
- [4. Letter of Support #4](#)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$1,500,000

Maximum Cost: \$1,500,000

ARPA Request: \$1,500,000

Submitter Info

Name: Victor Joaquin

Organization: The Right Place, Inc.

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: n/a

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Workforce development is eligible



Sustainability

Has numerous partners so this program should be able to last



Feasibility



PROJECT #36

Employment Value Proposition (EVP)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$532,800

Maximum Cost: \$683,800

Submitter Info

Name: Clifton Charles

Organization:
Michigan People Group

Project Overview

Funding Group:

Economic Innovation and
Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

No other source of funding
available.

Partnership

First Steps Kent

Identify the need for the proposed project

Child care centers in their quest to attract, hire and retain staff focused their efforts on compensation to address their labor needs. Research has shown that benefits impact a candidate's hiring decision along with compensation. Working with First Steps Kent we were able to introduce them as well as some child care centers to the EVP concept.

Brief Description

The Employment value proposition is the set of attributes that the labor market and employees perceive as the value they gain through employment with the organization. By identifying these attributes this would allow childcare centers to identify passive candidates, hire and retain those candidates at a higher rate. Allow centers to reach capacity and enable parents to go back into the workforce.

Long-Term Benefit

1) Enable centers to reach deeper in to the labor market to attract passive candidates. 2) Reduce the compensation premium needed to hire child care employees. 3) Decrease annual employee turnover 4) Enable child care centers to staff appropriately which would enhance their revenue and allow more parents to get back in the work force enhancing house incomes.

Intended Beneficiary

There would be an economic impact to child centers as well as an impact to Kent county workforce families

Estimated Cost

\$532,800-\$683,800 We will need to use some outside contractors for this project.

Project Management Experience

Partnered with First Steps Kent where we provided Human Resources and Employment Best Practices Webinars to child care centers, HR Hotline support for Human Resources issues as needed. We provided coaching and consulting as needed. Business assessment using our Business Health Check tool that resulted in a face to face debrief with the child care center director. In that debrief we identified areas for improvement that would enhance the centers business operations.

Federal Funds Experience

We partnered with First Steps Kent and received funding through the CARES Act to deliver services to child care centers.

Studies on Impact

1) CEB 2012-2015 Global Labor Market Survey 2) Brian K Heger. (2007) Linking the Employment Value proposition (EVP) to Employee Engagement and Business Outcomes: Preliminary Findings from a Linkage Research Pilot Study. Organizational Development Journal, 25(2), P121 3) Hill, B. (2020). The Employment Value proposition. Workspan, 63(1), 20-24



(Page 2)

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$532,800

Maximum Cost: \$683,800

Small business support is eligible

Unsure if this is a one-time training for child care centers or if it is continuous

Submitter Info

Name: Clifton Charles

Organization:
Michigan People Group

Project Overview

Funding Group:

Economic Innovation and
Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

No other source of funding
available.

Partnership

First Steps Kent



PROJECT #169

Wood Products Manufacturing Facility

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$2,500,000

Maximum Cost: \$3,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Michele McIsaac

Organization:

Next Step of West Michigan

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

Funding through a capital campaign set to begin in January 2023 Private social impact investors

Partnership

Mel Trotter Ministries, Area Contractors

Identify the need for the proposed project

Our current headquarters are at 100 Garden St SE, Grand Rapids was originally built in 1913 for Kindel Furniture and designed around the neighboring rail line. As a result of our 2020 merger with Mel Trotter Ministries, we are ramping up production to hire more returning citizens and individuals experiencing homelessness as a part of our organization's mission. There is a skilled labor shortage as a result of the pandemic and this project will create sustainable, livable wage jobs.

Brief Description

Construct a new manufacturing facility adjacent to our current headquarters at 100 Garden St SE, allowing for a more efficient designed space to accommodate the manufacturing of wood products and the hiring of trained low-income workers. The existing facility was designed many years ago and suffers from significant layout flaws. The new 16,000 sq. ft. facility will be constructed with modern materials and a layout that allows us to engage more vendors, manufacture more products, and extend the number of employment opportunities to low-income individuals in the community. Next Step is experienced in employing formerly incarcerated and/or individuals experiencing homelessness-both sectors of the community that have unique barriers to maintaining employment. Next Step transforms lives by addressing barriers to keep an individual employed and contributing to the community. By increasing the production space and number of employees, this project addresses a growing need in our community since the pandemic—sustainable, livable wage jobs designed to help lowincome individuals. Our current space at 100 Garden will become a workforce development field training space for wood manufacturing, construction, and city/county services divisions.

Long-Term Benefit

The project will create more sustainable, livable-wage jobs for lowincome individuals and those living in the 49507 ZIP code, the most impoverished urban ZIP code in the county. Those returning from incarceration or experiencing homelessness are given the opportunity to be trained and employed by Next Step along with other low-income individuals in the community. Employment at a livable wage benefits the community and can break the cycle of poverty which can lead to homelessness.

Intended Beneficiary

Low income individuals, returning citizens, and individuals experiencing homelessness. Revitalization of neighborhoods in the 49507 ZIP code.

Estimated Cost

\$2.5 to \$3 million

Project Management Experience

Our parent company, Mel Trotter, leads diversion efforts throughout Kent County working with Kent ISD. In addition, we have a contract with Kent County for park beautification and cleanup



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Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$2,500,000

Maximum Cost: \$3,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Michele McIsaac

Organization:

Next Step of West Michigan

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

Funding through a capital campaign set to begin in January 2023 Private social impact investors

Partnership

Mel Trotter Ministries, Area Contractors

Federal Funds Experience

We are responsible for implementation reporting on a DHHS Community Economic Development grant, awarded through our parent company Mel Trotter. Our parent company, who will administer grant funds and provide oversight has significant additional experience working with federal funds: • Grand Rapids Emergency Solutions Grant • Grand Rapids Community Development Block Grant • MDHHS Emergency Shelter Program Grant • DHHS Community Economic Development Grant • Numerous CARES and ARPA Grants

Studies on Impact

May 2020 Bowen National Research Study prepared for GR Chamber of Commerce

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Homeless support and workforce training are eligible



Sustainability

If the funding is only necessary for construction then this project is sustainable



Feasibility



PROJECT #224

Workforce Development Among New American Communities

Identify the need for the proposed project

Treetops Collective began our work in 2017 with listening circles focused on understanding what life is like for refugees after formal resettlement services end. At that time we heard overwhelmingly the desire for flexible, living-wage work that would allow parents, especially mothers, to stay present in their children's lives, attend language classes, utilize skills they had developed prior to arriving in the U.S. and invest in their new communities. As our work has grown and our relationships in New American communities have expanded, we have continued to hear this desire for work beyond the manufacturing line from the communities we partner with. The stories we have heard countless time have been echoed in the work of three other organizations we have connected with that are running successful programs in cities across the country, targeting specific areas of workforce development among immigrant and refugee communities. We believe that Kent County has a unique opportunity to bring all three of these strategies together in one community for a profound effect.

Brief Description

Through an approach that includes staffing, entrepreneurship, mentorship, capacity building, and resourcing we believe that we could harness the gifts of the New American community to connect talent to opportunities that would not only grow our economy but would also strengthen the fabric of our community. Immigrants have always been an economic engine in our nation, but due to barriers of entry, and lack of network connections, their talent often is underutilized. Through local strategic partnerships in conjunction with proven and innovative strategies established by the following organizations around the country, we believe we could change the landscape of work in West Michigan for our newest neighbors, establishing talent pipelines with relationships at the center. Amplio Recruiting is a refugee staffing agency that has placed over 500 refugees in full time employment in over 300 companies nationwide and is eager to establish an office in Grand Rapids. Rising Tide Capital unleashes the entrepreneurial ideas and drive of those who have arrived as refugees through contextualized training, peer mentorship, and access to capital. Upwardly Global trains recent immigrants and refugees to adapt their prior education, skills, and professional career into the U.S. workforce.

Long-Term Benefit

Treetops Collective believes that bringing these three proven models together in Kent County will lead to greater opportunities for long-term economic growth and wealth creation among New American communities. Refugee and immigrant neighbors are contributing significantly to Kent County's economy and yet remain on the economic margins for decades after arrival; we want Kent County to be a place where everyone has a chance to flourish so that our community as a whole can thrive.

Intended Beneficiary

Refugees and immigrants entering Kent County

Estimated Cost

3.3 million

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$3,300,000

Maximum Cost: \$3,300,000

Submitter Info

Name: Tarah Carnahan

Organization: Treetops Collective

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

Rising Tide Capital, Amplio Recruiting, Upwardly Global, The SOURCE, SpringGR, West Michigan Works, LINC Up, WMCAT



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Project Management Experience

We have not yet led a county-wide project but we have extensive experience in collaborating with other organizations.

Federal Funds Experience

Treetops Collective received over \$92,000 in CARES Act funds at the end of 2020 and successfully executed all funds in a limited amount of time.

Studies on Impact

Regarding Amplio Recruiting's model: <https://ampliorecruiting.com/featured-location-detroit-mi/>

Entrepreneurship and small businesses as an engine for economic growth:

https://www.kauffman.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/entrepreneurship_policy_digest_september2014.pdf

Education/experience among immigrants: <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2015/10/05/todays-newly-arrived-immigrants-are-the-best-educated-ever/>

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$3,300,000

Maximum Cost: \$3,300,000

Submitter Info

Name: Tarah Carnahan

Organization: Treetops Collective

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

Rising Tide Capital, Amplio Recruiting, Upwardly Global, The SOURCE, SpringGR, West Michigan Works, LINC Up, WMCAT

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Workforce development is eligible



Sustainability

This program could not continue without funding but they have multiple partners



Feasibility



PROJECT #55

THE PLACE - Youth Media Incubator

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$500,000

Maximum Cost: \$1,250,000

Submitter Info

Name: Paul Bernard II

Organization: Younify Group LLC

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

Michigan Black Expo, Inc.

Identify the need for the proposed project

We currently operate as a digital marketing, media, and tech development firm and we have served Grand Rapids for over three years. We have noticed the need for media related jobs & opportunities through our work experience. Currently Arts, Entertainment, and Media jobs in Grand Rapids only account for 1% of all jobs. That significantly behind national benchmarks and definitely does not follow the trend of the industry currently.

Brief Description

THE PLACE is focused on bridging the gaps of creative opportunity in West Michigan. It provides local creatives with the resources, connections, and opportunities needed to excel in creative or performing arts, empowering the creative industry in West Michigan through talent development & employment, digital marketing & media, and industry standard education. This initiative starts with a physical facility housed with state of the art equipment. Our curriculum will focus on developing talent in the growing industries of Music & Recording, Technology, Art & Design, Film, and a couple others. Students will be involved hands-on with internal and external projects and will be driven towards opportunities within the region at entertainment venues, showcases, and businesses. This will result in a growth in the media industry within Grand Rapids.

Long-Term Benefit

There are many effective long-term benefits to this project but the largest of those is youth development in a relevant growing industry. Along with that, economic growth will be fostered through media attraction, talent development & recruitment, and education. It is also the goal of this initiative to set a foundation of diversity and inclusion by promoting its Black ownership and focusing on developing youth from underrepresented and underprivileged backgrounds.

Intended Beneficiary

The intended beneficiary is youth creatives in Grand Rapids.

Estimated Cost

\$500k-\$1.25m

Project Management Experience

We have been involved in large scale projects for community health & wellbeing in multiple areas such as Ohio, California, Colorado, and Michigan. Our most common roles were Public Relations, Marketing, or Strategy Development. Personally I have also sat on multiple boards of directors and managed large scale projects all the way through implementation.

Federal Funds Experience

We've received multiple federal loans and worked with organizations utilizing appropriation money and other federal dollars.



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Studies on Impact

Yes, our research will require heavy consultation and focus groups in order to determine the correct KPI's and measurable outcomes & outputs. Currently we are locating strategic partners to receive endorsement letters of support. This allows us to implement future proof practices directly from other successful organizations operating in the same territory,

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$500,000

Maximum Cost: \$1,250,000

Submitter Info

Name: Paul Bernard II

Organization: Younify Group LLC

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

Michigan Black Expo, Inc.

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Job training to address negative economic impact is eligible



Sustainability

Sounds like funds go to building/equipment. Do they have staffing to implement this training?



Feasibility

More information needed on how funds will be utilized and community demand.



PROJECT #27

GRCC Public Safety Training Center

Identify the need for the proposed project

The project was initiated through collaborative conversations with many partners including the Cities of Grand Rapids, Kentwood, Wyoming, and Walker along with Kent and Ottawa County Sheriffs Departments and other municipal partners.

Brief Description

The public safety training center will be developed in collaboration with GRCC and its many partners to accommodate comprehensive training needs. To accommodate these needs, the Center will include a classroom building, a large bay area for public safety vehicles, a burn tower, flashover simulator, firearms training range, a driving track and other training structures.

Long-Term Benefit

This initiative once completed will provide education and training for public safety sectors in our region, state and the mid-west. The Center will accommodate comprehensive instruction services and opportunities for the community to access relevant, living wage career pathways within public safety. Now, more than ever, our communities need well prepared professionals to assist and provide service during our most vulnerable moments in life. We plan to address that need.

Intended Beneficiary

The entire community will benefit from the development of a comprehensive public safety training center.

Estimated Cost

Estimated construction costs are approximately \$50,000,000

Project Management Experience

GRCC has a history of successfully managing large and complex projects

Federal Funds Experience

GRCC successfully manages millions of dollars in federal funding annually

Studies on Impact

We have reached out to other Community Colleges managing similar Centers and have data that can be provided upon request.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$50,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$50,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Lisa Freiburger

Organization: Grand Rapids Community College

Project Overview

Funding Group:

Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

GRCC will fund a portion of the construction. We are requesting funding from the State, and will also look to donors and municipal partners for contributions

Partnership

GRCC will partner with numerous municipalities as well as other public and governmental agencies

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Community violence intervention program is eligible



Sustainability

Such a large project will have large operations costs but there are multiple partners running the project.



Feasibility

Risk to 2026 completion



PROJECT #33

Brody's Be Cafe

Identify the need for the proposed project

We are a 501c-3 programmatic employment facility. We were founded by a MOM with a son who has Down Syndrome. She wanted to create a place for he and others, with some form of intellectual or developmental disability. This purpose is to provide meaningful employment. She felt this was and still is a huge need for our communities in Kent county and beyond.

Brief Description

This is on on going project. We employee Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. We train and provide meaningful employment to a population, that would otherwise not have employment, through coffee making and café running duties. We wish to expand our program, to other parts of Kent county to employee even more people.

Long-Term Benefit

This long-term benefit is vital to not only our community, but to the surrounding communities as well. This long term benefit would bring awareness to the communities by bridging the gap between those with intellectual and developmental disabilities and those with out.

Intended Beneficiary

I feel like we ALL would benefit from this kind of program. It would bring inclusion to all areas of Kent county.

Estimated Cost

\$156,00 per year this would be an on going project.

Project Management Experience

no

Federal Funds Experience

no

Studies on Impact

We have been operating this project since October 31st 2019. We have had the same 11 employees working at the cafe. We have seen employees learn new things, and interact with the community is ways they normally would not. One thing we remind them of, is that this is a REAL job. They get paid minimum wage for the work they are doing. They work 2 to 3 hors shifts. They feel valued and feel like what they are doing matters.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$156,000

Maximum Cost: \$156,000

Submitter Info

Name: Rachel Stadt

Organization: Brody's Be Cafe

Project Overview

Funding Group:

Economic Innovation and
Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: Existing Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

n/a



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$156,000

Maximum Cost: \$156,000

Submitter Info

Name: Rachel Stadt

Organization: Brody's Be Cafe

Project Overview

Funding Group:

Economic Innovation and
Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: Existing Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

n/a

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

*Workforce development
is eligible*



Sustainability

*Does not include a
funding plan or fund
availability after
expending all the ARPA
dollars.*



Feasibility

PROJECT #237

Strengthening Improvised Communities



Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$200,000

Maximum Cost: \$200,000

Submitter Info

Name: Latricia Lomax

Organization: Exchange Ur Care

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

We currently utilize funding from the State of Michigan as well as private source funds.

Partnership

NAACP, HOAP, Grand Rapids African American Health Institution

Identify the need for the proposed project

Exchange Ur Care is strategically positioned to deal with Medicaid recipients who, due to the pandemic, and being black and brown people have been disproportionately impacted. We recognize the need to have culturally competent services within these communities. To that end, Exchange Ur Care seeks to adhere to the Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services Standards (CLAS). We believe that this form of service delivery is the most respectful and responds to the patient's cultural health beliefs, preferences, and communication needs.

Brief Description

To provide mentoring, work development training and cultural competency training that will help individuals who are low income or lack the necessary educational skills to be competitive in the workforce. The project will provide assistance with both training and resources needed for individuals to become certified in the areas of hospitality and non-medical professions. We will also be expanding our transportation service to offer transportation to these individuals to and from their workplaces at a low fee in an effort to remove one of the major obstacles that often prevent individuals in the urban area from obtaining higher paying wages. This will also open 12 new driver positions within the community.

Long-Term Benefit

This project will provide necessary skill set training, education and resources to those living in disproportionately impacted communities.

Intended Beneficiary

Those who will benefit the most from this project will be individuals living in the 49507 Zip Code.

Estimated Cost

\$200,000.00

Project Management Experience

None

Federal Funds Experience

None

Studies on Impact

Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS)



Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Workforce development is eligible



Sustainability

Does not include a funding plan or fund availability after expending all the ARPA dollars.



Feasibility

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$200,000

Maximum Cost: \$200,000

Submitter Info

Name: Latricia Lomax

Organization: Exchange Ur Care

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

We currently utilize funding from the State of Michigan as well as private source funds.

Partnership

NAACP, HOAP, Grand Rapids African American Health Institution



PROJECT #303

HR House

Identify the need for the proposed project

The organization identified the need for this proposed project through personal experience, community member research, established local organizational program participation and observation, leadership discussions, volunteer and direct work experience.

Brief Description

The HR House (brick and mortar) is designed to strengthen the community by promoting workforce development, improvement and success. Also providing free Knowledge, Skills and Abilities training, workforce position matches and mentoring for individuals living in one of the most economically disadvantaged neighborhood in Grand Rapids. HR House would provide a safe and nurturing environment for individuals to professionally develop and grow within the workforce, impacting the potential for community contribution positively. The HR House is designed to strengthen the quality of the workforce within the community for all individuals in the 49506 and 49507 zip code by providing them with individualized and group workforce training, professional development and social supports in a safe environment. The HR House would also have the potential to contribute to Community Health by hosting workshops from certified community members and local businesses on physical education and nutrition.

Long-Term Benefit

Improves the quality of the communities workforce, thus contributing to economic impact within the community positively and improvement to the quality of life for individuals within the direct service area. Creates a professional, resourceful, and relatable presence in the community. This will improve a structure in an area that will be enhanced by structural revitalization. The organization will support facilitation and collaboration in direct community supporting neighborhood and city relations.

Intended Beneficiary

Individuals residing in 49506 and 49507 neighborhoods. Individuals receiving state or federal assistance. Underemployed individuals. Individuals 16-24 years of age. People of Color

Estimated Cost

\$150,000-\$350,000

Project Management Experience

Work experience in Human Resources for a Federal Education and Large Social Services Program serving approximately 39 counties. Work experience with extensive Audit and Compliance reviews including collaboration with a large local accounting firm. Experience processing multiple program through worker allocations; while assessing budget and reviewing P&L statements. Multiple contract review for programming specific compliance. Experience in Employment law. Experience with SAAM and background clearance requirements. Experience with operating procedures, requirements for training, required training facilitation, document submission and outcome and retention reporting. Site audit oversight.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$150,000

Maximum Cost: \$350,000

Submitter Info

Name: Aissa Jackson

Organization: I AM HR

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

There are personal investment and fundraising funds foreseen.

Partnership

Will obtain confirmed commitments (small local businesses)



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$150,000

Maximum Cost: \$350,000

Submitter Info

Name: Aissa Jackson

Organization: I AM HR

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

There are personal investment and fundraising funds foreseen.

Partnership

Will obtain confirmed commitments (small local businesses)

Federal Funds Experience

Budget assessment, P&L review. Allocation and reallocation assignment for budgeted contracts. Dispersal based on program and allocation specifics. Invoice reconciliation. SAAM registration and clearance use.

Studies on Impact

Yes, there is local, state and federal research including current programming in place to confirm the impact of workforce funding specifically in the proposed community. Examples from credible sources will be cited upon specific further request. * Disclaimer as researched by National Center for Biotechnology Information not all evidence based researched works for people of color or is applied similarly as effective.

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Workforce development is eligible



Sustainability

Does not include a funding plan or fund availability after expending all the ARPA dollars.



Feasibility

PROJECT #230

Hope Network University: Strengthening the Social Infrastructure by Hiring and Retaining Hope Network Direct Support Staff Working with People with Disabilities in Kent County



Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$425,000

Maximum Cost: \$425,000

Submitter Info

Name: Jason Madden

Organization: Hope Network

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

Hope Network will provide additional funding for scholarships, travel costs, staffing, and oversight to ensure the success of this venture. A \$50,000 request for the marketing effort is pending with the Michigan Disabilities Council.

Partnership

n/a

Identify the need for the proposed project

Hope Network is a critical part of the social infrastructure for human services in Kent County and across the state. Yet while the countywide system depends on us to take people with severe trauma and intellectual/developmental disabilities from hospitals, emergency rooms, and jails, we have not received federal and state COVID funding to do this work like our healthcare and educational partners. Our capacity to provide beds for some of the most vulnerable citizens of Kent County depends on our frontline staff, many of whom come to us with a high school diploma and a desire to serve. Our Behavioral Health Services and Development and Community Services leadership closely watch the turnover rate for these positions, which worsened during the COVID-19 Pandemic. With seed funds from the county, Hope Network will launch an innovative, integrated recruiting and retention process to transform how we manage our frontline staff. Instead of increasing pay temporarily, the Hope Network University model can decrease staff turnover and increase retention while being financially sustainable and replicable internally and externally with our partners across the state. In the short term, this effort will allow our workers to get to work and take the first step on their career path in human services. It will also allow us to compete with better-paying healthcare organizations and less demanding restaurant and retail jobs. Over the long term, we can create a pipeline of talented and hardworking staff for Hope Network and hospitals, rehabilitation centers, clinics, and autism centers. In addition, improving recruiting and retention efforts will result in better outcomes for adult residential support facilities serving 10,000 individuals with severe and persistent mental illness and intellectual/developmental disabilities in Kent County. The preliminary budget for this effort is: \$200,000 for training \$200,000 for transportation/support with fuel \$25,000 for targeted marketing Total Need: \$425,000 over two years

Brief Description

With this funding, Hope Network will launch Hope Network University, an innovative, two-year effort to stabilize staffing and create a career path pipeline with options to pursue more advanced positions for our entry-level staff. To fill 100 open direct support positions in Kent County, we will expand recruitment to schools and other partners to reach people of color, refugees, and LGBTQ+ communities. A nine-month Facebook and Google ad campaign will reach potential employees based on their interests. We will develop a cohort-based effort to retain new hires, including nine-month retention bonuses for direct support staff and their clinician colleagues; expanded career path options will be offered for up to 15 new staff per year with scholarships and flexible scheduling available for two-week CNA and Behavior Tech certification classes (a \$2,000 value), which will result in immediate pay raises; and leadership development and management classes through our Learning and Leadership Development Department will be offered tailored to their needs. This integrated recruitment and retention initiative will allow Hope Network to create a staffing model that is sustainable and replicable in Kent County and across the state.

Long-Term Benefit

The long-term benefits include (1) Establishing a new baseline for direct support staff that is a 50 percent increase in filled positions compared to last year and improving staff turnover by 10 percent over the same period. (2) A 20 percent increase in the census for consumers living in our adult residential facilities in Kent County. (3) Strengthening the breadth and depth of our frontline staff so that they are better prepared for current and future healthcare challenges.



Intended Beneficiary

Individuals with severe and persistent mental illness and intellectual/developmental disabilities living in Hope Network adult residential facilities in Kent County will be the primary beneficiary of this effort. Strengthening and expanding our frontline workforce will directly benefit the quality of life of some of the most vulnerable citizens of the county.

Estimated Cost

\$425,000.00

Project Management Experience

Founded in 1963 as a vocational therapy program for people with development disabilities, Hope Network has supported under-served individuals for nearly 60 years from its headquarters in Grand Rapids, MI. Over that time, the organization has grown to provide education, behavioral health, housing, transportation, workforce development, and community support services serving nearly 30,000 individuals across the state. Hope Network currently operates 22 behavioral health and administrative facilities in the county from Cedar Springs to Lowell to Walker.

Federal Funds Experience

Hope Network began managing federal grants soon after its founding in the mid-1960s. Leadership currently serves as program directors for federal grants and the organization's finance office is up-to-date on grants management best practices.

Studies on Impact

While we are unaware of research studies on the effectiveness of staff recruitment and retention efforts, our human resources staff is confident that this project represents best practices and will be effective and sustainable.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$425,000

Maximum Cost: \$425,000

Submitter Info

Name: Jason Madden

Organization: Hope Network

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

Hope Network will provide additional funding for scholarships, travel costs, staffing, and oversight to ensure the success of this venture. A \$50,000 request for the marketing effort is pending with the Michigan Disabilities Council.

Partnership

n/a

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Behavioral health services are eligible. Providing worker retention incentives/bonuses is also eligible under premium pay.



Sustainability

Does not include a funding plan or fund availability after expending all the ARPA dollars.



Feasibility



PROJECT #201

Kent County Veterans CDL Training and Workforce Development Program.

Identify the need for the proposed project

There is a shortage of truck drivers in the U.S., this can be seen in the recent supply chain shortages across the country. Truck drivers are in high demand. A & B CDL INC (A & B CDL) has been providing CDL training in Kent County for 16 years and is owned and operated by a 100% disabled U.S. Veteran. A & B CDL has been collaborating with State and Federal programs to bring workforce development CDL training to Kent County, Michigan. Our organization is looking to expand our current CDL Truck Driving program. We would like to expand our services with a Veteran specific training program, Kent County Veterans CDL Training and Workforce Development Program. "Finding work was rated as the most challenging post service adjustment among veterans" (Keeling et. al. 63). A & B CDL is owned and operated by a U.S. Veteran, this uniquely qualifies us to serve Veterans in the manner that fits their unique set of circumstances which often makes it difficult for them to transition into the civilian workforce to earn a livable wage. Studies show that, "... a common problem veterans face during the transition process; civilian employers are unfamiliar with military duties and how these past duties translate to civilian job experience. Compounding this lack of awareness, veterans frequently do not understand the hiring process and the expectations of civilian employers. Together, this lack of knowledge creates a cultural divide. Training and apprenticeship programs can be used to transition veterans into civilian employment" (Flatt and Rhodes). When Veterans are discharged, they are faced with the problem of fitting into a civilian society to care for themselves and their families. After serving their country for many years it is often difficult for Veterans to find gainful employment. This problem cannot always be solved through traditional employment paths such as earning a degree. Research shows that, "Frequently, the career paths of veterans do not require degrees. The top three civilian occupations with the highest veteran overrepresentation are protective service, installation/maintenance/repair, and transportation" (Flatt and Rhodes). Over the last few years, our organization has had an increasing demand from Veterans desiring to obtain their CDL. 10% of our applicants have been Veterans who did not have the funding to pay for CDL training. Many of them are underemployed and unable to meet their everyday expenses, and therefore they are unable to afford CDL training costs. Our program will allow A & B CDL to meet the increasing need for sustainable, gainful employment for Veteran's located in Kent County by providing the funding which allows them to complete CDL training. Individuals who receive their CDL licensure earn approximately \$50,000.00 annually.

Brief Description

A & B CDL'S, Kent County Veterans CDL Training and Workforce Development Program, will provide Class A and Class B CDL training for local Kent County Veterans. Through this program, training will be provided for Veterans who cannot afford the cost of training. A & B CDL will receive referrals from Kent County Veterans Services. Participants will attend a 4- week training program where they will receive one-on-one attention while learning classroom, range, and road driving instruction. Class sizes are small so Veterans can receive individualized assistance to meet their needs. After passing CDL training Veterans will receive their CDL truck driving license.

Long-Term Benefit

Kent County Veterans CDL Training and Workforce Development Program will provide long – term benefits to the community by increasing the Kent County workforce and decreasing underemployment and unemployment rates in our Veteran population.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$275,000

Maximum Cost: \$275,000

Submitter Info

Name: Brian Stewart

Organization: A & B CDL Inc

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

Kent County Veterans Services



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$275,000

Maximum Cost: \$275,000

Submitter Info

Name: Brian Stewart

Organization: A & B CDL Inc

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

Kent County Veterans Services

Intended Beneficiary

Our program will benefit the Veteran population of Kent County by providing employment training. Our local businesses will benefit from the increased number of workers entering the distribution and transportation industry to help meet their business needs. It is a great benefit and testament to our Democracy when programs are offered that give back to our Veterans for their service and willingness to sacrifice their life for our great Country.

Project Management Experience

A & B CDL has been managing workforce training programs for 16 years in the Kent County area. Our organization has also been managing/leading large county-wide projects by providing workforce development training for Michigan Works! WIA program, MRRC (Michigan Rural Rehabilitation Corp), and Hope Network for 13 years. What experiences does your organization have working with federal funds? A & B CDL has experience working with Federal funds through the CARES program as well as through our contract with Michigan Works!.

Federal Funds Experience

A & B CDL has experience working with Federal funds through the CARES program as well as through our contract with Michigan Works!.

Studies on Impact

The following research supports our Kent County Veterans CDL Training and Workforce Development Program model. Flatt, Candice, and Delmar Rhodes. "The Relationship Between Training Program Participation and Gainful Civilian Employment of Gulf WarEra II Veterans." Journal of Veterans Studies, vol. 4, no. 2, 2019, pp. 1-17, doi:10.21061/jvs.v4i2.113. Keeling, Mary, et al. "Exploring U.S. Veterans' post-service employment experiences." Military Psychology, vol. 30, no. 1, 2018, pp. 63-69, doi:10.1080/08995605.2017.1420976.

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Workforce development for the unemployed is eligible



Sustainability

Does not include a funding plan or fund availability after expending all the ARPA dollars.



Feasibility



PROJECT #250

Kent County Healthcare Talent for the Future

Identify the need for the proposed project

Kent County employers have long experienced a high need for employees, especially in positions that require postsecondary training and English language proficiency (e.g. phlebotomists, nurse technicians, lab technicians). This need became more acute during the Covid-19 pandemic, leading to a 17% job vacancy rate at Michigan hospitals. At Spectrum Health alone there are 625 vacant entry- and mid-level positions. Filling these positions is critical to strengthening the continuity of our county's health care system. Kent County has a large pool of candidates for these positions among the approximately 54,000 New Americans—immigrants and refugees— who live in the county (Census pop. estimates 2021). However, these potential employees are held back from employment opportunities due to language and financial barriers. In the 2020 Gateways for Growth report, New Americans said that language was the “greatest barrier to finding a lasting job.” Through a collaboration with Spectrum Health, Grand Rapids Community College, and The Source, the Literacy Center of West Michigan is proposing an innovative partnership that will address the need for talent in the health care industry. The proposed project will build a skilled workforce through concurrent English language instruction and technical training. To reduce financial barriers to earning a postsecondary credential, participants will have an opportunity to earn a full-time wage while they are in training. This innovative approach will ensure that participants can prioritize their training and education while still meeting their financial obligations. The partners in this project are all experienced in workforce development and have worked collaboratively on several projects in the past. Building on these past successes will ensure this collaboration can be brought to scale to address the needs of both employers and the community.

Brief Description

The proposed project will provide integrated English language and technical training for New Americans to help them enter employment or advance to a higher-level position at Spectrum Health. Recognizing that many individuals with low incomes cannot take time off from work to participate in postsecondary training, this project will provide a full-time salary for participants for the duration of their training program. Participants will be hired into a foundational position at Spectrum Health while incumbent workers will maintain their current positions. They will be paid for full time work while spending a portion of their time attending training at GRCC. Once they successfully graduate with a postsecondary credential, participants will move into new, higher-level positions at Spectrum Health. The Literacy Center will provide English language instruction that is contextualized to the language and concepts encountered in the workplace and presented in technical training. Social service and logistical support will be provided through Spectrum Health's existing collaboration with The Source. A coach at GRCC and a training and development specialist at Spectrum Health will provide ongoing support for the participants.

Long-Term Benefit

The long-term benefits of this project are two-fold. 1) It will bolster the capacity of Kent County's healthcare system by ensuring a strong talent pipeline to ease the pandemic-fueled challenges to hiring and retaining health care employees. 2) It will provide opportunities for the county's most vulnerable residents to gain the language skills and postsecondary training needed to advance in family-sustaining jobs, thereby creating economic stability and growth for West Michigan's economy.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$4,300,000

Maximum Cost: \$5,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Wendy V. Falb, Ph.D.

Organization:

Literacy Center of West Michigan

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Immigrant Services

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

Grand Rapids Community College, Spectrum Health, The Source

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$4,300,000

Maximum Cost: \$5,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Wendy V. Falb, Ph.D.

Organization:

Literacy Center of West Michigan

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Immigrant Services

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

Grand Rapids Community College, Spectrum Health, The Source

Intended Beneficiary

This project will serve 200 participants over a two-year period. Participants will be New Americans, many of whom reside in the highest-need neighborhoods in Kent County, as identified by Census Tract data. Data from these areas show a significant concentration of working-age adults who are economically disadvantaged and face language and other barriers to education and employment, compared to adults in adjacent communities and the state. As an example, data from Census Tract 26 in Kent County shows a median household income of \$34,000 (compared to \$58,000 in Kent County; \$60,000 in Michigan) and a poverty rate of 36% (compared to just 13% in Kent County and the state). The average age for residents in Census Tract 26 is 23 years old, and an astounding percentage— 53% —have not yet earned a high school diploma (American Community Survey, 2019, 5-Year Estimates). Participants will receive the technical training and language instruction needed to enter and excel in health care jobs that are currently unfilled. More broadly, this project will benefit the entire county by strengthening the health care system, attracting and retaining residents, improving the economic outlook, and serving as a model for future initiatives.

Estimated Cost

\$4.3- \$5 Million

*Source of Funding

This project will be supported by each of the partnering organizations —Grand Rapids Community College, Spectrum Health, The Source, and the Literacy Center of West Michigan. These organizations will contribute in-kind staff support (leadership, project management, administrative), instructional space, and supplies/technology as needed to ensure the project is a success. The project team is focused on sustainability. The Kent County ARPA funds will allow the team to pilot this project for the first two years, gathering data on successes and challenges. With demonstrated success, we anticipate a partner or funder will take on the project in full or in part at the conclusion of the ARPA funding.

Project Management Experience

This project is a collaboration among leading organizations in Kent County, all with experience in large-scale county-wide workforce development efforts. Spectrum Health is the largest employer in Kent County with 31,000 employees across 14 hospitals. They participate in a number of county-wide projects including Strong Beginnings, More Life Mas Vida, and GRow1000. GRCC is West Michigan's premiere training provider. In 2021, GRCC Workforce Training touched the lives of more than 10,558 individuals and worked with 400 employers to provide educational opportunities such as job training, short-term training, customized training, WorkKeys credentialing (job readiness), and apprenticeships. The Literacy Center of West Michigan has more than 35 years of experience providing English language instruction to 700+ adults in Kent County annually. They are a statewide leader in best practices around Integrated Education and Training (IET) programs like those proposed in this application. Since 2003, the SOURCE has supported over 9,000 employees by removing barriers to employment by helping lower wage earners achieve greater household stability, prepare for higher levels of employment and work towards financial security. There are currently 23 employers in their region-wide network.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$4,300,000

Maximum Cost: \$5,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Wendy V. Falb, Ph.D.

Organization:

Literacy Center of West Michigan

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Immigrant Services

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

Grand Rapids Community College, Spectrum Health, The Source

Federal Funds Experience

Every partner in this collaboration has extensive experience working with federal grant funds. The Literacy Center is an annual recipient of the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity (WIOA) funding, which is administered through the State of Michigan. The WIOA grants, totaling close to \$600,000, require extensive grants management and reporting on financials, learner participation totals, and documented program outcomes. GRCC's Workforce Training unit currently oversees \$22.1 million in grants. GRCC and the Literacy Center have also partnered on federal grants such as a US DOL Pathways to Prosperity grant in the past. The proposed collaborative, led by the Literacy Center of West Michigan, is well positioned to manage federal funds for a large-scale project.

Studies on Impact

Yes, there are evidence-based examples of success using the proposed model. As well, paying participants to attend postsecondary training has been highly successful at attracting and retaining employees. Trinity Health, together with GRCC, created an apprenticeship program for MAs that followed a similar model to our proposal. It resulted in 76% retention rate among MAs. A case study from mdrc on "what works" for community college students demonstrates that interventions such as advising, tutoring, and financial support are positively related to larger impacts on students' academic progress. Research demonstrates that integrating education and training (IET) together provides stronger outcomes for adults. The Literacy Center developed their IET program in 2016 using the I-BEST model. According to a 2016 report by Upjohn Institute, "I-BEST exiters gain substantial labor market outcomes. The employment rate rose by 12.3 percentage points; the average hourly wage rose by \$1.61; and the average hours of work per quarter went up by 65 hours". It adds, "This increase in wages and hours worked is also expected to result in an additional approximation of \$23,370 in tax revenue per I-BEST program completer over their lifetime."

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Workforce development is eligible



Sustainability

Does not include a funding plan or fund availability after expending all the ARPA dollars.



Feasibility

PROJECT #300

BIPOC STEM Employment Talent Pipeline

Identify the need for the proposed project

Local BIPOC employment and chamber of commerce economic statistics. Data driven decision making.

Brief Description

Construction of a 49507 urban workforce development and employment center, in partnership with the GRPD, Mixed employment agency, GR Food Co-op, GVSU and GRCC & Technical Center. This community HUB will work with families to identify self driven youth who are interested in graduation and/or local STEM employment or college.

Long-Term Benefit

Short and long term benefits include professional development of the best urban talent driven by community based family support networks. Key strategic partnerships provide a unique opportunity to develop long term global economic growth influenced by BIPOC workforce pipelines

Intended Beneficiary

The entire West Michigan community, specifically residents of GR and the 49507.

Estimated Cost

\$100,000-\$200,000

Project Management Experience

Extensive national and international experience. Professionally trained and educated adult educators.

Federal Funds Experience

Extensive experience working with federal funds, and within the federal government.

Studies on Impact

Please see below article in link:

<https://www.thirdway.org/report/the-7-habits-of-highly-effective-workforce-programs>

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Workforce training centers are eligible capital expenditures



Sustainability

Does not include a funding plan or fund availability after expending all the ARPA dollars.



Feasibility

Unclear if the matching funds are already committed or if they are just hypothetical.



Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$200,000

Maximum Cost: \$300,000

Submitter Info

Name: Regenail Thomas

Organization: Seeds of Promise

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

Local businesses, philanthropist, chamber of commerce, community foundation, residents.

Partnership

Seeds of Promise and other listed key partners



PROJECT #42

Great Lakes Technical School for Utilities and Telecommunications

Identify the need for the proposed project

I spent nearly ten years within the underground utilities and telecommunications space as an owner as well as five years serving on the board of directors of the Great Lakes Trenchless Association. The underground infrastructure does not have a comprehensive technical school. ATS in Wisconsin is the closest school but does not nearly cover the materials necessary. There are billions of dollars in damages to utilities every year — some being fatal. Operator Qualification training is only mandatory for pipeline workers [Code of Federal Regulations Subpart N in 49 CFR Part 192 and Subpart G in 49 CFR Part 195]. Our infrastructure is becoming congested, and not only that - but the industry needs individuals ready to work - who understand the infrastructure and know-how to work smart and safe.

Brief Description

I have put together a website for more information at <https://greatlakestechnicalschool.com>. The school would teach Horizontal Directional Drilling, Locating Utilities, Using Trench Boxes Excavating, as well as safety and Operator Qualification certification.

Long-Term Benefit

1. Opportunity for those in our community to obtain good skilled jobs. 2. Safer dig practices - fewer damages, fewer injuries. 3. Becoming one of the nation's few places to receive this training.

Intended Beneficiary

1. The goal is to introduce people of color to the industry. The industry is not diverse and it is an opportunity to learn about great careers.

Estimated Cost

\$2,000,000-\$25,000,000

Project Management Experience

1. I was the CEO of a multi-state operation [9 states] for nearly ten years prior to selling our company. 2. I have written and taught technical assistance to entrepreneurs for nearly four years. 3. I am known in the industry. Here is my latest article <https://www.tdworld.com/intelligent-undergrounding/article/21242774/what-is-horizontal-drilling-and-why-is-it-important>

Federal Funds Experience

None

Studies on Impact

Report: \$61B lost per year due to waste, inefficiency in 811 utility system

<https://www.constructiondive.com/news/report-61b-lost-per-year-due-to-waste-inefficiency-in-811-utility-system/610522/>

Damage Prevention Statistics in Michigan

https://www.michigan.gov/-/media/Project/Websites/mpsc/regulatory/nat-gas/safety-conference/Damage_Prevention_Update.pdf?rev=9939418231384166abd5e20dc7057e17

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$2,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$25,000,000

ARPA Request: \$3,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: John F Hendershot

Organization: Great Lakes Technical School for Utilities & Telecommunications

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Workforce Development

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

n/a



Supporting Documentation

- [1. Great Lakes Technical School Card](#)
- [2. Crane Operator Card](#)
- [3. Educational Flyer #1](#)
- [4. Educational Flyer #2](#)
- [5. Mockup Logo](#)
- [6. Excavation Handbook](#)
- [7. External Link](#)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$2,000,000
Maximum Cost: \$25,000,000
ARPA Request: \$3,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: John F Hendershot
Organization: Great Lakes Technical School for Utilities & Telecommunications

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development
Project Theme: Workforce Development
Project Status: New Project
Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

n/a

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Workforce development is eligible



Sustainability

This would need sustained funding in the future. Unclear if this is planned for.



Feasibility

Risk to 2026 completion

PROJECT #26

Jump Ahead L3C



Identify the need for the proposed project

We can contribute to the Economic Innovations and workforce development improving environmental health, creating revenue generating opportunities and cultural opportunities, renewable energy powered improvements and workforce training programs, customer service training provide new innovative technologies and enhanced a closed down school in Kent County turning it into a revenue generating renewable and sustainable energy powered transformational center that increases property value and quality of life for residents in the neighborhood and consumers of our services and products.

Brief Description

Jump Ahead L3C looks to be an innovative leader and sustainable and renewable energy, workforce development, service learning, and E-sports and other amenities with a global understanding that we can create global transformational change and help cities, counties, states and other countries equitably and equally. We look to help the community build a better relationship with police officers with a problem of police and community relations. Skilled Trades gaps and technical skills and gainful employment opportunities and career opportunities. We look to close the equity and wealth gap that plaques communities of color and impoverished and poor communities. create a meaning green jobs along with shortages of green spaces and ESG programs. Climate Change and environmental with disproportionate impact on low-income areas. We look to help create opportunities in the education and employment gaps with comparatively low Black and Latino achievement levels. Violence and crime, with disproportionate impact on minority youth across the united states. we look to offer service learning and educational programs to build essential technical programs educational opportunities to improve academics and professional levels, green jobs, esports

Long-Term Benefit

The long term benefit of this proposed project is creating a sustainable and renewable energy powered center that provides equitable, and equal opportunities attacking and reducing the poverty line in our city and county. Creating green spaces in impoverished and poor communities, helping the property values in homes go up in our city and county. We will create educational and career opportunities be attack climate change and environmental problems that plaque impoverished and poor communities.

Intended Beneficiary

The city of Grand Rapids, Kent County, The State of Michigan, poor & Impoverished communities and everyone who wants to utilize our products and services.

Estimated Cost

it would cost us \$17,000,000 to fully build out our project but if we could get at least \$2,000,000 to acquire the property from GRPS start make improvements to revitalize the school and use additional funding to adverting and help us get the rest of the capital to help this vision and transformational center a reality.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$2,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$17,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Deandre Jones

Organization: Jump Ahead L3C

Project Overview

Funding Group:

Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: Existing Project

Matching Funds: 76% or greater

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

We will seek investments from angel investors, VCs, private foundations, banks, and other lenders nonprofits and other government entities. We can provide ROIs on funds through PRI=Program Related Investments we can give all investors a return on investment other nonprofits like 501c3s cannot do the same we look to create revenue generating opportunities through all our services and provide sustainability in all services.

Partnership

n/a



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Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$2,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$17,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Deandre Jones

Organization: Jump Ahead L3C

Project Overview

Funding Group:

Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: Existing Project

Matching Funds: 76% or greater

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Project Management Experience

although we haven't lead county wide projects our team have lead city wide info sessions on Participatory Budgeting Processes, Created our own pilots and have certified in state budgeting and advocacy. We have full confidence that we could level up to any challenge of government.

Federal Funds Experience

We have only received a grant given by the safe pitch task force and utilized those funds in a fiscally responsible way.

Studies on Impact

yes we have researched all of our competition I know what programs and what they offer we know that majority of our colored populations lives in poverty and is at a disadvantage simply because of ethnicity.

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Workforce development for the unemployed is eligible



Sustainability

Does not include a funding plan or fund availability after expending all the ARPA dollars.



Feasibility

More information is needed, plan, info on the remaining \$15 million

Source of Funding

We will seek investments from angel investors, VCs, private foundations, banks, and other lenders nonprofits and other government entities. We can provide ROIs on funds through PRI=Program Related Investments we can give all investors a return on investment other nonprofits like 501c3s cannot do the same we look to create revenue generating opportunities through all our services and provide sustainability in all services.

Partnership

n/a



PROJECT #199

Equitable Development Initiative

Identify the need for the proposed project

Kent County is experiencing a dual crisis related to housing affordability and racial justice. Any review of data or local and national media makes that abundantly clear. Many residents will tell you the same, based on their own lived experience or their engagement with community members and organizations trying to address these issues. Housing prices have been on the rise for the past several years; in May 2022, prices were up nearly 15% from the same time last year in Kent County, with a median sale price of \$310,000. (1). In October 2021, the Grand Rapids Business Journal reported that home prices were outpacing income, with the median home price much higher than that of annual wage growth (2). In 2020, Housing Next's comprehensive study estimated that Kent County, excluding Grand Rapids, will need an additional 3,581 apartments and 9,760 condos, townhomes, or single-family homes by 2025 to meet demand and ensure low-income residents are not displaced. The same report estimated that the City of Grand Rapids will need 8,888 new housing units by 2025 to do the same (3). These are startling numbers that cannot be ignored. Additionally, the racial reckoning that has been surging throughout the country has been present in Kent County as well. Racial disparities across the prenatal to career continuum have been apparent for years (4). Media attention has been widespread, too. The 2015 Forbes article brought unwanted national attention to Grand Rapids when it declared the city one of the worst places for economic mobility in the country for African Americans (5). In 2020, NPR focused on Kent County as an example of how racial unrest has been impacting voters, highlighting the tension that has been building in our community (6). In 2021, several community groups urged the county to discuss racism as a public health crisis, given the ongoing issues with policing, violence, and lack of systemic change to improve lives (7). Housing Kent and Housing Next are proposing a unique collaboration to address both these issues – the Equitable Development Initiative, which empowers minority developers to lead community revitalization efforts. This unique initiative will provide meaningful workforce development and capital for developers of color to address the housing crisis in Kent County, while providing greater opportunity and access for populations that have been historically excluded from wealth building. Research studies show that accelerator programs have positive outcomes. One study showed that startups' participation in accelerators was positively correlated with higher survival rates, increased growth in employee numbers, and higher amounts of funds raised (8). Workforce development programs are also supported by research. McKinsey & Company has done extensive research on global workforce development programs and economic strategies and have identified "best practices" of successful programs. These include several that align with the Equitable Development Initiative's proposed strategies, including 1.) Define geographic assets and identify target professions; 2.) Support comprehensive, demand-driven training methods; and 3.) Assess and prepare learners before they start training (9). The result of this important initiative will be a stronger, more diverse and inclusive workforce of real estate developers, as well as stronger, more diverse and inclusive communities in Kent County. If the Equitable Development Initiative is funded, Kent County will join many other programs across the country striving for a more inclusive economy.

(1). <https://www.redfin.com/county/1388/MI/Kent-County/housing-market> (2). <https://grbj.com/news/economic-development/home-prices-outpace-income/> (3). <https://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/2020/07/grand-rapids-needs-a-lot-of-new-housing-to-meet-demand-avoid-displacing-residents.html> (4). <https://data.johnsoncenter.org/kconnect/> (5). <https://grbj.com/news/grand-rapids-ranks-among-worst-economically-for-african-americans/> (6). <https://www.npr.org/2020/06/25/882462044/how-racial-unrest-is-motivating-white-voters-in-one-key-michigan-county> (7). <https://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/2021/04/kent-county-groups-discuss-racism-as-a-public-health-crisis.html> (8) Bone, J., et al. (2019). The Impact of Business Accelerators and Incubators in the UK. BEIS Research Paper Number 2019/009. (9) Laboissiere, M & Mourshed, M. (2017). McKinsey & Company. Closing the skills gap: Creating workforce-development programs that work for everyone.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$1,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$1,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Eureka People

Organization: Housing Kent

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$1,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$1,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Eureka People

Organization: Housing Kent

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Brief Description

Charting a new path toward inclusive economic opportunity, the Equitable Development Initiative combines our local knowledge, partnerships, and key strengths – including program design and project financing – to support developers of color to grow their careers and support communities at the same time. This is a unique collaboration that could only be accomplished through a partnership between Housing Kent and Housing Next, along with their respective networks. The key components of the Equitable Development Initiative will include: Training Program participants engage in formal real estate development training, workshops with local development experts and city leaders, and discussions around challenges and opportunities for minority developers in metropolitan regions. Mentorship Participants receive one-on-one support from both a developer mentor and a finance mentor. These local experts provide project-specific guidance to further participants' real estate development efforts. Financing The Equitable Development Initiative will work with program participants to connect them to project financing options, leveraging the tools they have gained to strengthen their financing applications. Additionally, investment opportunities will be focused on efforts to build wealth locally, encourage a healthy mix of affordable and marketrate housing, and encourage first-time investors to become more attractive to traditional lenders.

Long-Term Benefit

This large-scale initiative has the potential to impact a major industry in Kent County – real estate development – through inclusive workforce development/accelerator programs and access to capital that ultimately will contribute to a more equitable local economy, while also improving housing affordability so that more residents can be housed by choice, remain financially stable, build wealth, and provide a stable residence where their families can thrive well into the future.

Intended Beneficiary

This is a significant endeavor that will benefit residents all throughout Kent County. The initial goal of the Equitable Development Initiative is to support the advancement of at least 20 developers of color over the course of two years, ensuring each has the resources needed to complete their first development project. In the long term, this project will work to create a more inclusive and diverse real estate development industry in Kent County, with developers who, in turn, are committed to creating a healthy ecosystem of housing, with high-quality options at a variety of price points. This is a multi-pronged, cohesive approach that benefits developers of colors, residents in need of stable housing, and entire communities in need of socially conscious investment.

*Partnership

Yes, this proposal involves other community partners. The project sponsor will be the Greater Grand Rapids Chamber Foundation – a 501c3 Non-profit. LINC UP – provide technical assistance and mentoring. Capital Impact Partners – provide training and best practice support to LINC UP and the Grand Rapids Chamber Foundation. Northern Initiatives – provide access to capital for developers of color. Grand Rapids Urban League – provide program support in community outreach and engagement. Housing Next and Housing Kent - provide technical assistance, convening, and facilitation.

Estimated Cost

\$1,000,000.00



(Page 3)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$1,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$1,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Eureka People

Organization: Housing Kent

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

*Source of Funding

City of Grand Rapids Affordable Housing Fund, a fund that seeks to address racial and ethnic barriers in housing. Housing Kent and Housing Next have had preliminary conversations with the City of Grand Rapids about utilizing these funds for this project, but the Affordable Housing Fund Board will need to make any final decisions regarding funding allocation. Local Philanthropic organizations have also been engaged regarding this initiative and have expressed early support. The Kent County investment would be seed investment to secure additional matching funds against.

Project Management Experience

Housing Kent is, by design, a county-wide project with Kent County as the target geography. While the organization is still in its startup phase, we are supported by the Collective Impact infrastructure model, including the Common Agenda and Road Map (or the "Community Plan") developed by the Housing Stability Alliance (the network of community stakeholders working toward housing stability in Kent County). This framework and strategic priorities give Housing Kent organizational stability that other startup organizations might not have. Additionally, Housing Kent has the support and partnership of KConnect, Kent County's Collective Impact initiative that has been aligning systems across the prenatal to career continuum since 2013. They are able to provide best practices and "lessons learned" for managing and leading county-wide initiatives, which have, and will continue to, greatly benefit Housing Kent. Housing Next is a pilot initiative that serves Kent and Ottawa counties. Its work is funded by philanthropy, business, and local units of government with an interest in increasing quality of life and access to housing of all types. The organization partners with local governments, developers, and nonprofits in West Michigan to remove barriers to the creation of equitable housing choices at all price points. Housing Next is familiar with largescale projects and working with municipalities. Its approach includes working with local government units to review their master plans, evaluate local zoning standards, and find opportunities to allow for more housing that aligns with the community's vision for its future. Housing Next has completed wide-scale housing needs assessments for communities, including the Grand Rapids and Kent County Housing Needs Assessment and the Ottawa County Housing Needs Assessment.

Federal Funds Experience

While Housing Kent and Housing Next have not worked with federal funds before, both organizations manage several different types of funding sources, from municipal to philanthropic to corporate, and have experience and expertise in fund management.

Studies on Impact

The impact of safe and thriving neighborhoods on the health and wellbeing of residents is well documented. Stable housing is a critical component to establishing a healthy community that in turn impacts multiple domains of an individual's life, including health, educational attainment, criminal activity, and employment (1) (2) (3). Additionally, workforce development/accelerator programs for real estate developers of color have been on the rise for the past few years. Many organizations behind these efforts cite the stark statistics from the Urban Land Institute showing that 5% of its members are Black, even though individuals who are Black represent more than 13% of the general population. These efforts recognize that real estate is a capital-intensive business, which can be a barrier for populations who have been historically excluded from accessing capital, as well as other resources such as training and networks (4). (1) <https://doi.org/10.1093/qje/qjy007> (2) MacArthur Foundation - How Neighborhoods Affect Health, Well-being, and Young People's Futures (3) <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40471-015-0035-7>. (4) <https://www.bisnow.com/national/news/top-talent/new-funds-for-black-developers-fronting-million-for-their-success-111867>



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Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Affordable housing is eligible



Sustainability

Does not include a funding plan or fund availability after expending all the ARPA dollars.



Feasibility

Financing is unclear, how specifically will the funds be used to impact workforce development?

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$1,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$1,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Eureka People

Organization: Housing Kent

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

PROJECT #71

Generative Impact at 1515 Madison: Building the Social Innovation & Economic Resiliency Ecosystem for the Future



Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$15,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$16,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Dr. Justin Beene

Organization: Grand Rapids Center for Community Transformation

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Identify the need for the proposed project

There has been an increased focus on the 49507 zip code in recent years, given how historic inequities and an ongoing lack of financial investment has resulted in continuing economic decline. Even as other areas within Kent County saw significant recoveries after the Great Recession in 2008, many neighborhoods in 49507 continued to experience significant challenges. The issue of racial justice is paramount as well, as these communities have some of the highest concentrations of people of color throughout the county. Institutional policies and practices continue to impact the 49507 area, and the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the economic, social, and racial challenges while also creating new ones. Despite these challenges, community-based organizations, residents, investors, and funders have begun to work together to create a community where people can work, live, play, and thrive. The Grand Rapids Center for Community Transformation (GRCCT) knows that the time to build on this and do something bold is now. The opportunity to model collaboration, equity, racial healing, and generational economic change is staring our community in the face. But this will require major paradigm shifts: one from charity to entrepreneurship, from competition to partnership, and from transactional to transformational. Further, the geographic significance of 49507 is indisputable and cannot be overstated. If true economic innovation occurs in this community, we will substantially reduce the racial and economic disparities that have plagued our city and county's reputation and create ripple effects throughout the surrounding areas. The time has come to leverage the existing interest from federal, state, and local governments and foundations to bring to life a vision that is far-reaching yet practical in the areas of social innovation, community, economic recovery, and equity. The time has come for a robust partnership and platform across lines to properly orchestrate the innovation, investment, and development of this community and build generational wealth and improve the overall quality of life.

Brief Description

GRCCT and its six core partners, along with other community partners, including AmplifyGR, is launching a community and economic development project focused on building a sustainable and generative ecosystem that creates and retains jobs, stimulates business growth, implements an intentional process for wide-scale partnership, closes gaps in the entrepreneurship ecosystem, and provides employees (and their families) support and system navigation. The initiative has already has a foundation and momentum through existing collaborations and ability to leverage current infrastructure, initiatives, and funding. The time has come for the relational and financial connectivity to culminate in a permanent social innovation and entrepreneurship space at 1515 Madison Ave. This large-scale, transformative project is centered around two main activities: 1.) redeveloping 1515 Madison Ave. SE through inclusive development processes, utilizing the space to facilitate collaboration, innovation, and entrepreneurship, and ensuring that 51% of the building is owned by POC, 2.) implementing economic growth and placemaking strategies that create a community wide "Innovation District" that generates opportunities for job creation, business incubation in technology, professional services, Makers, innovators, culinary businesses, and educational opportunities. This project will build upon two existing catalytic investments in the district from GRCCT and AmplifyGR, with a combined \$17 million.

Long-Term Benefit

This project will reverse the enduring economic trends that have disenfranchised entire neighborhoods in Kent County. By building accessible vocational and educational career paths in strategic industries, supporting small businesses and wealth creation, fostering meaningful networks and collaboration, providing navigation and practical supports, and prioritizing placemaking, this project will lead to increased hope, real ownership by the community, economic stability and overall improved health



(Page 2)

Intended Beneficiary

The mission is to create a centralized, principled, and equitable framework and ecosystem for community investment and economic transformation that will accelerate social and economic upward mobility, creating change that will be felt throughout the county. The Generative Impact Initiative has a set of measurable goals and objectives that demonstrate the transformative impact this project will have on residents in 49507 and ultimately throughout the county. Goals and Objectives for 1515 Madison Ave. SE Goal 1: Redevelop facility at 1515 Madison Ave. SE • Obj 1: Complete at \$15M capital raise for the purchase and renovation of the building through diverse group partners, with at least 51% being minority owned. • Obj. 2: Utilize 70% minority contractors in the redevelopment of the building. • Obj 3. Utilize the Entrepreneurial Operating System (EOS) as an execution method for supporting startups, minority owned businesses, and mobilizing building partners towards a shared vision. Goal 2: Facilitate collaboration, innovation, and entrepreneurship in the building. • Obj.1: Provide structured quarterly business-to-business and network (e.g., West Michigan Sustainable Business Forum, Hispanic Chamber, West Michigan Minority Contractors Association) collaboration opportunities in the geography to intentionally encourage partnerships and facilitate access to resources at 1515 (e.g., supportive employee case management). • Obj. 2: Provide physical spaces for companies to use for business development and employee retention (e.g., job fairs, resident listening sessions, customer appreciation events, employee celebration events). • Obj. 3: Facilitate optimized execution amongst organizations and businesses through close proximity and backbone support (e.g., EOS implementation, technical assistance, access to technology) to work toward strategic alignment of community goals, job creation, and business development goals. • Obj 4: Partner and lease space to 25+ key partners that fit into 6 unique categories (Entrepreneurial Support Orgs, Funders, Corporations, Educational Institutions, Start Ups) who will share a vision, mission, and values of the building and executing on a collaborative spirit to creating a flourishing city for all. Goals and Objectives for the "Innovation District" Goal 1: Grow pathways for livable careers. • Obj 1: Formalize a neighborhood-based approach to successful job retention and career growth through GRCCT, AmplifyGR, and The Source and others that can be expanded. A. Develop a neighborhood-based employee support program. B. Implement a tailored concierge program that offers basic needs supports to employees through creation of a Community Employee Assistance Fund and through a community partnership that will allow employees who have been historically disadvantaged access to essential home goods (e.g., toiletries, diapers, furniture, food). C. Expand personalized barrier removal services for employees (e.g., childcare, transportation options, health insurance, etc.). • Obj. 2: Support a placed-based approach to culturally competent leadership. A. Develop shared language and camaraderie through key organizational leaders in the building and in the network via participation in the 2-year Transformational Executive Coaching program. Goal 2: Scale Black and Brown Neighborhood Business Development • Obj. 1: Work with key providers in the entrepreneurship space, identify gaps, and work together to provide training/support for start-up businesses to launch 50 new businesses in the next five years. • Obj. 2: Ensure ongoing business growth, sustainability, and collaboration through continuous business mentorship opportunities. • Obj. 3: Facilitate greater collaboration amongst organizations and businesses through close proximity and backbone support to work toward strategic alignment of projects, job creation, and business development goals. • Obj. 4: Develop a progression of spaces so that an entrepreneur can utilize different types of spaces for different needs (e.g., shared space, small office, large conference room). • Obj. 5: Develop a robust list of business mentors in area of Human Resources, legal, accounting, etc. to support local businesses launch and scale. Goal 3: Attract and scale businesses committed to equity, local hiring/training, and livable wages. • Obj. 1: Create and/or attract 400 new FTE and retain a 100 existing FTE with a minimum of 50% of positions filled by low-income/historically disadvantaged individuals. • Obj. 2: By the end of the five-year period, the project will attract/leverage up to \$50M of additional investment in housing, businesses, and social services through leveraging the impact of this project. Goal 4: Neighborhood and Placemaking • Obj. 1. Develop at least one half-acre park by 2023. • Obj. 2. Launch at minimum 10 community events per year that encourage broad engagement (e.g., 5K races, neighborhood picnics, etc.). • Obj. 3. Develop at minimum 5 public art installations per year and continue partnering with ArtPrize and other larger downtown festivals to bring economic activity to SE Grand Rapids. • Obj. 4. Develop ability to build a personalized family dashboard that allows development of personal goals utilizing network/community resources, savings, and goal information • Obj. 5. Develop a comprehensive website that connects corporate desire for DEI spending with localized and vetted minority- and woman-owned businesses (e.g., connect general contractors with local West Michigan Minority Contractor Association) These goals and objectives come together to create a cohesive approach to inclusive economic growth, taking into account the whole family and multi-generation impact. Through job growth, workforce development, and small business support, this initiative creates economic mobility and opportunity; through basic needs support, navigation services, and family-centered placemaking, this initiative builds a neighborhood where people can thrive.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$15,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$16,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Dr. Justin Beene

Organization: Grand Rapids Center for Community Transformation

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)



(Page 3)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$15,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$16,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Dr. Justin Beene

Organization: Grand Rapids Center for Community Transformation

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership(s)

(Listed in main description)

*Partnership

GRCCT will utilize its partnership with Amplify GR to implement this project. Amplify GR focuses on community and economic development in 49507 as well; together, these two organizations can create the centralized platform needed to build an equitable and aligned ecosystem for change. AmplifyGR currently owns the building at 1515 Madison and GRCCT owns the building directly across the street at 1530 Madison Ave. GRCCT is made up of six core partners (3 for-profits and 3 non-profits), Rising Grinds Café, Bethany Christian Services, NAACP-GR, Grand Rapids Nehemiah Project, Building Bridges Professional Services, and The 1530 – all of which strategically align across sectors, political agendas, and moving institutions to collaborate on a shared mission to create opportunities for transformation. Additionally, 1515 Madison Ave. SE will strive to incorporate the following partnerships in planning, implementation, and co-location in the 1515 Madison build and Innovation District. This is not an exhaustive list, but partners have been actively engaged in conversations about this project: Funding Access: IFF, Northern Initiatives, Kennari Consulting, offices for local foundations, Venture Capital, and Private Equity firms. Education Partners: Grand Valley State University, Calvin University, Kendall College of Art and Design, and Kuyper College to provide affordable education opportunities through business and social innovation courses and strategically connect students to the community and employers. Corporate Partners: Steelcase, Bissell, Meijer, and others to explore utilizing space for their DEI, procurement, innovation, and Research and Development centers. Food and Beverage: Develop a locally owned brewery and food spot that allows for community to gather, including an outside space with games and play area for children. Startup Partners: partners such as Help Business Grow, Spring GR, Start Garden, etc. that could potentially be physically located in the building or hold courses and create synergy in and through their work and networks in 1515 Madison. Networks: provide space to networks like West Michigan Hispanic Chamber, West Michigan Sustainable Business Forum, West Michigan Minority Contractor Association, Michigan Minority Business Development, etc. to host events and share work. One of GRCCT's major strengths is our ability to create partnerships that work to provide a continuum of supports and services within the community. This project will exemplify this approach, starting with GRCCT's core partners (listed above) who together already provide case management, barrier reduction services, vocational training, job opportunities, venue space, and community engagement. Our Innovation District will be built upon successful collaboration that ensures community needs are met, assets are leveraged, and our cross-sector partners are all committed to a shared vision for economic innovation. Not only does this benefit residents, but it also has value for each and every partner. Through collaboration, we build networks of support, assisting our partner organizations in finding the resources they need to advance their work. We also work closely together to brainstorm and problem-solve, creating "learning hubs" that help unite our focus, align strategies, and maximize impact. Finally, 1515 Madison is utilizing elements of a community ownership model, which enables residents with limited financial resources, along with partnering organizations, to purchase and redevelop buildings in their communities, thereby maintaining wealth within. As mentioned, this building will be owned by at least 51% people of color, from the community. This is an innovative strategy for stewarding community assets to counteract the typical consequences of redevelopment – gentrification and displacement. This project could be used as a case example for replication throughout Kent County, creating impact across communities and populations.

Estimated Cost

\$15-\$16 million



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Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$15,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$16,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Dr. Justin Beene

Organization: Grand Rapids Center for Community Transformation

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

*Source of Funding

GRCCT recently completed a successful \$5 M campaign to redevelop and expands its headquarters at 1530 Madison SE. The success of this project has strategically positioned the community to expand on this investment. This project will be funded through a variety of sources and partners. The structure of the real estate will be that GRCCT, AmplifyGR and a community investment fund led by people from the community will own the building. Each partner will raise approximately. \$5–7 million. Partners will seek New Market Tax Credits, Brownfield Tax Credits, and other Michigan Economic Development Corporation funds for this project. GRCCT is in close partnership with all the major local foundations including Wege Foundation, Steelcase Foundation, Grand Rapids Community Foundation, DeVos Family Foundation, and the Frey Foundation and is already in conversations with many of them about this project. Funding from this ARPA opportunity will serve as the first catalytic gift for this project, and GRCCT is respectfully requesting \$7 million.

Project Management Experience

GRCCT has built – from the ground up – an innovative, place-based collaborative that has fueled significant growth and progress in a part of the community from which many had divested. Our work is now spurring the movement we see today to revitalize southeast Grand Rapids. The skills and capacity needed to manage and lead such an all-encompassing effort are substantial. Indeed, where else in the county might one go to attend high school completion courses, earn a vocational certificate in construction, find a case manager to help navigate housing instability, get paired with a mentor, take a college business course, participate in an anti-racism workshop, find a job with living wages and participate in profit sharing, start a new business, and host their quinceanera at the same place? GRCCT is working every day to mobilize the partners and resources needed to catalyze a movement for transformation that affirms the dignity of each and every person while also cultivating systems that are more equitable and effective in building wealth from generation to generation. Additionally, GRCCT has extensive experience administering multi-million-dollar federal, state, and county grants, which has required rigorous project and financial management, systematic community engagement throughout all processes, strong communication and collaboration processes, evaluation, and longterm planning. GRCCT staff and partners are well-positioned to continue to grow and scale our work. Specifically, operators at GRCCT have managed multiple Paycheck Protection Program loans, City of Grand Rapids Community Development Block Grant funds, federal grants through the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Labor, and Kent County funds administered through the Area Agency on Aging.

Federal Funds Experience

GRCCT staff have administered several federal grants, including the Department of Labor's YouthBuild program, and the Administration for Children and Family's READY4Life program, a Health Marriage and Relationship Education grant, a Sexual Risk Avoidance Education program, and the Family Self-Sufficiency Demonstration Development project, among many others. Dr. Justin Beene, the Founder and Visionary of GRCCT, has managed over 15 federal grants and has spoken at many federal and state conferences on grant management and innovative design. These grants typically include collaboration with many other partners, so the organization is also familiar with the processes and requirements associated with federal funding and partnership. GRCCT has a full time CPA on staff to support the work, along with a robust set of federal grant processes and best practices that allow it to capture federal funding while also allowing it to benefit the local community.



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Studies on Impact

This project is aiming to implement a type of “regional economic system” that is inclusive and community-based. A successful regional economic system consists of four pillars(1): •Economic development: institutions and policies that enable the creation, innovation, growth, and attraction of businesses (and thus jobs). •Talent development: institutions and policies focused on helping individuals build their skills and capabilities (e.g., education, workforce development) and the employers they sometimes partner with to place individuals into jobs. •Spatial development: the physical and social infrastructure that enable economic participation, implicating public, private, and nonprofit organizations focused on transportation access, community-building, and housing and land use. •Asset development: consists of institutions and policies focused on building those assets through financial planning, homeownership, and entrepreneurship. The Generative Impact Initiative contains these four pillars through its focus on job creation and small business support, workforce development, redevelopment, placemaking, social/practical supports, and generational wealth building. (1)Parilla, J. Donahue, R., & Martinez, S. (2022).Brookings Institution

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$15,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$16,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Dr. Justin Beene

Organization: Grand Rapids Center for Community Transformation

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

Economic development is not eligible. Parts of this project could be eligible though under workforce development and property rehab and development.

Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)



PROJECT #178

Thrift Expansion

Identify the need for the proposed project

Thrift shopping is a growing industry and MTM Thrift is poised to capitalize on its recent successes in expansion. MTM Thrift stands out from other thrifting organizations in the community as it is headquartered in Kent County and revenues directly benefit residents of Kent County. This project will also help address labor shortages for low-income individuals due to the pandemic.

Brief Description

The project includes construction of a new, flagship thrift store and donation warehouse. While the pandemic and current economic climate has impacted several retail stores in the community, the demand for thrift stores has grown. As a result of our recent expansions we are ramping up to establish a flagship store and donation warehouse to hire more low-income individuals as a part of our organization's mission. There is a skilled labor shortage as a result of the pandemic and this project will create sustainable, livable wage jobs. This store and associated donation warehouse will work with our parent company, Mel Trotter Ministries, to provide sustainable, livable wage employment opportunities to low-income individuals. Currently, MTM Thrift operates six successful stores, five in Kent County and one in Ottawa County. This project will also enhance the existing brand of MTM Thrift, its profitability, and will continue to create jobs and give back to the community long past the grant period.

Long-Term Benefit

Creation of new entry-level and management employment opportunities for low-income individuals. Retail expansion and tax revenue in shopping districts. Gives financial support to Mel Trotter Ministries and its work.

Intended Beneficiary

Low-income individuals

Estimated Cost

\$750,000.00

Project Management Experience

Own and operate 6 successful thrift stores with guidance from the parent company Mel Trotter Ministries; Our parent company, Mel Trotter, leads diversion efforts throughout Kent County working with Kent ISD.

Federal Funds Experience

Our parent company, who will administer grant funds and provide oversight has significant additional experience working with federal funds: • Grand Rapids Emergency Solutions Grant • Grand Rapids Community Development Block Grant • MDHHS Emergency Shelter Program Grant • DHHS Community Economic Development Grant • Numerous CARES and ARPA Grants

Studies on Impact

May 2022, IBISWorld Thrift Stores Industry Report OD5525

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$750,000

Maximum Cost: \$750,000

Submitter Info

Name: Michele McIsaac

Organization: Mel Trotter Ministries

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

Profits from existing locations and ongoing profits from new store after reaching profitability.

Partnership

Mel Trotter Ministries, Next Step of West Michigan, SMCof Thrift



(Page 2)

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$750,000

Maximum Cost: \$750,000

Submitter Info

Name: Michele McIsaac

Organization: Mel Trotter Ministries

Potentially eligible under workforce development. Additional information will be needed if the proposal moves forward in the process.

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

Profits from existing locations and ongoing profits from new store after reaching profitability.

Partnership

Mel Trotter Ministries, Next Step of West Michigan, SMCo Thrift



PROJECT #212

Endless Opportunities Mentoring

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$150,000

Maximum Cost: \$450,000

ARPA Request: \$150,000

Submitter Info

Name: Tanell Hills

Organization:
Endless Opportunities

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: Existing Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

\$75,000: Wege Foundation, United Way, Grand Rapids Community Foundation, Corporate Sponsorships, and Private Donors

Partnership

Baxter Community Center, Grand Rapids Urban League, NAACP, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Esquire Mentoring Program, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc- Ivylette Mentoring Program, Mosaic Masterminds, Experience GR, Grand Rapids Public School,

Identify the need for the proposed project

Endless Opportunities has identified the need for the proposed project through our 10 years of operating as a nonprofit in the Greater Grand Rapids area, 7 years of conducting weekly youth mentorship, student and parent surveys, as well as community surveying of our special events.

Brief Description

Endless Opportunities delivers innovative mentoring experiences designed to Engage, Educate, and Empower young people. Mentoring relationships can increase the social-emotional development of youth and challenge the negative views they hold of themselves, improve cognitive development and thinking skills, which help them be more receptive to advice and instruction, and facilitate identity development. Our youth develop core values and learn how to illustrate these values effectively within the community. Participation in this program assist the youth in improving social interactions with adults and peers, leading to less time spent being unproductive. The Mentors and Mentees meet at Baxter Community Center, off-site meetings/lunch and learns at local businesses, community service events etc. that take place at recreational and educational locations throughout the community. We will offer after school programming for youth that includes mentorship, college readiness, life skill development to bring back the teachings of home economics in the areas of home repair services, automotive repair, sewing, gardening, and cooking. Youth learning these skills will be able to fill the gaps in skilled trades. We will offer conflict resolution programming to connect youth in schools to therapist of color to assist with decrease in suspension rates and youth crime. We will offer a civic engagement training that educates and help to build our youth civic intelligence.

Long-Term Benefit

We foresee an economic surge for our community as the youth learn and apply the skills to create businesses and join the workforce, increased internships, and an endowment pipe-line to retain Black and Brown Talent in West Michigan. We also expect healing for families, improved physical and mental health in youth, decrease in health disparities, increased human capital, decrease in suspension rates, and a decrease in crime caused by youth.

Intended Beneficiary

Students enrolled in our program, Families, local business, School Districts, and the Community at large will all benefit greatly from Endless Opportunities' programming.

Estimated Cost

\$450,000 (\$150,000 per year for 3 years)

Project Management Experience

Most of Endless Opportunities experience has been managing Foundation Grant funds, Corporate Sponsorships and Private Donations for our programming within the Greater Grand Rapids community, however we have a wealth of knowledge within our network of resources.



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Federal Funds Experience

We do not have experience with federal funding.

Studies on Impact

Non-parental adults and peers play an important role in promoting healthy development for youth. Research suggests that mentoring relationships can increase the social-emotional development of children and adolescents and challenge the negative views youth hold of themselves, improve cognitive development and thinking skills, which help youth be more receptive to advice and instruction, and facilitate identity development. Federal funding for mentoring has been provided to a variety of federal agencies, including the following programs: The Juvenile Mentoring Program (OJJDP, 1998b), The Mentoring Children of Prisoners Program (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2011), The Safe and Drug-Free Schools Mentoring Program, for children at risk of educational failure, dropping out of school, or involvement in delinquent activities (U.S. Department of Education, 2005), The Mentoring Initiative for System-Involved Youth, for youth in foster care and juvenile justice system (OJJDP, 2006), Mentoring Opportunities for Youth Initiative (OJJDP, n.d.), The ElementsofEffectivePracticeforMentoring(MENTOR,2009)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$150,000

Maximum Cost: \$450,000

ARPA Request: \$150,000

Submitter Info

Name: Tanell Hills

Organization:
Endless Opportunities

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: Existing Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

\$75,000: Wege Foundation, United Way, Grand Rapids Community Foundation, Corporate Sponsorships, and Private Donors

Partnership

Baxter Community Center, Grand Rapids Urban League, NAACP, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Esquire Mentoring Program, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc- Ivylette Mentoring Program, Mosaic Masterminds, Experience GR, Grand Rapids Public School,

Guidehouse Ranking Notes

 **Eligibility**

Appears to target eligible communities. Would need to verify this

 **Sustainability**

3 year program

 **Feasibility**



PROJECT #269

Downtown Market Education Foundation Expansion

Identify the need for the proposed project

The Downtown Market was founded with the vision of revitalization, through food and culinary, of the Heartside neighborhood of Grand Rapids. Since 2013, the Downtown Market Market Hall has been home to over 45 food businesses and the 5,000 square foot, shared, Incubator Kitchen has helped over 130 food entrepreneurs launch new businesses, and helped guide over 1000 businesses since 2013. These businesses include: -28 entrepreneurs have advanced from the Downtown Market Incubator Kitchen to their own sustainable, brick and mortar facilities. 14 Market Hall tenants have advanced into their own brick and mortar facilities or expanded their operations to include the launch of new business entities within the Market Hall. -Of the Downtown Market Incubator Kitchen entrepreneurs who have advanced to their own facilities, over 60% are female owned businesses. Currently 32% of Market Hall businesses are female owned. -The Downtown Market Hall and Incubator Kitchen have been a catalyst for over 60 BIPOC owned food businesses to launch. -Based on a 2019 economic impact study, the efforts of the Downtown Market have contributed to the Kent County economy with an overall economic impact of \$85 million in total output supporting 764 jobs. This study also found that the Downtown Market caused \$31 million in economic activity, of which \$19.5 million was generated by Incubator Kitchen and Market Hall entrepreneurs. The Downtown Market aims to continuously be a catalyst for food entrepreneurship, innovation and equality for all food entrepreneurs. For nearly 10 years, the Downtown Market has collaborated and partnered with many other Entrepreneurial Support Organizations. Through these partnerships, Culinary Conversations was formed. In 2018 representatives from the Downtown Market, Start Garden, MSU and GROW quickly recognized the burgeoning growth of food entrepreneurship & the collective need for continual, educational opportunities for all communities.

Brief Description

The proposal is an expansion of 2 programs: Culinary Conversations will increase free educational events to 1 per month, for the next 3 years (2023-2026). Events will include workshops, discussions, expert classes & more. Each event will be offered to all entrepreneurs & enthusiasts for free, to ensure access for all. The Education Foundation will expand the Incubator Kitchen equipment to provide food entrepreneurs with more access to production equipment. New equipment for faster, efficient production will allow entrepreneurs to be more competitive, increase margins and ensure viability, all while maintaining low overhead. Equipment will assist in both the recovery of and sustainable growth for RTE food producers. This will also increase the accessibility to large scale, commercial equipment to communities that do not traditionally have access to these resources. Beyond equipment, this funding will allow us to maintain the affordability of the Incubator Kitchen & Program, specifically our Scholarship Rates which have been created to offer affordable opportunities for disadvantaged communities. This allocation of funding will allow us to expand the Downtown Market's educational services. Free industry & business education, combined with a production facility allows unparalleled access to success. The goal for both of these projects is to increase opportunities for entrepreneurs from disadvantaged communities & support business recovery for those affected by COVID.

Long-Term Benefit

Long term benefits to these projects are based on a 2019 Impact Report conducted by the Downtown Market. These include but are not limited to: -Affordable & sustainable access to resources for BIPOC * disadvantaged community entrepreneurs. -Catalyst for businesses and community organizations to launch and expand. - Continuous educational and support opportunities in conjunction with affordable access to the largest shared kitchen in Kent County. - Sustainable job creation in Kent County.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$156,000

Maximum Cost: \$156,000

ARPA Request: \$156,000

Submitter Info

Name: Mimi Fritz

Organization:

Grand Rapids Downtown Market

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: Existing Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

Start Garden, MSU-Product Center, and GROW



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$156,000

Maximum Cost: \$156,000

ARPA Request: \$156,000

Submitter Info

Name: Mimi Fritz

Organization:

Grand Rapids Downtown Market

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: Existing Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

Start Garden, MSU-Product Center, and GROW

Intended Beneficiary

Initially, through these proposed expansions, a direct beneficiary will be food entrepreneurs who have been directly affected by COVID with a focus on BIPOC, LGBTQ+, other disadvantaged communities and those who have been further affected by COVID restrictions and equality gaps.

Estimated Cost

\$30,000 per year for Culinary Conversations events and programming (\$90,000 total) \$10,000 per year for Downtown Market Education Foundation free educational programming with a focus on opportunities for entrepreneurs from disadvantaged communities. \$18,000 in year 1 for acquisition and installation of a commercial blast chiller. \$3,000 in year 1 for acquisition and installation of a heat tunnel. \$5,000 per year for funding towards 'scholarship' opportunities for BIPOC food entrepreneurs and RTE businesses affected by COVID. This will allow even more access to our programming and facilities for traditionally disadvantaged communities. (\$15,000 total) Overall fund request: Year 1: \$66,000 Year 2: \$45,000 Year 3: \$45,000 Total: \$156,000

Project Management Experience

n/a

Federal Funds Experience

To the best of our knowledge, The Downtown Market Education Foundation has not received previous funding through federal outlets.

Studies on Impact

The Downtown Market Education Foundation is not currently aware of any recent studies that have been conducted within Kent County.

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

Could be eligible as workforce development or economic impact depending on clearly targeting disproportionately impacted communities.

3 year program

PROJECT #7

Investing in Circular Economy Infrastructure for Textile Re-use & Upcycling



Identify the Need for the Proposed Project

Over the past 6 years working with area manufacturers Public Thread has found that companies want circular solutions that are scalable to address their surplus and scrap textile waste - however we are not able to change systems without infrastructure investment that matches the scale of the problem. Tens of thousands of textile waste is produced weekly in Kent County and there is no public policy, or scaled solutions to divert the high quality materials that could absolutely be transformed into products that fit easily into existing supply chains. In MI less than 1% of textile waste is recycled or upcycled. There is also a huge need for living wage jobs in the area of cut & sew manufacturing, upcycled product design, marketing for circular economy, circular supply chain strategies, waste diversion, inventory and materials management, training, education and the integration of design x localized production of apparel and accessories in West MI. These things will not just happen as they represent a system we are 50-60 years removed from due to globalization. The textile industry is incredibly wasteful and does not currently support a triple bottom line/sustainable solutions to business but it can with some investment and collaboration across industries - something Public Thread has been building and is ready to scale.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$600,000

Maximum Cost: \$750,000

Submitter Info

Name: Janay J Brower

Organization: Public Thread

Project Overview

Funding Group:

Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: Existing Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Brief Description

These funds are once in a lifetime and offer an opportunity for our community to not only just fund economic development, but a new kind of econ. dev. It is our chance to build the infrastructure for a circular economy in an area that has long been untouched but needs attention - textile upcycling, repurposing and recycling. We are throwing out 13 million pounds of textiles each year in Kent County and the materials are 85% post-industrial waste that is high quality and each ton could = 1 living wage jobs created and sustained. It could equal a reduction in carbon emissions equivalent to 39,000 cars being off the road. As a cut & sew manufacturing facility, Public Thread here in GR has already built a foundation for this work. Accessing these resources could not only create and sustain new Green Jobs but also allow us to work with area designers and entrepreneurs to incorporate upcycled textiles into new or existing products. Investment into our operations would also assist us with workforce development, education and training we are doing with GRCC, Kendall and community orgs, to train people for cut & sew careers across West MI. We are also positioned to assist area corporations with implementing circular economy strategies.

Long-Term Benefit

Large scale waste diversion of surplus and scrap textile; economic development and living wage and high skilled job creation; creative economy growth across West MI; investment into women and Black/Brown owned businesses; workforce development, education and training systems established in collaboration with area colleges/universities; innovation and new market creation for existing and to be developed businesses focused on BIPOC and women owned businesses; textile waste diversion at scale

Intended Beneficiary

Workers, entrepreneurs, designers, manufacturers, the community

Estimated Cost

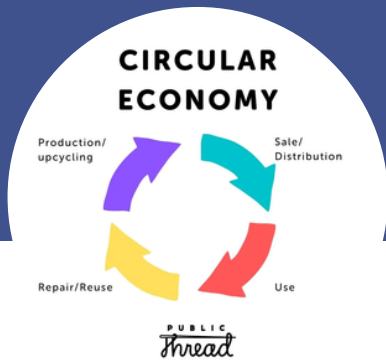
\$600,000 - \$750,000

Source of Funding

Grants, investments, loans

Partnership

GRCC, Kendall College, area nonprofits - AYA, Wedgwood, Bethany CS, Steelcase, Chaco/Wolverine World Wide, textile manufacturers, textile based manufacturers, Goodwill Industries, ISAIC and more.



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Project Management Experience

CEO has 20+ years leading community levels systems change work in the public, nonprofit and for profit sectors.

Federal Funds Experience

We received a MI EGLE grant for creating upcycled markets for textile waste in 2020, and previously have 20 years managing state, and federal funding allocations through positions within the City of Grand Rapids and in the nonprofit sector managing federal funds.

Studies on Impact

In partnership with Foresight Management we conducted an assessment of our Scope 1 & 2 Carbon Emissions, along with research on our environmental, economic and social impact from textile waste diversion. The report findings show that our current operations - which have diverted over 150,000 lbs of textiles from the landfills (a small portion of the scale of textile waste produced each year) = carbon reductions of keeping 300-400 cars off the road/year. The report also found it is 5-10x better to divert and upcycle textile waste from our landfills than to throw the materials away. This was measured by the economic impact on jobs, market and circular economy development and the environmental impact of using materials that already exist in their current form (upcycling) and keeping the materials out of the landfill for one year. We are currently working on our Scope 3 carbon emission and Lifecycle Analysis to show the longer term impact of waste diversion and upcycled products and be able to show the impact of waste diversion, carbon emission reduction and living wage job creation on our economic and social systems in GR/Kent County.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$600,000

Maximum Cost: \$750,000

Submitter Info

Name: Janay J Brower

Organization: Public Thread

Project Overview

Funding Group:

Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: Existing Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

Grants, investments, loans

Partnership

GRCC, Kendall College, area nonprofits - AYA, Wedgwood, Bethany CS, Steelcase, Chaco/Wolverine World Wide, textile manufacturers, textile based manufacturers, Goodwill Industries, ISAIC and more.

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Potentially eligible but additional details and scoping is necessary to ensure it is within the rules.



Sustainability

Lacking guaranteed funding after 2026 though partners were identified



Feasibility



PROJECT #261

Community, Economic and Workforce Development in Kent County's Hispanic community.

Identify the need for the proposed project

The Hispanic Center of Western Michigan has been serving the Latinx community in Kent County for over 40 years. Throughout the last couple of years, we have increased capacity, strengthened programming, and stabilized our finances. When the pandemic hit, we took on initiatives and programming that we had not before such as food distribution, vaccination clinics, rental and utility assistance, and distribution of funds to those not eligible for federal aid. These services were being provided by other organizations and institutions in the area, however, due to their lack of understanding of our culture, our community did not have access and was not receiving these much-needed services. The Hispanic Center stepped in and were able to serve over 20,000 individuals each year for the past two years. As the pandemic continued, we continued to see our Latinx community disproportionately affected by the negative effects. This was mainly due to the endemic inequities our Hispanic community was facing before the pandemic began. About 15 months ago, a few community leaders including, Cesar Gonzalez – Mercantile Bank, Jorge Gonzalez – Start Garden, Evelyn Esparza-Gonzalez – Hispanic Center of Western Michigan, Carlos Sanchez – Ferris State University, Sonali Allen – Mercantile Bank, Guillermo Cisneros – Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and Dr. Juan Olivarez met to discuss the financial state of our Latinx community. All of them have been working with the Kent County Latinx community for many years and in different capacities. Based on data from the Kent County Health Needs Assessment, our community was already in bad shape before the pandemic. Some key data points and disparities include: • An increase of Latinos displaced from their homes due to their low wages.

According to the Kent County Community Health Needs Assessment renters in Kent County are two times more likely to experience housing cost burden than homeowners. However, homeowners are disproportionately non-Hispanic white – 87.3% of homeowners in Kent County are non-Hispanic white. • Labor shortages – There is a lack of skills in our community to attain livable wages or advance in their careers/employment. • Lack of access to preventive health care – According to pre-pandemic data from the Kent County Community Health Needs Assessment, Latinx adults were the most likely not to have health insurance at 32%, which is triple the Kent County average and 4.5x that of white adults. We can only predict that this number has changed as a result of the number of Latinos losing their jobs and/or the effects of inflation. • The gap of rich and poor is getting wider, and this gap strongly correlates with race and ethnicity. Medium household income for Hispanics is a little over \$46,000, 31% lower than income for white households. The Kent County Community Health Needs Assessment also reported that 47% of our Latinx community members not being able to pay for housing, utilities food or medical care in 2019. These disparities were made worse as the community leaders see the lack of access and support for our Latinx families, micro and small businesses to grants, PPP loans, small business loans, personal loans, etc. Ultimately, the group's discussion concluded that there is a need for development for a Community Development Financial Institution or a similar entity dedicated to removing barriers to deliver responsible, affordable capital to reach our low-income Latinx families and the community as a whole that mainstream financial institutions have not been able to reach. Some of the barriers keeping the Latinx community from accessing these resources and programs are minimum credit score requirements, application requirements, interest rates, fees for service, membership fees, etc. Overall these barriers are exacerbated by the lack of language accessibility and lack of cultural competency. Through one of our funders, Unidos US, the nation's largest Latino civil rights and advocacy organization, we had established and solidified a relationship with The Raza Development Fund and Vera Cruz Advisory. The success of a CDFI like the Raza Development Fund and other affiliate run CDFI's we saw the potential of using that same model here in Kent County. With their help we have created financial models and strong board and leadership structures to identify and lead initiatives that change the narrative of our community in Kent County.

The Hispanic Center has the proven capacity, partnerships, cultural competency, and intentionality to lead a project like this, but as with any journey we embark on we must ensure that this is what the community needs. As we continue having conversation with local leaders and Latinx organizations in the country that have the same challenges we have been inspired to lead an assessment in our community that help us create an effective model where we merge economic and workforce development to invest in people and places as well as connecting residents and small businesses to close the racial wealth gap that exist in our Latinx community.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$500,000

Maximum Cost: \$2,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Evelyn Esparza

Organization: Hispanic Center

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

Yes, the assessment will determine who and in what capacity we will be partnering with which will include community-based organizations including non-profits and chambers of commerce.



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$500,000

Maximum Cost: \$2,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Evelyn Esparza

Organization: Hispanic Center

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Brief Description

Data and firsthand experience of providing direct services have shown that the need is there. The Latinx community needs access to capital to be able to be financially prosperous and improve their lives. Before deciding on which route to take with this project, we will bring in an external consultant to conduct an assessment on the current financial/economic landscape of our Latinx community in Kent County in order to make informed decisions and target investments where the need is greatest. The consulting firm(s) will meet and work with the leadership of a committee formed by community members, leaders, and business owners in order to include all stakeholders impacted by this project as part of the solution. From the results of that work, we will be able to identify whether we need a CDFI, micro loan programs, or another type of financial program or entity to remove the barriers from our Latinx individuals, families, and micro/small business to accessing capital. Then, a program model will be created to incorporate the identified solution to follow our holistic approach. This includes being able to connect those same people to culturally competent and linguistically appropriate trainings, certifications, career coaching, and financial coaching. This will ultimately increase the impact and success of the project because economic stability is a social determinant of health.

Long-Term Benefit

This model could be the solution to combat long-standing inequities including racial and income segregation, disparate access of food and health resources, small businesses closures and housing insecurity in our Latinx community. This type of project will create family wealth that will last for generations, increase the success of Latino owned micro/small businesses that will create more jobs, increase opportunities for Spanish speakers, and overall positively impact the local economy.

Intended Beneficiary

This project is intended to be provided to all of our clients including Latinx individuals, families, and micro/small businesses. Many of our Latinx small business owners classify as a micro business because most of the time their annual revenues do not pass the SBA threshold. Often our client's personal finances and business finances are the same. Therefore, many times they cannot afford membership fees for a chamber or employer associations.

Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Estimated Cost

500,000-2,000,000

Partnership

Yes, the assessment will determine who and in what capacity we will be partnering with which will include community-based organizations including non-profits and chambers of commerce.

*Source of Funding

We would approach national organizations supporting Latinx community, economic and workforce development across the country. We are currently strengthening/ building relationships with the Hispanic Federation, Unidos US, La Raza Development Fund, and the National Association for Latino Community Asset Builders. We also believe local foundations will be interested in supporting the right model to change the current conditions for our Latinx community in Kent County to create wealth-building opportunities. In addition, we would approach community-based organizations and community members to contribute in-kind or financial support to this project.



(Page 3)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$500,000

Maximum Cost: \$2,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Evelyn Esparza

Organization: Hispanic Center

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

Yes, the assessment will determine who and in what capacity we will be partnering with which will include community-based organizations including non-profits and chambers of commerce.

Project Management Experience

The Hispanic Center has been leading the following projects in the last 2 years: - La Lucha Fund- Collaborative approach to an urgent need where the Hispanic Center had the role of fiduciary agency and distributed over \$700,000 to almost 1,200 undocumented or mixed status households. - Served as COVID-19 testing site for community members, staff, and volunteers in collaboration with University of Michigan Health- West. - Hosted COVID-19 vaccination clinics on a weekly basis eliminating barriers and providing education with the Kent County Health Department. - COVID-19 Education- printed materials and host informative panels to reach across Kent County that included the migrant worker community - Language Services – Translations in over 80 written languages and interpretations over 200 languages in person, OnDemand via phone and video. - Hispanic Festival- The festival draws over 25,000 individuals to the Calder Plaza every year to celebrate our Hispanic culture. The festival is free and open to the public and will feature stage entertainment, mercado/marketplace vendors, Latin American food vendors, kids activities area and pop-up performers - Latinx Youth Conference- The goal of the conference is to cultivate an emotional and psychological worldview that is bigger than the challenges these young people face. This conference provides a huge opportunity for 850 local eighth graders to explore career paths at a critical time when they are headed into high school. The event will feature workshops designed to get students thinking about all their options including college, trade schools, banking opportunities and/or opening their own business. - Food Distribution- We have served over 10,000 community members with our food initiatives in Kent County.

Federal Fund Experience

In years past we have secured and managed federal funding for our Domestic Violence programming from the Department of Justice. Additionally, we have secured and managed funding from the PPP loan, Kent County grant award, Ready by 5, CERA funding, CDBG funding and most recently vaccination funding from Labor Economic Opportunity.

Studies on Impact

We have seen these types of initiatives implemented around the country and being successful. Through our affiliation with Unidos US we have visited/learned from: Mission Economic Development Agency (MEDA) in San Francisco, California. This organization has implemented multiple programs to prevent gentrification, support small businesses and create affordable housing and commercial space opportunities. Fondo Adelante's microlending program for small-business owners. Participants receive pre- and post-loan closing technical assistance. All loans are reported to the credit bureaus for participants to build their credit. There is no cost to apply, and Social Security is not required. Their most important approval criterion is establishing that you have the capacity to repay the loan Latino Economic Development Corporation in Washington, DC. As a CDFI, this organization provides alternative microloan options and trainings to start-ups and existing businesses that have difficulty obtaining from mainstream financial institutions. Other examples include: Rural Community Development Resources in Yakima, Washington NEWSED Community Development Corporation Community-Centered Economic Inclusion

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Not a directly eligible program. Additional information will be needed if the proposal moves forward in the process.



Sustainability

Unsure if the funding is just for the assessment or for the following response as well.



Feasibility



PROJECT #239

BIPOC Intergenerational Growth & Transformation Collaborative (B.I.G. Transformation Collaborative)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$3,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$4,500,000

Submitter Info

Name: Synia Gant-Jordan

Organization: Legacy & Love and Grand Rapids African American Council of Organizations (GRAACO)

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

Banks, Philanthropic Organizations, Private Investment

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Identify the need for the proposed project

Proposed project needs identified from: "The Business Case for Racial Equity in Michigan", 2015 Forbes Report on disparities in Grand Rapids, Policy Recommendations from Black Leadership Advisory Council of Michigan, Surveys of Black and African-immigrant communities, and "An Equity Profile of Grand Rapids" created by PolicyLink. Increasing equity in Kent County depends upon intentionality placed behind access to resources and collective strategy to develop community infrastructure and talent. Surveys of the community reveal a strong need for entrepreneurial development and alleviated disparities in home ownership. Diverse collaboration provides a foundation for improved outcomes while leveraging creativity and the unique cultural backgrounds of collaborating partners.

Brief Description

Focused on closing gaps in access to resources in the urban core of Grand Rapids in real estate development and entrepreneurship by providing mentoring, technology skills and entrepreneurial training to a multigenerational cohort of immigrant & BIPOC-led organizations, highlighting women-entrepreneurship. A customized flex-immersive program will develop personal agency & acquired skills (real estate, culinary arts, media, etc.) to lead in a transformational endeavor to overcome historical inequities and current systems where BIPOC entrepreneurs can have greater access, opportunities, and improved outcomes. The B.I.G. & Transformation Collaborative taps into an intentional strategy, dynamic and transformational approach of having a multigenerational cohort of BIPOC women learning with and from each other across multiple specialties, with historical precedence amongst many of the BIPOC cultural groups. This project curates curricula for entrepreneurship, IT business & marketing skills, along with hands-on workshops & apprenticeships with established businesses throughout the Kent County area with an emphasis on business development in the urban core while turning participants' marketable skills into monetary endeavors to improve their personal, financial and family outcomes. This project will utilize already existing community assets like KDL facilities with IT support by Tech Defenders (industry partner) and a broad group of collaborators.

Long-Term Benefit

-Improved economic outcomes for BIPOC communities -Improved diversity index in Kent County (229th of 430 Counties) -Increase in small business output from Kent County - Reduction in poverty and reliance on federal & local government programs/funds. - Transformation in intergenerational relationships within and across BIPOC communities. - Accelerate progress for inclusive development with Grand Rapids City government. - Increased retention of BIPOC residents of due to increased opportunities

Intended Beneficiary

BIPOC community and residents of the urban core will benefit the most but entirety of Kent County is intended beneficiary by closing gaps in equity, access and opportunities. As we grow, we intend to expand this framework into surrounding West Michigan and Michigan counties.

*Partnership

-Legacy & Love, LLC -Grand Rapids African American Community Task Force -African Collaborative Network -Grand Rapids African American Council of Organizations -The Dutch Nigerian American (The DNA) -Tech Defenders -Grand Rapids Black Renaissance - Motherland Cultural Connections of Kent County -Reaching Beyond Bias -Urban Core Collective -Burton and Eastern Development Consortium



(Page 2)

Estimated Cost

3,000,000 - 4,500,000

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$3,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$4,500,000

Submitter Info

Name: Synia Gant-Jordan

Organization: Legacy & Love and Grand Rapids African American Council of Organizations (GRAACO)

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

Banks, Philanthropic Organizations, Private Investment

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Project Management Experience

Tech Defenders and Urban Core Collective and key collaborators African Collaborative Network and the Grand Rapids African American Community Task Force all have established or burgeoning county-wide service footprints.

Federal Funds Experience

Our organizational partners, including industry partners like Tech Defenders and Urban Core Collective and principles with the Grand Rapids African American Community Task Force has federal grant administration experience and burgeoning county-wide footprints.

Studies on Impact

"Sisters Who Lead" Research: <https://mibiz.com/sections/economic-development/from-knowing-to-doing-better-sisters-who-lead-study-offers-big-wakeup-call-to-employers-on-challenges-for-women-of-color>

"Generations Learning Together"-Pilot Study

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/15350770.2018.1477402>

"Creating Opportunity for Communities of Color Through Entrepreneurship"- Stanford Social Innovation

https://ssir.org/articles/entry/creating_opportunity_for_communities_of_color_through_entrepreneurs_hip

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Workforce development is eligible. This needs to be more specific in the proposal because this cannot be general economic advancement for individuals



Sustainability

This project may be able to continue without funding because it has multiple partners



Feasibility



PROJECT #191

The Midwest Tech Project

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$375,000

Maximum Cost: \$375,000

Submitter Info

Name: Jonathan Jelks

Organization:

The Midwest Tech Project

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

Grand Rapids Community Foundation and Corporate Sponsors

Partnership

Grand Rapids Community Foundation, Grand Rapids Public Schools, Atomic Object, Start Garden, WMCAT etc.

Identify the need for the proposed project

In 2015, Forbes named the City of Grand Rapids as the "Worst Place Economically for African Americans" due partially to high levels of poverty and unemployment. Meanwhile, the technology industry promotes millions of technology based job openings that go unfilled annually. Our idea launched in 2016 and focuses on merging these two realities to help employ more Black/Brown people and women in the world of technology. Our challenge has been there aren't many accessible onramps for these communities to the world of technology exposure and skills training. Our project focuses on increasing ethnic and gender representation in the tech industry through intentional programming. We focus on Exposure, Skills Training, and Entry Level/Internship employment access in West Michigan for all of our participants. We serve middle/high school students and adults seeking to learn more about the world of technology and employment opportunities in this industry. We recruit middle/high schools students and adults interested in technology and connect them to exposure opportunities, mentors, skills training, and entry level/internship tech employment.

Brief Description

Our project is designed to expose, train, and place students and adults to technology related industries. Due to the millions of unfilled job openings in this industry, we feel Black/Brown people and women must engage this industry head on to participate in the workforce of the future. We partner with local school systems, host after school programming and special events, provide free training courses for students and adults, and partner strategically with private sector entities who share our mission of creating a more diverse tech talent pipeline.

Long-Term Benefit

The long term benefit of this project is: -More diverse local technology talent -Increased number of Black/Brown People and Women represented in the industry -Decreased unemployment numbers of Black/Brown people -Decreased poverty levels for Black/Brown people -More attractive as a technology region for people of color and women -More financially thriving local technology companies

Intended Beneficiary

Grand Rapids/Kent County Residents and technology based companies

Estimated Cost

\$375,000.00

Project Management Experience

\$375,000.00

Federal Funds Experience

We manage mostly foundation grants at the moment, however we are confident we can learn county practices.

Studies on Impact

Forbes Article <https://www.forbes.com/sites/forbestechcouncil/2022/06/07/why-you-should-rethink-the-sources-of-untapped-tech-talent/?sh=fd6538743fa0> Harvard Business Review <https://hbr.org/2021/11/how-to-attract-top-tech-talent>



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Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

This is eligible as job training if they specify that they are targeting unemployed/underemployed



Sustainability

Lacking guaranteed funding after 2026 though partners were identified



Feasibility

n/a

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$375,000

Maximum Cost: \$375,000

Submitter Info

Name: Jonathan Jelks

Organization:

The Midwest Tech Project

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

Grand Rapids Community Foundation and Corporate Sponsors

Partnership

Grand Rapids Community Foundation, Grand Rapids Public Schools, Atomic Object, Start Garden, WMCAT etc.



PROJECT #111

Kent County BIPOC Economic Development Center

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$100,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$100,000,000

ARPA Request: \$35,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Khary Bridgewater

Organization:

Inspire Equity Foundation

Project Overview

Funding Group:

Economic Innovation and
Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

Partners include Inspire Equity Foundation, Urban League of West Michigan, Greater Grand Rapids NAACP, Grand Rapids African American Health Institute (GRAAHI), Kent County Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships Team, and Heart of West Michigan United Way.

Identify the need for the proposed project

BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) communities have historically been marginalized by broken systems in urban areas that create systemic disparities. In Kent County, BIPOC businesses and nonprofits have often not had equitable access to financial investment, technical assistance, and professional development. The COVID-19 pandemic and rising racial tensions have exacerbated the challenges facing this community. Today businesses, community organizations, and churches that serve people of color are struggling to serve BIPOC community residents. The Kent County BIPOC Economic Development Consortium was established by BIPOC leaders to unite all residents of Kent County to address the needs of people of color (including Black, Indigenous, Hispanic, Asian, and other races and ethnicities). The Consortium was formed as an extension of the work done by the Kent County Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships Team (formerly the Kent County COVID19 Church Response Task Force). The Partnerships Team coalition was established in April 2000 to work closely with the Kent County Health Department and Kent County Administrator's Office during the COVID-19 pandemic. It now includes over 200 faith-based and neighborhood organizations across Kent County. While a large number of organizations will participate in this initiative, the lead partners include Inspire Equity Foundation, Urban League of West Michigan, Greater Grand Rapids NAACP, Grand Rapids African American Health Institute (GRAAHI), Kent County Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships Team, and Heart of West Michigan United Way. This Consortium recognizes that BIPOC leaders and their allies are best poised to eradicate racial disparities in our communities.

Brief Description

The BIPOC Economic Development Center involves constructing a shovel-ready, mixed-use building at 811 Wealthy Street SE. The FIRST FLOOR includes retail space for BIPOC businesses (grocery, brewery, restaurant, fitness center). The SECOND FLOOR includes 4 centers: 1. Community Capacity Building Center (led by Inspire Equity) will help BIPOC nonprofits deepen community impact and house Kent County Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships. 2. Economic Development Council (led by Urban League) will invest in BIPOC businesses, real estate development and workforce development. 3. Community Violence Prevention Center (led by NAACP with pending partnerships with the FBI and Harvard University) will reduce community, domestic, and gang-related violence. 4. Community Health & Wellness Center (led by GRAAHI) will improve life expectancy and reduce health care costs, focusing on nutrition, exercise, and physical/mental wellbeing. The THIRD FLOOR includes office space to rent for those seeking a welcoming, multi-ethnic environment. The FOURTH FLOOR features mixed income housing (led by ICCF). United Way will act as fiduciary and Inspire Equity will direct disbursement. Revenue from space rental will help sustain programs.

Long-Term Benefit

In the long term, the Kent County BIPOC Economic Development Center will: —House BIPOC businesses and nonprofits in an accessible, central location —Increase the number, size, and health of BIPOC-owned businesses —Strengthen BIPOC nonprofits and churches —Develop a well-trained, diverse, skilled workforce — Create an infrastructure to reduce community, domestic, and gang-related violence —Improve BIPOC residents' access to nutritious food, exercise facilities, and public health resources

Intended Beneficiary

179,208 People of Color living in Kent County (representing 27.4% of the county's population).



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Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$100,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$100,000,000

ARPA Request: \$35,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Khary Bridgewater

Organization:

Inspire Equity Foundation

Project Overview

Funding Group:

Economic Innovation and
Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

Partners include Inspire Equity Foundation, Urban League of West Michigan, Greater Grand Rapids NAACP, Grand Rapids African American Health Institute (GRAAHI), Kent County Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships Team, and Heart of West Michigan United Way.

Estimated Cost

We request \$35 million in ARPA funds to support a total project cost of \$100 million. Funds will cover the cost of the building, program startup expenses, and capacity building grants to the community.

*Source of Funding

ARPA funds will be catalytic in leveraging a diverse profile of funds, including: —Private Foundations such as the Lilly Endowment and the Fetzer Foundation have already provided funding that has been used to support portions of this work and are considering additional funding. We plan to approach the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, Grand Rapids Community Foundation, Steelcase, Amway, Frey, and the DeVos Family Foundations for additional funding. —Real Estate and Private Equity Investors such as Black Rock, TPG and the LISC Black Impact Fund are interested in taking part in the proposed brewery, restaurant, and housing project. —Federal grants from HUD and other agencies. Discussions have been held with HUD and the White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships. —Additional private investment capital firms are interested in supporting this project — and will be most interested once they know that ARPA funds have been secured.

Project Management Experience

Kent County Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships Team's experience leading the following projects: West Michigan Churches Helping Churches raised \$500,000 for BIPOC churches in the county, distributing grants ranging from \$3,000-\$7,000 to 120 churches. The "Shot of Love" campaign worked with the Kent County Health Department as well as area health care systems and many BIPOC organizations to get information out regarding the Covid virus and vaccine through door-to-door canvassing and phone banks, and scheduled appointments for vaccinations mostly in BIPOC communities. We reached nearly 70,000 residents and scheduled appointments for 4,743 people. Heart of West Michigan United Way has experience leading the following projects: —Operated the Michigan COVID Information and Vaccine Hotline for the entire state in partnerships with MDHHS, fielding 153,000 calls through 2-1-1. — Distributed \$8.8M in CARES Act funds through 186 grants to nonprofit agencies in Kent County through the Kent County Non-Profit Organization COVID-19 Grant Fund. —Managed the Coronavirus Response Fund, which combined \$3.5M in funds donated by local foundations and individuals that were allocated to 136 non-profit organizations in Kent County. —Established the Opportunity Initiative, which has helped 20 grassroots nonprofits in Kent County build capacity to date. — Annually distributes \$3M+ in grant funds and tracks outcomes for 40 agencies leading 48 programs in Kent County. —Acted as fiduciary for \$46 million in CERA (Covid Emergency Rental Assistance) funds that served 9,896 people in Kent County

Federal Funds Experience

Heart of West Michigan United Way, as the fiduciary for this project's ARPA funds, has managed \$71,384,307 in federal funds over the last five years, including HUD Community Block Grants, HUD/MSDA Emergency Solutions COVID response grants, HUD Homeless Management Information System grants (via Salvation Army), HUD grants for Continuum of Care/Coalition to End Homelessness, Department of Justice Crime Victim Assistance (VOCA) grant, IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, US Dept of Health and Human Services Low-Income Home Energy Assistance, US Department of Treasury/MSHDA COVID Emergency Rental Assistance (CERA), and US Health and Human Services Preschool Development Grant. In addition, United Way currently serves a fiduciary for the Kent County Essential Needs Task Force, Doulas of Color, and Great Start Collaborative. We also served as fiduciary for Health Net of West Michigan, KConnect, and First Steps Kent until they each gained their own 501(c)3 status.



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Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$100,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$100,000,000

ARPA Request: \$35,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Khary Bridgewater

Organization:

Inspire Equity Foundation

Project Overview

Funding Group:

Economic Innovation and
Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

Partners include Inspire Equity Foundation, Urban League of West Michigan, Greater Grand Rapids NAACP, Grand Rapids African American Health Institute (GRAAHI), Kent County Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships Team, and Heart of West Michigan United Way.

Studies on Impact

The Economic Development Council will use best practices developed by: 1) The Black Economic Council of Massachusetts, advances the economic well-being of Black businesses and residents through advocacy, business development, and strategic partnerships, including models that move investment dollars in a coordinated way to create impact, and 2) LISC (Local Initiatives Support Corporation), which equips talent in underinvested communities with the skills and credentials to compete for quality income and wealth opportunities, and invests in businesses, housing, and other infrastructure to catalyze economic, safety and educational mobility for individuals and communities. The Violence Prevention Center will use best practices developed by the Harvard Youth Violence Prevention Program (in partnership with Black Ministerial Alliance of Greater Boston, Inc., the Harvard Street Neighborhood Health Center, and the Hispanic Office of Planning and Evaluation). The Community Capacity Building Center will use best practices developed by the Boston Capacity Tank and the Capacity Institute GVSU's Johnson Center for Philanthropy, and Michigan Nonprofit Association to help non-profits build capacity that increases impact.

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

This is a diverse project that will deal with different eligibility requirements for each part of the project. A majority of the project would be eligible in one way or another.



Sustainability

Lacking guaranteed funding after 2026 though partners were identified



Feasibility



PROJECT #304

Urban League of West Michigan (ULWM) – Center for Economic Success and Development (CESD)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$15,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$15,000,000

ARPA Request: \$10,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Eric D. Brown

Organization:
Urban League of West Michigan

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme:
Workforce Development

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

We would use the Kent County ARPA Funds to leverage additional funds from philanthropic foundations.

Partnership

Inspire Equity, Grand Rapids African American Community Task Force, Grand Rapids Media Initiative & Film Incubator, Grand Rapids African American Council of Organizations, NAACP/Building Bridges.

Identify the need for the proposed project

The Urban League of West Michigan (ULWM) has been advocating for the social justice needs, with an emphasis on economic justice, of Kent County since 1942. We observe the disparities that exist firsthand through the accounts provided by our client-guests. We support the strategies we develop to address institutional and systemic racism through research and applying design thinking principals to solve problems and develop tactics to deliver the much needed services the historically disadvantaged population of Greater Kent County

Brief Description

The goals of the ULWM's Center for Economic Success and Development is to increase the number and size, measured by gross sales and number of employees) of Black-owned Business' in the Greater Grand Rapids area. Additionally, we will address the housing crisis by creating neighborhood revitalization. CESD will focus on filling gaps within the entrepreneurial ecosystem identified by external research, conduct research, compile existing research, and develop a plan to achieve the program goals. ULWM's CED will provide services assisting aspiring and existing entrepreneurs navigate the entrepreneurial support existing in the ecosystem, one-on-one coaching with business owners covering various areas of concern from strategic planning to financial statements, etc. We will also provide two-fold matchmaking; we will match business with customers and we will match aspiring entrepreneurs with opportunities to purchase existing business, paying particular focus on those business with gross revenues between \$250 thousand and \$1 Million dollars, a group that is often overlooked in the entrepreneurial economic development ecosystem. Finally, we coach companies on preparation for infusions of capital and connect them with sources of capital.

Long-Term Benefit

Expanding economic opportunities for black-owned business benefits the entire community and addresses underlying root causes of violence and social determinants of health. Long-term benefits include increased number and volume of MBE business, new jobs and tax revenue. Additionally, Revitalization will improve the lives and outcomes of the residents. We will develop and connect entrepreneurial and business leadership talent pipeline to retain and attract talent and thicken the existing networks.

Intended Beneficiary

Historically discriminated populations are the intended beneficiary, however, studies and data shows that the entire community will benefit.

Estimated Cost

\$10,000,000 ARPA Funds \$15,000,000 total programming costs.

Project Management Experience

The Urban League of West Michigan operated the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) for 30 years; serving 500-600 participating homes in several counties and administering \$3-3.5 per year.



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Federal Funds Experience

ULWM has received federal funding from HUD for over 20 years with an exemplary record of compliance with our monitoring reviews.

Studies on Impact

The Business Case for Racial Equity - WKKF Issue Lab, 2018; Grand Rapids Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Analysis & Recommendations- Grand Rapids Regional Resources - Regionerate - 2020; Economic Forecast of Grand Rapids, MI - GVSU 2021; Economic Inclusion in GR Data Update - 2020; GR Kent Housing Needs Assessment; The High Cost of Disparities - 2015; 2021 Regional Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$15,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$15,000,000

ARPA Request: \$10,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Eric D. Brown

Organization:

Urban League of West Michigan

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Economic development is ineligible. May be eligible under non-profit support.



Sustainability

Does not include a funding plan or fund availability after expending all the ARPA dollars.



Feasibility

Source of Funding

We would use the Kent County ARPA Funds to leverage additional funds from philanthropic foundations.

Partnership

Inspire Equity, Grand Rapids African American Community Task Force, Grand Rapids Media Initiative & Film Incubator, Grand Rapids African American Council of Organizations, NAACP/Building Bridges.



PROJECT #150

Workforce Stabilization in Mental Health

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$10,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$10,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Taylor Greenfield

Organization: Arbor Circle

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

Yes – we are planning to partner with the Family Outreach Center and D.A. Blodgett. Additional partners may be added or considered depending on the dollar amount awarded.

Identify the need for the proposed project

Arbor Circle, along with multiple non-profit employers in the mental health and human service sector across our community, are struggling with maintaining appropriate staffing levels to meet the growing community need for services. Services provided by Arbor Circle and our non-profit partners are critical to post pandemic recovery and the long-term sustainability of our communities. Post pandemic recovery is uncovering a growing demand for services, especially mental health services. Workforce shortages resulting from significant employment attrition and transition is negatively impacting access to care. Waiting lists for services have emerged. Non-profits in particular have limited ability to compete with the forprofit and public sector for talent

Brief Description

Having flexible funds available to grow and retain our workforce is key to maintaining our level and quality of service—these funds would provide the necessary resources to ensure appropriate staffing levels for Arbor Circle and several additional non-profits, up to 1,500 total employees with funds expended over the period of one year. For the non-profit employers working in the mental health and human services in Kent County, Arbor Circle would utilize these funds to bolster our staffing resources, approximate 300 employees, while facilitating the distribution of funds to other organizations who have been hardest hit by the hiring challenges outlined above to assist with their own retention and recruitment efforts. These recruitment and retainment tactics could include the following: recruitment and retention incentives, enhanced benefits packages, increased PTO, 401k match, education assistance, HSA contributions, assistance with child care costs and out of pocket training expenses (especially licensure requirements), health club memberships and other wellness related benefits, travel reimbursement and upgraded Employee Assistance Program. These types of offerings would provide the non-profit sector with a more competitive edge, ensuring that organizations are fully staffed and able to effectively carry out some of our community's most vital services.

Long-Term Benefit

Long-term, the precedent set by these funds creates space for Arbor Circle and other non-profits to find additional funding, including higher reimbursement rates for services that are not fully covered by insurance, to cover the more competitive recruitment and retention components. With quality, consistent and accessible care as the goal, these funds ensure organizations like Arbor Circle are able to continue to provide services without the additional barrier of a lack of qualified staff.

Intended Beneficiary

Non-profit employees in Kent County. These funds would provide a short-term boost with a long-term impact. Non-profit organizations need assistance in stabilizing their workforces now, and with concerns about access to services on the rise these funds would allow Arbor Circle and several other non-profit partners to retain existing staff while effectively recruiting new staff for critically needed roles. Issues with waiting lists and other barriers to service will be compounded over time unless action is taken quickly to staunch the flow of employee attrition. We anticipate providing benefits in the amount of \$6,000 - \$10,000 per individual to bridge the compensation gap and stabilize the workforce.



(Page 2)

Estimated Cost

\$10,000,000.00

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$10,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$10,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Taylor Greenfield

Organization: Arbor Circle

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

Yes – we are planning to partner with the Family Outreach Center and D.A. Blodgett. Additional partners may be added or considered depending on the dollar amount awarded.

Project Management Experience

Arbor Circle has established long standing, positive relationships with numerous community-wide systems, agencies and organizations in the community. The Chief Executive Officer, along with a range of other Arbor Circle staff (from Administrative/Leadership positions to direct care staff) are active participants in these collaborations by providing leadership and content expertise to ensure advocacy and appropriate coordination of care. Our service model includes co-location with other organizations, in addition to over 20 school partners and partnerships through our Kent County Correctional Facility based services. Arbor Circle led the effort to produce the Recommendations to the Community to Address LGBTQ+ Youth Homelessness, a True Colors initiative, and created the initial set of workgroups related to this project. Arbor Circle has been an active participant in the Kent County Family and Children's Coordinating Council, as well as the Kent County Community Corrections Advisory Board. Additionally, Arbor Circle leadership serves on the executive committee for the Kent County Great Start Collaborative. Arbor Circle staff serve as the co-chair for the Youth Homelessness subcommittee for the Coalition to End Homelessness. Lastly, Arbor Circle staff serve on the Healthy Kent Infant Health Action Team. With Arbor Circle staff so deeply embedded into the fabric of our community, we are in a constant state of collaboration across our footprint.

Federal Funds Experience

Arbor Circle is well versed in managing federal funds, and maintains its accounts on the accrual basis of accounting. Its Chief Financial Officer has extensive experience in non-profit accounting and holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration with an emphasis in accounting. Care is taken to segregate financial duties and cash handling to ensure that reasonable safeguards are in place. The internal control system is structured to provide reasonable assurance that assets are safeguarded against loss from unauthorized use or disposition and that transactions are executed in accordance with proper authorizations and recorded properly to permit the preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. An independent audit of financial statements is conducted annually in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards issued by the U.S. Comptroller General. The FY2021 audit and Single Audit has been completed, and as in previous years, had an unqualified opinion, and no findings, material weaknesses, deficiencies or noncompliance. Our total amount of federal awards in FY2021 was \$3,138,251. Lastly, financial reporting is also analyzed alongside utilization and outcome achievement to ensure fidelity to clinical models of care and positive impact. Weekly and monthly review of this information allows us to be nimble and respond quickly to the needs of the people being served, staff providing care and the financial health of the business.

Studies on Impact

n/a

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Premium pay is only eligible in this case if the employees being paid had assumed some sort of occupation risk during COVID.



Sustainability

Does not include a funding plan or fund availability after expending all the ARPA dollars.



Feasibility

n/a



PROJECT #113

Teen and Adult Leadership Development Through Partnership

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$25,000

Maximum Cost: \$75,000

Submitter Info

Name: Tyreece Guyton

Organization:

Grand Rapids Initiative for Leaders

Project Overview

Funding Group:

Economic Innovation and
Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

Ottawa HS, Union HS, Butterball
Farms, Lumbermen's, Madison
CRC, Navigators, New City Kids

Identify the need for the proposed project

Through research of personal growth of employees at organization, schools, and companies. Also, through research of the lack of opportunity of younger employees to have real leadership realistic leadership opportunities inside of these same institutions.

Brief Description

Work with organization, schools, and businesses to provide affordable leadership training. Targeting both adults, high school level teens, and the institutions. They will go through a 9 month program that is flexible and intended help organization develop their employees and help employees grow personally. Our mission is to Strengthen Leaders to Transform Communities. Intended to help reduce burn out, create personal growth, organizational leadership development plans, spaces for young leaders to lead, promote community engagement. To see true change in organizations we will ask for a 3 year commitment to grow and implement leadership development ideas.

Long-Term Benefit

Our vision is to create an ecosystem of civic minded individuals that do justice work. The long term impact is to have participants living out their purpose, organizations helping develop leaders of today and tomorrow, and communities becoming more equitable that allows everyone to thrive.

Intended Beneficiary

Greater Grand Rapids Urban Communities

Estimated Cost

25,000 per year - \$75,000

Project Management Experience

We have 18 years of leadership experience.

Federal Funds Experience

Because we have worked in a school setting we have 5 years of experience with federal funding.

Studies on Impact

DeVos Urban Leadership Institute does a similar training.

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

Potentially eligible but additional details and scoping is necessary to ensure it is within the rules.

Does not include a funding plan or fund availability after expending all the ARPA dollars.



PROJECT GREEN

PROJECT #216

Life and Legacy

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$2,155,790

Maximum Cost: \$2,155,790

ARPA Request: \$2,155,790

Submitter Info

Name: Dallas Lenear

Organization: Project GREEN

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

We are confident that this funding will provide leverage for us to pursue other sources. However, those other sources have not been explored as of yet.

Partnership

Greater Grand Rapids Branch of NAACP

Identify the need for the proposed project

Inequality.org's "Racial Wealth Divide" reports that the median White family has 41 times more wealth than the median Black family and 22 times more wealth than the median Latino family. This impacts both households and institutions among communities of color. Through Project GREEN's work in the areas of financial capability and economic advocacy, we see how this wealth divide impacts the communities that we serve in Kent County and beyond. We realize that asset-building (one of our strategic themes) is best accomplished by encouraging good consumer behaviors as well as changing systems that impact consumer outcomes. We believe and teach that life insurance is an often-neglected long term asset building tool. It is even less likely used among communities of color as a tool to strengthen and fund organizations that support the overall wellbeing of communities of color. Life and legacy will help to address asset building at both the individual and institutional levels.

Brief Description

Life & Legacy educates and advises people of color to utilize financial planning tools like life insurance to both create a family generational wealth and to create and sustain large-scale funding for their local chapter NAACP as well as for other historic and grassroots organizations. Through a public awareness campaign, financial capabilities workshops, marketing, and financial consultations, Life and Legacy will equip people to obtain life insurance policies for themselves as a first priority. Secondly, Life and Legacy will invite participants to obtain a life insurance policy and name the Greater Grand Rapids NAACP as the beneficiary to create an endowment fund. This model will then be used as a template to be scaled with other NAACP chapters throughout the country.

Long-Term Benefit

The long-term benefit will be asset building and generational wealth at the individual level and financial stability long term for the Greater Grand Rapids Branch of the NAACP and other institutions of trust. Success for our project will be measured by these indicators: increased number and size of life insurance policies owned by and for the Black individuals; increased number and size of "key man"/legacy life insurance policies owned by and for the benefit of the local NAACP chapter; and more.

Intended Beneficiary

The intended beneficiary of this proposed project will be Black individuals and households in Kent County as well as the local NAACP branch. After piloting with the NAACP, we will seek another partnership with a Latino organization for growth.

Estimated Cost

\$2,155,790.00



PROJECT GREEN

(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$2,155,790

Maximum Cost: \$2,155,790

ARPA Request: \$2,155,790

Submitter Info

Name: Dallas Lenear

Organization: Project GREEN

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

We are confident that this funding will provide leverage for us to pursue other sources. However, those other sources have not been explored as of yet.

Partnership

Greater Grand Rapids Branch of NAACP

Project Management Experience

Project GREEN has received major grants from the WK Kellogg Foundation, the Grand Rapids Community Foundation, and the Wege Foundation. Together, these grants fund our economic empowerment work in Kent County and beyond. Furthermore, our staff and board of directors have experience in managing and leading county-wide projects in other organizations.

Federal Funds Experience

Our staff and board of directors have experience in working with federal funds in other organizations.

Studies on Impact

This is a unique and innovative project. However, there is research that speaks to the historic inequity that has led to the wealth gap broadly and the discriminatory practices that have left Black people with less life insurance specifically. Here are some of those resources:

<https://prosperitynow.org/resources/road-zero-wealth>

<https://www.nerdwallet.com/article/insurance/african-american-life-insurance>

<https://www.forbes.com/advisor/life-insurance/black-ownership/>

This article gives an example of the impact of endowments.

https://news.morgan.edu/tyler_endowment/

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Eligible individuals and communities. Additional information will be needed if the proposal moves forward in the process.



Sustainability

Does not include a funding plan or fund availability after expending all the ARPA dollars.



Feasibility



PROJECT #197

GR 49507 STEAM Laboratory

Identify the need for the proposed project

Research and resident feedback.

Brief Description

Community HUB embedded STEAM laboratory. In partnership with the GRPD and GR Chamber of Commerce, partner with community based organizations to produce public service and STEM BIPOC talent pipelines. Relationship building and talent pipelines will be organized through new and innovative PALS (Police Athletic League) programs.

Long-Term Benefit

Improved West Michigan community relationship building. Improved trust. Improved problem solving.

Intended Beneficiary

All human living in West Michigan, who hopefully produce modern public safety models that transform communities.

Estimated Cost

\$50,000 - \$150,000

Project Management Experience

Extensive national and international experience leading community engagement strategies.

Federal Funds Experience

Extensive experience working with federal funds.

Studies on Impact

Please see the attached link: <https://www.nationalpal.org/>

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$50,000

Maximum Cost: \$150,000

Submitter Info

Name: Regenail Thomas

Organization: Seeds of Promise

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Uncategorized

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

GRPD, Police Union, Chamber of Commerce, Kent County Health Department, Together West Michigan, GRCC & Technical Center, GVSU, GR Food Co-op.

Partnership

Seeds of Promise and other local community based organizations as well as the GRPD.

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Unsure what this proposal is actually doing. May potentially classify as job training if they target unemployed/underemployed



Sustainability

In general, proposal is lacking information to make an informed assessment.



Feasibility

In general, proposal is lacking information to make an informed assessment.



PROJECT #305

BIPOC Fiscal Sponsorship Support Program

Identify the need for the proposed project

n/a

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$500,000

Maximum Cost: \$500,000

Submitter Info

Name: Ciarra C Adkins

Organization: AQUME Foundation

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: Existing Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Brief Description

AQUME Foundation's Fiscal Sponsorship Program offers fiscal sponsorship and administrative services to a range of Kent County nonprofit projects working to uplift and advance BIPOC communities throughout the State of Michigan. Fiscal sponsorship is a legal relationship through which a 501(c)(3) public charitable organization sponsors an individual or group that requires the benefits of the tax-exempt and legal status of the sponsoring organization to realize a project. AQUME Foundation's Fiscal Sponsorship Program provides two types of fiscal sponsorship support to projects to non-profits: • Comprehensive Fiscal Sponsorship • Project Specific Fiscal Sponsorship Furthermore, we will offer administrative and back-office support to start up for-profit businesses, focusing on sole proprietors who are often working multiple jobs to support their businesses who simply need temporary assistance with infrastructure to ensure future business success. Lastly, AQUME Foundation's Executive Leadership and Coaching Program is available to both for-profit and non-profit organizations to provide strategic planning, policies and procedures, executive coaching, and many other services to the leadership team.

Long-Term Benefit

The long-term benefit of this project is to facilitate economic equity and support community transformation by supporting the infrastructure and executive leadership coaching of at least 30, Kent County, MI, BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color) for-profit and non-profit businesses, over the course of 3 years, to ensure business longevity, establish proper policies and procedures, and legal support. By the end of the relationship businesses will be self-sustaining.

Intended Beneficiary

BIPOC Members of the for-profit and non-profit business communities in Kent County.

Estimated Cost

\$500,000.00, 3 years staff time, software, accounting, and other resources needed for success.

Project Management Experience

While AQUME Foundation is a new organization and has not been awarded a county wide project to date, the President successfully led a 4.5 million dollar three year federal grant that spanned Kent County wide in 4 emergency rooms, 8 behavioral health facilities, and 2 labor and delivery room departments to access the populations social determinants of health needs and referrals. federal grant from the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare (CMS). Under my leadership, our organization was always one of the top third performing sites across the nation, out of 34 other sites. We are extremely confident in our ability to effectively manage this grant.

Source of Funding

Local grant funding from various foundations.

Partnership

n/a



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Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$500,000

Maximum Cost: \$500,000

Submitter Info

Name: Ciarra C Adkins

Organization: AQUME Foundation

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: Existing Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Federal Funds Experience

While AQUME Foundation is a new organization and has not been awarded a federal grant to date, the President and Director of Operations have over 30 years combined experience in administering and managing multi-million dollar federal grants in Kent County, MI.

Studies on Impact

n/a

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

This program is guided towards general economic development and not responding to a negative economic/health impact from the pandemic. could be under non-profit support.



Sustainability

Does not include a funding plan or fund availability after expending all the ARPA dollars.



Feasibility

Source of Funding

Local grant funding from various foundations.

Partnership

n/a

PROJECT #156

Circle of Hope/Youth Urban Media Education Initiative (YUMEI)



Identify the need for the proposed project

It is common knowledge that economic disparity and hopelessness have been features of the African-descended Experience in America since 1619. Our experience from participating in this reality identified that this environment needed a youth enhancement vehicle that would prevent our marginalized young people from being poor, from going to prison and from dying prematurely so that they can become the public service-driven young adults that GR, the State of Michigan and America sorely need.

Brief Description

An endeavor to create a future of Unity, Camaraderie & Prosperity with the implementation of our Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)-inspired Youth Urban Media Education Initiative (YUMEI). We work to engage an incubator of Truth, Heritage, History and Intellectinformed MEDIA; a wellspring of TruthSeeking and TruthSaying young people trained in Radio, Television/Video, Cinema/Theatre, Internet, Publishing and Music content production; the infrastructure for a media production support hub for NYC, LA, CHI and ATL positioned in the mid-point metro area of the Chicago - Grand Rapids - Detroit corridor; the utility and institutions for producing beneficent and successful Young Leaders of Tomorrow.

Long-Term Benefit

The long-term community benefit of the CIRCLE OF HOPE will result from its work to position Metro GR as 1) home to a significant Africentric Contributing Class of citizens, neighborhoods and institutions, 2) a national repository of young Free Press/Fourth Estate Media Production Professions and 3) a sustainable media production support hub for New York City, Los Angeles, Chicago and Atlanta.

Intended Beneficiary

Marginalized African American 9th-12th Grade Public School Students in particular; marginalized Africentric 9th-12th Grade Public School Students of Original American-, Asian America-, Latin American- and European American-descent; SECONDARY BENEFICIARY: Metro Grand Rapids Area Economy.

Estimated Cost

\$1.5 million - \$3 million

Project Management Experience

Circle of Hope/YUMEI includes expeditors steeped in Urban Planning, Event Planning, Education, Business Management, Accounting, Law and Organizational Development. Our direct access to sibling organization Indiana Black Expo, Inc. (IBEI) is our most powerful resource for city-, county- and statewide-level endeavors.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$1,500,000

Maximum Cost: \$3,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Rudolph Treece

Organization:

Michigan Black Expo, Inc. (MBEI)

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: Existing Project

Matching Funds: 51% - 75%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

Wege Foundation grant submission (in-process) Participatory Budget Grand Rapids grant submission (in-process)

Partnership

1st Micro Greenery CIRCLE OF HOPE Alliance Partner; JustAir CIRCLE OF HOPE Alliance Partner; NAACPGR CIRCLE OF HOPE Alliance Partner; GRMayor CIRCLE OF HOPE Alliance Partner; Younify Group CIRCLE OF HOPE Alliance Partner



Federal Funds Experience

MBEI Funding Procurement Officer responsible for fundraising for the organization and has successfully attained PPP and EIDL funding; also involved in marketing process of Kent County Small Business Recovery Program (federal dollars allocated to Kent County to distribute to small businesses for COVID-related economic disaster relief).

Studies on Impact

Currently Grand Rapids employs approximately 6,640 Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media professionals. That suggests that media job opportunities cover a little over 1% (approx. 1.3%) of the 507,580 job opportunities in the region. This metric is significantly lower than the nation's benchmark and in order to meet and exceed these trends, more job opportunities within these industries need to be developed. [U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics, May 2021 Metropolitan and NonMetropolitan Area Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates Grand Rapids-Wyoming, MI_May 20, 2021]

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$1,500,000

Maximum Cost: \$3,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Rudolph Treece

Organization:
Michigan Black Expo, Inc. (MBEI)

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme:
Workforce Development

Project Status: Existing Project

Matching Funds: 51% - 75%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

Wege Foundation grant submission (in-process)
Participatory Budget
Grand Rapids grant submission (in-process)

Partnership

1st Micro Greenery CIRCLE OF HOPE Alliance Partner; JustAir CIRCLE OF HOPE Alliance Partner; NAACPGR CIRCLE OF HOPE Alliance Partner; GRMayor CIRCLE OF HOPE Alliance Partner; Younify Group CIRCLE OF HOPE Alliance Partner

Guidehouse Ranking Notes

 **Eligibility**

Individuals or communities served is not clear or does not align with Treasury guidelines' definition of 'impacted' or 'disproportionately impacted'.

 **Sustainability**

Lacking guaranteed funding after 2026 though partners were identified

 **Feasibility**



PROJECT #204

Construction Allies in Action Affiliate HUB

Identify the need for the proposed project

Construction Allies in Action has identified the need for a bridge between the Strong Foundations Program (financially supported by Construction Allies in Action) and the construction industry. Many underrepresented contractors lack training, certification, and business acumen to grow their company past one-employee businesses. The Affiliate HUB aims to support underrepresented contractors through business growth by offering discounts on vetted providers in the areas of legal, accounting, marketing, training, estimating, documentation, and more. With a small pool of capable underrepresented contractors in West Michigan, project owners and prime contractors are unable to meet federal and state DBE requirements. The Affiliate HUB will help prepare contractors to bid commercial construction projects and increase the number of underrepresented contracting companies in West Michigan.

Brief Description

This project will provide training and mentoring with the Grand Rapids Center for Community Transformation. This project will complement the Generative Impact Initiative that is being spearheaded by GRCCT. Construction Allies in Action is looking to relocate to the Madison Square Neighborhood in collaboration with other partners to build on the success of the GRCCT model with a focus on entrepreneurship, social innovation and contractor development in a new building located in the 49507 zip code. This project will bridge the gap for underrepresented construction companies by providing discounts and services that are vital to business growth, as well as hosting multiple networking events each year to facilitate relationships between contractors and project owners. This will require hiring coaches and trainers who can work with contractors on a consistent basis. Vetted services for the Affiliate HUB include: Legal (Contracts, Legal Documents, Legal Aid), Estimating (Estimating per Project, Print Reading Class, Estimating Class, Personal Estimating Training), Marketing (Marketing Materials, Social Media, Marketing Planning, SWOT Analysis, Logo Design, Email Marketing), Website (Design, Development, Hosting, Management), Training (OSHA, Lead, Asbestos, Silica, CPR & First Aid), Labor (Job Site Staffing, Job Site Training), Back Office Help (Paperwork, Organization), Accounting (Software Set-Up & Training, Processing), Documentation (DBE/MBE/WBE Certification, AIA Forms, IT).

Long-Term Benefit

A diverse, capable, and sustainable workforce and robust economic activity in an area with significant equity, social, and health impacts. Walking with these contractors as they grow their businesses will set up success for future generations. Skill sets, social innovation, and the creation of community will all be positive for Kent County. It will also result in an increase in generational wealth for underrepresented communities and small businesses that were severely affected by the pandemic.

Intended Beneficiary

The primary direct beneficiary will be underrepresented contracting companies, specifically those that are one-person operations and were hit harder throughout the pandemic. Indirectly, the Affiliate HUB and training programs will help the economy thrive within underserved communities in Grand Rapids, which could lead to increased generational wealth, healthier people, and better housing. The companies we are helping all have been negatively by the effects of the Covid Pandemic and now need the assistance to rebuild their companies, their families, and their communities.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$3,545,800

Maximum Cost: \$3,545,800

Submitter Info

Name: Elizabeth Bovard Strong

Organization:

Construction Allies in Action

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

Funding has been initially seeded by the City of Grand Rapids Economic Development Department. Other sources are currently being sought to help fund the Affiliate HUB.

Partnership

Grand Rapids Center for Community Transformation (GRCCT)



(Page 2)

Estimated Cost

\$3,545,800.00

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$3,545,800

Maximum Cost: \$3,545,800

Submitter Info

Name: Elizabeth Bovard Strong

Organization:

Construction Allies in Action

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Project Management Experience

We will be partnering with an organization that has both ability and capacity to handle this project. This collaborative effort will not only help the underrepresented companies but will help bring organizations together to create robust programs that are inclusive and support the community.

Federal Funds Experience

We will be partnering with an organization that has worked with federal funds and has a solid understanding of the reporting process

Studies on Impact

We are not aware of any research studies that validate the effectiveness of this type of project. We are aware of the systemic injustices that affect underrepresented contractors and know the difference that is made when they are provided with resources, training, and mentoring. Everyone wins!

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

This is not eligible unless these workers are underemployed

Lacking guaranteed funding after 2026 though partners were identified

Source of Funding

Funding has been initially seeded by the City of Grand Rapids Economic Development Department. Other sources are currently being sought to help fund the Affiliate HUB.

Partnership

Grand Rapids Center for Community Transformation (GRCCT)

PROJECT #272

Plainfield Technology Business Incubator



Identify the need for the proposed project

Plainfield Township has recently completed a multi-year study of the Plainfield Avenue Corridor and has developed a plan for economic growth labeled "Reimagine Plainfield". A significant component of this plan is a shift away from retail as the primary use along the corridor, with an increased focus on mixed use development including residential, office, and even light manufacturing uses that are now allowed under the revised zoning code. The Right Place, the economic development partner organization for Plainfield Township, has identified an opportunity to expand the technology industry in the greater Grand Rapids area. We believe Plainfield Avenue provides an excellent opportunity to provide space for this growth industry due to its proximity to key highway corridors, downtown Grand Rapids and other business centers, and existing infrastructure that is crucial to this industry including multiple options for high-speed internet service.

Brief Description

This proposal includes the construction of a business incubator facility with a focus on the technology industry. This space would provide flexible office and other workspace opportunities for newly formed companies to get a start in this sector. This facility would include one or more large "shop" areas that provide small start-up companies the opportunity to build and test prototype products at greatly reduced cost through shared facilities and equipment. Plainfield Township would look for a partner organization to operate the facility. Options for a partner organization might include an existing economic development agency, institution of higher education, or a newly formed organization in partnership with other entities.

Long-Term Benefit

This project would benefit Kent County residents with enhanced economic growth and stability through diversification of the employment base in our county. Additionally, the creation of new jobs in the tech sector would in turn lead to the creation of other ancillary jobs to support these positions.

Intended Beneficiary

This project would be of particular benefit to Kent County entrepreneurs with great ideas but limited means to bring products to market. The provision of low-cost facilities for tech startups would reduce financial barriers to growing this portion of our local economy.

Estimated Cost

\$10-20 million, scalable based on available funding

*Source of Funding

Plainfield Township owns existing vacant land along the corridor that could be used for this project. Additionally, Plainfield Township would likely have a portion of its own ARPA funds to contribute to this project.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$10,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$20,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Cameron Van Wyngarden

Organization:

Plainfield Charter Township

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

Plainfield Township would partner with other economic development agencies and/or higher education institutions to complete this effort.



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Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$10,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$20,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Cameron Van Wyngarden

Organization:

Plainfield Charter Township

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

Plainfield Township would partner with other economic development agencies and/or higher education institutions to complete this effort.

Project Management Experience

Plainfield Township would serve as the lead grant administrator on this project and has extensive experience leading large-scale, multi-jurisdictional projects. As an example, Plainfield Township is currently overseeing the completion of multiple municipal water extension projects totaling over \$74 million to bring clean water to residents in Plainfield and Algoma Townships that have been affected by groundwater contamination. Despite disruptions brought on by the pandemic and material supply shortages these projects have remained on time and on budget.

Federal Funds Experience

Plainfield Township staff has extensive experience with federally funded projects and grant sources including Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grants (SAFER), CARES Act grants, The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act grants, and more. Additionally, Plainfield Township is a direct recipient of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds and understands the parameters for use of these funds.

Studies on Impact

No

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

The Treasury Guidelines indicate that for projects to be eligible for economic and workforce development there must be a benefit to those who have been negatively and/or disproportionately impacted economically. This includes underemployed and unemployed persons. Additionally, the funds cannot be used to start new businesses.



Sustainability

Project currently seeking partners to take on operations



Feasibility

Risk to 2026 completion



PROJECT #185

Kaleidoscope Affect - A kaleidoscope is what you call a group of butterflies, as well as the toy whose draw is a constantly shifting perspective. Kaleidoscope Affect speaks to individuals affecting change authentically, en masse.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$40,000

Maximum Cost: \$997,000

Submitter Info

Name: Rebecca Thomas

Organization:

Kaleidoscope Affect, Inc

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: Existing Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

n/a

Identify the need for the proposed project

The three of us who co-founded Business Showers GR (Grand Rapids) are multipreneur's that are in and/or have experience with varying levels of business. As professionals who all provide coaching (either directly or on some level with our clients), serve through mentor-ship, thrive on the connection found in community, and believe in living authentically while creating a harmony between our personal and professional lives, it has become increasingly obvious to us through our work that new entrepreneurs often struggle with issues like isolation, perfectionism, and guarded decision making, keeping them from tapping as quickly and as strongly into the connection, conversations, resources and tools that can fast-track success, scaling, and sustainable business. These "normal" struggles have been exacerbated since 2020 because of the Pandemic, a heavy political year, and racial injustices. These additional issues meant coping with all the old stressors and problems, while also being forced to navigate new stressors. In large, many had to learn how to do business in new ways. From maneuvering new technologies to learning what was preferred and acceptable when it came to remote working to reinventing and rebuilding what support systems look like and how to access them (both personal and professional). Too many new business owners went from a place where opening a business was challenging and stressful to feeling like they had more questions than solutions, more being asked of them than they had the capacity to manage, being overloaded with information and resources, and feeling less in control or able to find clarity that would contribute to their success. Mental health jumped to the forefront. We were forced to slow down, which led to redefining what was important in our lives. And our culture of convenience and automation has ushered us into an era where we can see that connection and relation is more important than ever. Our team took all these observations and asked ourselves what we could do to incorporate MORE support for new business owners, while approaching things holistically. How could we speak to the individual behind the business? How could we breathe confidence, the ability to trust oneself, and discernment into a group of people that are learning to do new things in ever-evolving ways, while also being bombarded with information, resources, and opinions? How could we create community in a unique way? How could we lead with vulnerability and authenticity, and do so in a space where the struggles each of us were facing could be shared to build trusted connection that empowered each of us while also allowing our businesses to create even more opportunity in the forms of collaboration and exposure? How could we build comradery in a way that felt celebratory and intentional without it feeling transactional and superficial?

Brief Description

Level 1: Business Showers focusing on 1 Female Business Owner per month, adding to their community (via hosts, attendees & vendors) who become the mid or inner circle for the Business Owner, with the intention that they rise in business together. Level 2, Annual Female Leadership Summit: Bringing together communities built over the year(s) from each Shower. The event will bring together participants (hosts, features, attendees, invitees, individuals with products & services pertinent to the entrepreneurial path) in a space to reconnect, celebrate wins, talk through hurdles, highlight speakers, & further support businesses by using a diverse range of vendors. Level 3, Competition: Held at least annually, creating additional opportunity to business owners to tap into capital. The larger purpose of this competition is to bridge gaps in our circles by utilizing Weak Ties Theory, creating more diverse spaces in all aspects. Entrepreneurs become stronger business owners with greater positive impact on the economy, creating more capital, more employment opportunity, & diversified connections (more intent on listening to, considering, & understanding a range of perspectives - creating a space where diverse experiences are honored, accepted, & embraced for everyone's advancement). All 3 levels curate better connected (inter & intra) individuals who are authentic, personally invested, & bond over their differences just as much as their similarities.



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Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$40,000

Maximum Cost: \$997,000

Submitter Info

Name: Rebecca Thomas

Organization:
Kaleidoscope Affect, Inc

Project Overview


Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: Existing Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

n/a

Long-Term Benefit

Developing individual women holistically means more sustainable businesses & home practices, & solid foundations for the business owner AND the individual. Building on self won't create selfish individuals, rather self-aware. Awareness & example will validate others, help them feel heard, & extend "permission" to thrive on one's own terms. Authenticity & connection will dissolve rivalries & unhealthy competition. Harmonized Women will lead to wider economic growth via home & business practices.

Intended Beneficiary

Female business owners and decision makers will benefit the most, on both personal and professional levels. This result will also lead into shifts in family dynamics and future generations.

Estimated Cost

Business Shower Events, monthly across a span of 3 years with quarterly accelerated costs- \$40,000. Yearly Leadership Summit across a span of 3 years - \$400,000. Competitive Funding Event (Launching in 2025) - \$500,000 Buffer for unexpected costs - \$57,000

Project Management Experience

No experience (to our knowledge).

Federal Funds Experience

No experience (to our knowledge).

Studies on Impact

We're not aware of any specific studies, but have read extensively about the affects of connection and authenticity in long-term fulfillment and success. Ikigai, Weak Ties Theory, Collaboration over Competition. Being a Go-Giver. All of these theory's contribute to the growth and fulfillment behind the individual in business, and encourage more of the same in those around them.

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Individuals or communities served is not clear or does not align with Treasury guidelines' definition of 'impacted' or 'disproportionately impacted'.



Sustainability

Does not include a funding plan or fund availability after expending all the ARPA dollars.



Feasibility



PROJECT #181

Virginia Dozeman

Identify the need for the proposed project

We see many of our low income community on a daily basis.

Brief Description

Many of our clients don't have a complete education, in many ways. I would like to see them offered training classes in financials. While many know how to write a check, etc., I feel it might be a good idea to train them how to budget, save, and even understand the investment portion of financing. This would have to be ongoing for a while so they get in the habit of spending less and saving more – thinking about the future, not just about today. It's a difference between wants and needs, and how to have a little willpower when it comes to their spending habits. I believe staff could also benefit from this type of training so we could better help those we serve.

Long-Term Benefit

Stability for our clients; less times that they come back to us in extreme need; less stress for clients; we could then spend our grant money on others who need help and training also.

Intended Beneficiary

Low income individuals in Kent County.

Estimated Cost

n/a

Project Management Experience

KCCA does food distributions county-wide. We also have housing fairs.

Federal Funds Experience

KCCA (Kent County Community Action) works almost entirely from federal grants and has been around for over 50 years in some form and under a couple names.

Studies on Impact

No. But Home Repair Services might have some research available on this.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: n/a

Maximum Cost: n/a

Submitter Info

Name: Virginia Dozeman

Organization:
Kent County Community Action

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: n/a

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

I have no idea of the costs or how many it can help. I would think it would be on-going. I don't believe there is a match of funds for this idea.

Partnership

Unsure. Home Repair Services has "some kind of class" but not sure exactly what they teach

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

More so life training than workforce training

PROJECT #192

Black Impact Collaborative Economic Security for Black Greater Grand Rapids

BLACK IMPACT
COLLABORATIVE

Identify the need for the proposed project

The Black Impact Collaborative established this proposed project in its Position Paper published in May 2020. We followed up on this need within the logic model that impacts the work of the Economic Security Impact Area, which guides the direction of our advocacy and attention. The establishment of a Black-owned bank and re-launch of a Black Chamber were overwhelming recommendations identified by Black leaders, when asked to identify deficits for the Black community within Kent County.

Brief Description

A 2015 report by Forbes.com explored the cities in America where African Americans are doing the best economically. The report states: "We decided to look into which of America's 52 largest metropolitan areas present African-Americans with the best opportunities. We weighed these metropolitan statistical areas by three critical factors - homeownership, entrepreneurship, ... and median household income - that we believe are indicators of middle-class success." Among those 52 cities, Grand Rapids was #51 – the second from the last (Milwaukee). Our board members have seen also seen at ground level how the lack of access to capital has contributed to the systems that created these disparate outcomes. We believe the establishment of a Black Chamber leverages the collective voice, experience, and impact of Black businesses in the region. Prior to the county's opening of the ARPA funding, we started discussions with existing Black banks in other cities and states. We have held meetings to learn more about the local interest in the resurgence of a Black Chamber. Our preliminary work has yielded positive outcomes. We know that there are partners within and outside of the Black community who have an interest in the betterment of the community and find that these establishments will be a great tool to garner those results. The establishment of a Black bank and Black Chamber that serves Kent County is needed to guide the economic security of our most marginalized populations.

Long-Term Benefit

Currently in Grand Rapids (GR), 98% of business revenue is generated by white-owned businesses. Furthermore, of the businesses in GR Metro making \$250,000 or more, less than 1% of them is owned by people of color. The number 1 barrier to growth for those making less than \$250,000 is access to capital, an issue a Black bank can resolve. Chambers are advocates for business, and a Black chamber would be just that for Black businesses providing the resources, connections, programming to spur growth.

Intended Beneficiary

Our research has shown, economic systems designed and run by those who have been ignored yield a different outcome than what happens with other traditional lending institutions. Additionally, it has been determined that other communities are asked to speak on behalf of the Black community as it relates to the business sector, due to the lack of representation at specific levels. In the long-term, this project will benefit future Black businesses and future generations of families living across the region. It will create and expand economic growth among Black business owners and households. The intended beneficiaries are regional businesses that have interest in seeing better outcomes for Black businesses. Additionally, the Black businesses, themselves are impacted. The municipalities will yield a higher tax capture because these businesses will generate more wealth, with more tools. It will establish more job opportunities, and create financial literacy, which helps with building generational wealth. This investment is a win-win-win-win-win, community, government, nonprofit, philanthropic and businesses will benefit. Selecting this project will help Kent County fulfill your mission of promoting a high quality of life for the entire community; highlight a value and improve areas referenced within your strategic plan.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$2,200,000

Maximum Cost: \$2,200,000

Submitter Info

Name: Attah Obande

Organization:
Black Impact Collaborative

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$2,200,000

Maximum Cost: \$2,200,000

Submitter Info

Name: Attah Obande

Organization:
Black Impact Collaborative

Project Overview


Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

*Partnership

The Black Impact Collaborative is already made up of 15 organizations (non-profit, for-profit and community-based) and within some of these organizations are affiliates – by design, our reach is broad and deep. To further our reach, we will engage the founding participants (which increases our organizations by another 6) of the BIC to include their further input on this project. We would also seek partnerships with like-minded groups to bring them to the table. If awarded, we plan to engage governmental, public, non-profit, and philanthropic entities to engage, become members of both and contribute their expertise for sustainability.

Estimated Cost

\$2.2 Million

*Source of Funding

We have budgeted, within our existing budget, a small portion to get this work underway. ARPA funding will help us to expedite and achieve these existing goals. The BIC organizations and partners have plans to make major deposits into the established bank, which will contribute to its sustainability

Project Management Experience

The BIC has an existing territory of Greater Grand Rapids. We are already designed to have county foresight. Our COVID testing, contact tracing and COVID vaccine projects have been countywide. Because of which, we have a plethora of relationships already built throughout the county that would allow us to hit the ground running. Our organizations combined have multi-million-dollar budgets and funding derives from a variety of sources. Collectively we have access to human capital that spans the grassroots to the grass-top. We are leaders who lead and nurture other leaders.

Federal Funds Experience

Our organization has received governmental funding in the past and recognize the nuisances that are tied to tracking and reporting federal funding. Members of our existing team have governmental expertise that will help us to navigate and interpret federal guidelines, deadlines, and tracking. We pay close attention to detail and recognize that telling the outcomes of our work is essential to receiving funding from the federal government in the future.

Studies on Impact

As we have already shared in previous questions, the data for how Black people fair in Kent County is dismal. Many public and philanthropic organizations now have values to address the inequities that exist in our county due to policies that contributed to these outcomes. The number 1 barrier to growth for those making less than \$250,000 is access to capital, an issue a Black bank can resolve. Chambers are advocates for business, and a Black chamber would be just that for Black businesses providing the resources, connections, programming to spur growth. Additionally, here is a list articles that share the benefits to a community to have a Black financial institution and chamber:

- <https://www.oneunited.com/the-untold-history-of-black-banks-3-reasons-theyre-important/>
- <https://www.icba.org/newsroom/blogs/main-street-matters/2021/06/01/why-we-need-black-ow>
- <https://www.usatoday.com/story/money/personalfinance/2017/02/16/why-america-needs-blac>
- <https://www.bankrate.com/banking/how-to-support-black-owned-banks/>
- <https://www.nsa.gov/History/Cryptologic-History/Historical-Events/Article-View/Article/274062>

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

The US Treasury requires that funds be used to serve 'impacted' (Directly impacted by the pandemic and its negative economic consequences) or 'disproportionately impacted' (Groups and communities who experience disproportionate public health or economic outcomes from the pandemic.). The most notable way that the US Treasury identifies 'disproportionately impacted' communities is through a Qualified Census Tract. This project is not focused within such a Tract. The US Treasury requires that any program funding be narrowly tailored to serve only those communities. A broad-based program would not be deemed eligible under the existing rules. In addition, general economic development – even those serving 'disproportionately impacted' groups - is also explicitly ineligible.



Sustainability

Does not include a funding plan or fund availability after expending all the ARPA dollars.



Feasibility

In general, proposal is lacking information to make an informed assessment.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$2,200,000

Maximum Cost: \$2,200,000

Submitter Info

Name: Attah Obande

Organization:

Black Impact Collaborative

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)



PROJECT #28

Another Experience

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$50,000

Maximum Cost: \$100,000

Submitter Info

Name: Linda Z Kristensen

Organization: Self-Determination Parent/Guardian Group

Project Overview

Funding Group:

Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

Network 180

Identify the need for the proposed project

Inability to find caregivers/companions for disabled adults for 5-10 years

Brief Description

Set-up accredited programs in colleges & universities for students to experience and work with people with various disabilities. Students would gain: knowledge of disabilities, on-hands experience, help remove the fear and stigma associated with disabilities and be more accepting of all people. Persons with disabilities will gain: trust, friendship, being part of the community and the support that they need to be more independent in the world.

Long-Term Benefit

INCLUSION: a society that is not just WASP (white anglo-saxon protestant) but a kaleidoscope of not only colors, ethnic backgrounds, religions but also of our abilities and disabilities. Yet the ability to work together and help each other. It will help remove the "fear factor" that differences can bring to a society especially if the society is very homogenous.

Intended Beneficiary

Students and the disabled persons who are served. It will be a WIN/WIN situation

Estimated Cost

\$50,000.00 - \$100,000.00 depending on how many people are hired to set this up

Project Management Experience

Unknown for Network 180. None for our parent group

Federal Funds Experience

Unknown for Network 180. None for our parent group

Studies on Impact

No research to my knowledge. However parental experiences should count for something.

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Not directly eligible under the rules. Would need more information.



Sustainability

Does not include a funding plan or fund availability after expending all the ARPA dollars.



Feasibility

More information needed



PROJECT #120

Mothers Empowerment Initiative

Identify the need for the proposed project

As a single mother, who became homeless after divorce, I found myself on DHHS assistance, homeless and disempowered to make decisions regarding personal decisions as well as making decisions about my daughter. Research supports that this is not a unique situation and one that needs to be addressed.

Brief Description

As a single mother and homeless for nearly five months, I found myself to feel helpless, with no social supports and a minimum wage job. Empowering single mothers to maximize their potential is essential in the growth as humans but also demonstrating the ability to care for her kids. This proposed project or initiative will empower women to self rely on their own ability to care for her children. This project and its funds will allow single moms to participate in a social group that will assist them when they face difficult life decisions, if that is parenting alone, budgeting, housing, assistance etc.

Long-Term Benefit

Empowering WOMEN to believe they have the same level of opportunity as they would have if married or engaged in a romantic and healthy relationship.

Intended Beneficiary

Single moms and their household.

Estimated Cost

50000

Project Management Experience

More than 10 years of local direct leading county wide projects.

Federal Funds Experience

Extensive experience in this area.

Studies on Impact

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8293807/>

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$50,000

Maximum Cost: \$50,000

Submitter Info

Name: Georgeta Smith

Organization: Seeds of Promise

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme:

Workforce Development

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

Local donations, grants and philanthropy.

Partnership

Seeds of Promise

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

Unclear on the project to assess.

26

YOUTH SUPPORT



PROJECT #32

Community Youth Respite and Trauma Center



Identify the need for the proposed project

By seeing the needs of the youth in our community by the daily interaction with families.

Brief Description

A youth respite and trauma center for ALL of the youth that is forced into situations that they have no control over. So many young people are abused physically and mentally on a daily basis, and they need so much help. They are unable to get the help that they should have, but cannot get it for so many reasons, such as insurance status. With all of the traumatic situations that children are forced to be in, they are suffering and not getting proper treatment. Many of their children have young parents that are unable to follow through with the needs of the children. Every child that is forced into a family crisis, should be mandated to participate in a program to help their mental status. A intervention home/shelter should be developed with staff that can closely monitor, treat and mentor from growth to greatness.

Long-Term Benefit

Our future is our youth. If we do not do something now that can help strengthen the mindset of our youth. Through nurturing, counseling, mentoring and lots of love for those that have been impacted will help them long-term.

Intended Beneficiary

All youth - no age limit

Estimated Cost

100000

Project Management Experience

This is a framework of an idea that we have been wanted to do. But due to COVID, we did not follow through with the plan.

Federal Funds Experience

Our organization is a 501C3 that have function with grants sources.

Studies on Impact

I do know that there is a national problem and many others have reviewed this problem. Research has been done by many others.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$100,000

Maximum Cost: \$100,000

Submitter Info

Name: Kathi J Harris

Organization:

The PROACTIVE Project, Inc

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Youth Support

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

n/a

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

Behavioral health services are eligible

Will need funding past 2026 but it is connected with an organization. Would need information to that effect.

PROJECT #194

Live. Work. Thrive.



Identify the need for the proposed project

Over 450 Kent County homeless youth spent the past two years alone. As the world shut down, they were left out - no stable home, no job, no school, no path forward. At AYA Youth Collective, we provide housing; employment support; drop-in services; access to healthcare; and safe relationships for hundreds of youth in crisis. We listened and responded as requests escalated through the pandemic. While youth routinely report assault, untreated physical/mental health concerns, exploitation and severe social marginalization, the isolation of COVID compounded their vulnerability. Kent County HMIS (Homeless Management Information System) data from 2020, documents over 8,000 people in Kent County experiencing at least one episode of homelessness, a 33% increase since 2016. Of those, 729 were youth, ages 18-24, and 113 were unaccompanied minors, an increase of 19% and 47% respectively. To reiterate - prior to the pandemic - more youth were relying on homeless services year over year. While the Point in Time (PIT) count is a less dependable measure, the 2021 report still shows 79 youth experiencing homelessness on that single, January night. Currently, there are 225 youth, ages 14 to 24, who are sleeping outside or in emergency shelters. Those youth sleeping in shelters or outside are only part of the equation. The University of Michigan released a study in 2018 showing more than 36,000 children in Michigan public schools are facing homelessness and/or housing insecurity, ranking 6th in the country. Zooming in, the Grand Rapids Public School system (the largest district in Kent County) contains the third-largest homeless student population in the state. Grand Rapids Public Schools educates more homeless students than does Detroit. Last year, AYA met over 400 youth facing housing instability. We know the need because we see youth every day in our housing communities and drop-in center. We know that when they have safe housing, they develop careers. We know that when they have access to mental and physical healthcare, they thrive. But, housing is such a vital first step. Yet, housing on its own is not sufficient to transition youth out of homelessness for the long run, but rather, housing within a supportive environment with community partners and case management results in better community integration, quality of life, and mental health (Yanos, Barrow & Tsemberis, 2004 & Kidd et al., 2015).

AYA provides comprehensive support through strong, secure relationships. For the last ten years, over 90% of the youth who live in an AYA community maintain their own housing when they move out. Unfortunately, the pandemic jeopardized the hard work of so many youth. In addition to the impact on their sense of security, a decreased income forces youth to live paycheck to paycheck, limiting their ability to buy groceries or basic needs items, and pay rent, utilities, or school tuition. Nearly every function of drop-in and supportive housing became COVID-related relief. We delivered basic needs items to our homes, including cleaning supplies, food, hygiene items, and other items youth requested. We have provided rental assistance for current youth and alumni and supported them in applying for unemployment and other assistance. Furthermore, as we've passed two full years of living through the COVID-19 pandemic, national and local data clearly show that at-risk and homeless youth are disproportionately affected. There is a well-documented and significant increased risk of "human trafficking, exploitation, victimization, untreated physical and mental health care needs, chemical or alcohol dependency, criminal justice involvement and death among this population" (Bardine, 2013). The negative impacts of toxic stress and adverse childhood experiences on brain development, immune system functioning, learning difficulties, and physical health issues is well documented in the literature. According to Child Psychology & Human Development (2012), "histories of abuse, unstable and often dangerous living situations, limited financial and emotional resources, engagement in substance abuse and high-risk sexual activity, and irregular patterns of sleep and eating contribute to the poor physical and mental health commonly found among homeless youth".

(continued on next page)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$7,540,243

Maximum Cost: \$19,947,585

Submitter Info

Name: Lauren VanKeulen

Organization: AYA Youth Collective

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Youth Support

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$7,540,243

Maximum Cost: \$19,947,585

Submitter Info

Name: Lauren VanKeulen

Organization: AYA Youth Collective

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Youth Support

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Identify the need for the proposed project (continued)

Unfortunately, youth experiencing homelessness are reluctant to seek behavioral health services due to embarrassment at their lack of healthcare knowledge, uncertainty at navigating a system that is geared toward adults, and fear of discriminatory attitudes by healthcare professionals (Busen & Engebretson, 2008). Youth at AYA have shared over 1400 separate encounters with barriers while accessing necessary health and wellness resources with most common being: missing vital documents, transportation, and prior bad experiences with people in uniforms and/or the "system". In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic has furthered the negative effects on youths' mental health. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in their August 14, 2020 report on Mental Health, Substance Use, and Suicidal Ideation During the COVID-19 Pandemic, "symptoms of anxiety disorder and depressive disorder increased considerably in the United States during April–June of 2020, compared with the same period in 2019...[when] 40.9% of respondents reported at least one adverse mental or behavioral health condition, including symptoms of anxiety disorder or depressive disorder (30.9%), symptoms of a trauma- and stressor-related disorder (TSRD) related to the pandemic."

As we recover from the pandemic, many youth face unemployment as a byproduct of their disconnection. Employment can already be a challenge. Youth experiencing homelessness face compounding barriers to employment as they work toward stability and prosperity: racism, lack of education, lack of vital documents, unstable housing, mental health issues. For those who gain employment, lower educational attainment often results in lower wages (Ostyn & Parker, 2019). Further, over 1/3 of AYA members identify as LGBTQ+, placing them at high risk for hiring and workplace discrimination (Slesnick et al, 2018) and 40% of AYA youth have experienced foster care - a reality that makes them 2.5 times more likely to experience unemployment than their peers. Our solution is as complex as it is common. We build relationships to support employment success. AYA is connecting business owners with employees - mentors with entrepreneurs. We invite youth and businesses to invest in this initiative with us to build a community where the most vulnerable youth experience an equal shot at creating generational wealth.

Brief Description

Our proposal scales solutions to overcome the barriers that homeless youth face every day. This requires deep investment in housing, employment training and healthcare for youth experiencing homelessness. This trinity is essential as youth who've experienced complex trauma become compassionate, engaged neighbors in our county. We're inviting you to invest in youth and experience how our collective efforts pay generational dividends. Affordable Housing Part 1: Mixed-use development (retail/housing/parking/green space) including 75 additional housing units divided between: (1) supportive housing for AYA youth and (2) affordable units to meet the 'missing middle' in Kent County. Part 2: Building/renovating an additional 8 duplexes for supportive housing - totaling a 32 youth units & 8 house mentor units. Employment AYA will provide on-demand jobs through our Bottle Redemption Initiative, a small business that provides a service and generates sustainable revenue. We'll also invest in providing training and mentorship for youth employment in manufacturing & skilled trades as we continue supporting youth who need it most. Healthcare Publish and expand our proven Comprehensive Healthcare Initiative (CHI) to scale access to mental/physical healthcare for youth as a best practice for engaging vulnerable populations. Serve more youth throughout the county. More information including partnerships, a financial overview and program details can be found at aya-arpa.org.



(Page 3)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$7,540,243

Maximum Cost: \$19,947,585

Submitter Info

Name: Lauren VanKeulen

Organization: AYA Youth Collective

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Youth Support

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Long-Term Benefit

Long-term, supportive housing for youth experiencing homelessness Opportunities for homeownership + wealth creation Comprehensive advertising campaign to promote Kent Co.'s investment in homelessness + green recycling programs Affordable housing and employment support for 30+ years Affordable retail space + new green space Rapid employment for unemployed youth Ongoing development of labor force Expanded access to mental/physical healthcare Increased county tax revenue Reduced adult homelessness

Intended Beneficiary

This project benefits youth and young adults, ages 14-24, who face housing crises due to a myriad of different factors, such as aging out of the foster care system, family conflict/homelessness, health conditions resulting in unemployment, a lack of acceptance due to their sexual orientation or gender identity and untreated mental health challenges. Of the 360 youth AYA served in 2021, 51% identified as male, 43% as female, 6% as non-binary/trans/other, and 74% identified as BIPOC. Furthermore, 34% identify as LGBTQ+ upon first meeting (compared to 10% of the national population) and nearly 40% have engaged with the foster care system. These trends clearly show an overrepresentation of youth of color, LGBTQ+ youth, and foster care youth in the homelessness population, strengthening our case for a new approach. By intervening now, we can help break the cycles of homelessness for so many young people. 40% of homeless adults also experienced homelessness as a youth - when we connect youth to resources and walk alongside them on their journey to stability, we can help prevent re-entry into the system. Over 90% of youth in AYA housing exit to safe and stable housing for the long term - measured over 10+ years. That means this project will affect generations of youth, families, and children. Finally, this proposal will benefit all Kent County citizens, by increasing impact in all five funding areas. Community Health: by investing in the physical and mental health of vulnerable youth, we will see fewer emergency room visits, fewer crisis calls to police and first responders, and increased long-term health support. This helps all Kent County residents have greater access to services as they need it. Quality of Life: Investments at the Roosevelt Park project will bring much needed green and park space to a neighborhood that is bordered by truck routes and heavy traffic. Infrastructure: The green recycling program will grow Kent County's footprint as innovative leaders in Michigan. Economic Innovations and Workforce Development: By pairing jobs, training opportunities, and an innovative recycling model, we will build up the skilled workforce and have more people contributing to the Kent County economy. Improving Government Operations: This project will bring additional tax revenue to the county, along with a reduced need for emergency services. Housing bridges all five funding areas, recognizing that housing is health and that without housing, none of the other investments are possible.

*Partnership

AYA has MOUs and/or partnership agreements with the following organizations. These agreements will continue or be expanded through this proposal. Documentation of partnerships is available upon request: Arbor Circle, Catherine's Health Center, Cherry Health, Claire Graves (Substance Use Provider), Covenant House Grand Rapids, Elisa Pérez-Arellano (Bilingual, open access), Family Health Center at Grand Valley State University, Family Promise of Grand Rapids, Health Net of West Michigan, Kent County Health Department, Mel Trotter Ministries, The Pride Center, The Red Project, Safe Haven Ministries, Samantha Lemmer (LGBTQ+ and Trauma-Focused therapist), Salvation Army/Housing Assessment Program, Southtown Guitar, Steepletown Neighborhood Services, Valarie James (Therapist + Wellness), YMCA of Greater Grand Rapids, Young Money Financials. AYA also partners closely with the following organizations, but does not have documented agreements: Bethany, Dégagé Ministries, ICCF Community Homes, Grand Rapids Community College, Grand Rapids Police Department, Grand Valley State University, Kent County Essential Needs Taskforce (ENTF), Legal Aid of West Michigan, Network180, Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services. Roosevelt Park project partners include: The Roosevelt Park Neighborhood Association, Wolverine Building Group, Fishbeck, and The Navigators



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Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$7,540,243

Maximum Cost: \$19,947,585

Submitter Info

Name: Lauren VanKeulen

Organization: AYA Youth Collective

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Youth Support

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Estimated Cost

Between \$7,540,243 to \$19,947,585, depending on the projects that are funded. The lowest amount to make 2 parts feasible is the \$7.5 million. The highest amount to bring all 6 parts (three building projects, two employment opportunities and the Comprehensive Health Expansion Initiative) to completion is \$19.9 million. The budget overviews are outlined at aya-arpa.org, further detailed budgets available upon request. AYA can be flexible with projects and amounts funded.

*Source of Funding

Pending requests for Comprehensive Health Expansion Initiative from 5 additional foundations; Committed requests for Comprehensive Health Expansion Initiative from 4 foundations/partners; Those participating in the Roosevelt Park project will fund the remaining part of the project with individuals, foundations, and financing.

Project Management Experience

AYA is now the largest organization in Kent County, MI focused solely on the unique needs of youth, ages 14-24, who are unsafe/unstably housed or experiencing literal homelessness. AYA is perfectly poised to lead this work as we are the only organization offering a continuum of supportive services and collaborative partnerships in a low-barrier, youth-specific, affirming, and relational environment. Offering a one-stop-shop, allows youth to set and achieve their goals in a trusted environment. We push beyond passive inclusion towards an intentional celebration of diversity, creating safety for youth to show up exactly as they are, believing in their inherent dignity and worth, and supporting their journey to become their fullest and healthiest self. AYA is deeply invested in the success of Kent County's Coalition to End Homelessness (Continuum of Care [CoC]) which serves Grand Rapids, Wyoming, as well as the entire county. AYA has boldly committed to systemic change and community accountability through more intentional participation in the CoC, with representatives at the Executive Committee, Steering Council, Youth Committee, Youth Action Board, Youth functional Zero Workgroup, and other ad hoc committees, as appropriate. Additionally, we are active in the HousingKent work and maintain positive relationships with local units of government. Our executive director, Lauren VanKeulen, serves as the Steering Committee Chairperson and is responsible for ensuring the coalition meets the following goals: Develop and promote integrated, community-wide strategies and plans to prevent and end homelessness; Provide leadership and coordination among the numerous local organizations and initiatives that serve the homeless population, and Manage the CoC's single, comprehensive grant application to HUD for Continuum of Care funds and manage State Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds. One notable example of AYA's leadership in our community is through the local Direct Cash Transfer program, known as the Kent County Youth Stability Fund. Locally, service providers across multiple disciplines and approaches have consistently highlighted the disparities that youth experiencing trauma face in our community. There is finally broad agreement that the historical processes have left youth behind, struggling to navigate a system primarily designed for adults. After countless attempts to work within the parameters of the system, all of which failed to result in adequate, lasting change, AYA convened multiple partners. A Direct Cash Transfer pilot project was born in 2019 with a shared commitment to find a more effective solution for the over 200 young people on the streets. The Youth Stability Fund allows youth to make requests for funds through community partner agencies, with dollars being used to secure housing, maintain housing, or cover housingrelated costs. AYA and its four core partners met regularly to review youth "cases," brainstorm solutions, and confirm eligibility for funds. Dollars were then distributed quickly to the youth to cover critical expenses like short-term rent with a friend, a hotel, or other needs that free-up resources for housing. Finally, a youth advocate through AYA was assigned to each young person, providing individualized supportive services alongside the funds. As the facilitator for this project, AYA has led the way in creating a multi-organizational release of information and setting the standard operating procedures for this effort.



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Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$7,540,243

Maximum Cost: \$19,947,585

Submitter Info

Name: Lauren VanKeulen

Organization: AYA Youth Collective

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Youth Support

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Federal Funds Experience

AYA is a current recipient of federal VOCA funds (Victims of Crime Act) designed to enhance and expand treatment, housing and community services for victims of sexual/labor exploitation. We are partnering with Wedgwood Christian Services and several experiential therapy providers to accomplish our goals related to this funding. VOCA grants are subject to extensive monitoring and reporting, as well as routine audits of activities and expenditures. AYA is also a current recipient of the Emergency Food & Shelter Program funding and has had comprehensive success in reporting. AYA received nearly \$500,000 in CARES Act funding through Heart of West Michigan United Way and Kent County, with near flawless reporting, despite the quick turnaround of funds. AYA has always been able to expend 100% of federal and foundation funding, never needing to return funds, and is confident we would be able to do the same with these dollars. Finally, AYA was ranked as the highest scoring Tier 2 bonus project funding through the CoC's 2021 HUD competition. Bonus funding was not awarded to most communities across the US, but had it been, AYA would have received the funding. AYA's financial management is overseen by our internal Director of Finance and Finance Committee along with an external bookkeeper, Maner Costerisan - a contracted certified public accounting firm headquartered in Lansing, Michigan. All three groups are responsible for developing and ensuring compliance with the accounting policies and procedures contained within the Accounting Manual. The Accounting Manual ensures that the financial statements conform to generally accepted accounting principles; assets are safeguarded; guidelines of grantors and donors are complied with; proper segregation of duties are built into internal controls; and finances are managed with accuracy, efficiency, and transparency. Vredevelde Haefner, LLC provides a forensic-level audit annually to assess the effectiveness of our internal controls and opine on the material accuracy of the Financial Statements. In the audits completed since AYA's inception, there have been no material findings. AYA's Director of Finance, Krista Josephson, CPA, has over 12 years of experience both in Public Accounting and in the corporate sector holding roles focusing on compliance with internal controls ensuring the accuracy and transparency of financials. AYA's Finance Committee is headed by Shawn Perdue, AYA's Treasurer. Shawn is currently completing a Diversity and Inclusion Fellowship at MillerKnoll. Formerly, Shawn was on the Credit team at Herman Miller for 10 years where he was responsible for assessing the financial health of customers and managing the corresponding risk to maintain compliance with internal controls. The committee also includes two additional CPAs and one staff accountant working toward their CPA. The Finance Committee is responsible for oversight of all financial activity and reporting. We have confirmed with these experts that we hold the capacity to manage and support this grant successfully and will have their support throughout the process.

Studies on Impact

Yes, many researchers have validated AYA's approach, and AYA is built on best practices for youth engagement. This is a sampling of some applicable research. More is available, upon request. Research articles and reports can be found at <https://linktr.ee/ayayouth>, since all links were over the character count.

Guidehouse Ranking Notes

 **Eligibility**

Housing support for homeless and accelerates rehiring of unemployed is eligible

 **Sustainability**

Does not include a funding plan or fund availability after expending all the ARPA dollars.

 **Feasibility**

Risk to 2026 completion



PROJECT #295

FOROURDAUGHTERS

Identify the need for the proposed project

FOROURDAUGHTERS is founded by an African American female nurse-returning to Kent County, feeling disconnected and starving for resources. In an attempt to find support, we found that many women of color feel the disconnect. Especially, black and brown women and girls who we would later find-rank last in college enrollment, persistence, and post secondary success in this county. Through personal experience, and data backed research through resources like K Connect and the Kent County Community needs assessment, we have identified a gap that we know is necessary to fill. That is: to decrease the inequity of underserved women and girls through intergenerational connections and reliable community resources.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$10,000

Maximum Cost: \$10,000

Submitter Info

Name: Nakiah Mayfield

Organization: FOROURDAUGHTERS

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Youth Support

Project Status: Existing Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Brief Description

FOROURDAUGHTERS: aspires to change the trajectory of at risk women and girls through the following 4 components. mentorship, housing, education, resources. We will focus on the mentorship and resource components for this proposal. Nex-Gen mentorship Objectives are as follows: To annually recruit four (4) at-risk youth within the Kent County community between the ages of 12-18. To provide activities and educational events four (4) times a year that focus on empowering, education, and connections. To select and connect qualified female mentors from the community with at-risk girls. This will include women of color in corporate America along with entrepreneurs. To make community connections through four (4) required volunteer opportunities. Provide leadership and teamwork opportunities twice (2) a year for gifting projects to selected populations in the community. To provide continual follow-up with each female until high school completion. Resource component: FOROURDAUGHTERS: plans to provide feminine hygiene products, to two Kent County Schools throughout the fall 2022/2023 school year. Reducing issues with esteem and basic needs not being met. We also plan to continue our yearly gifting project- which provides gifts, clothing and needed resources during the holiday season. We would like to serve 3 families winter 2022.

Long-Term Benefit

There are many long term benefits to decreasing the inequity of at risk women and girls-which is our mission. This is especially important in a county where failure is high for black and brown females. FOROURDAUGHTERS will impact this community greatly for years to come being sure the women in need are safely housed, empowered to do more, educated to do better, and connected for continued growth.

Intended Beneficiary

At risk women and girls ages 12-23 living in Kent County.

Estimated Cost

10000

Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

n/a



(Page 2)

Project Management Experience

Our fund developer -Audrey Mayfield has completed county wide community projects for greater than 30 years.

Federal Funds Experience

Our fund developer is well versed in 501C3 process both EZ and large cooperation applications. 30 years experience in proposal/grant writing along with managing federal funds.

Studies on Impact

Yes! Specific to Kent County-The 2020 needs assessment, census data, K Connect, Grand Rapids African American Health Institute research studies.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$10,000

Maximum Cost: \$10,000

Submitter Info

Name: Nakiah Mayfield

Organization: FOROURDAUGHTERS

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Youth Support

Project Status: Existing Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Guidehouse Ranking Notes

Eligibility

Individuals or communities served aligns with Treasury guidelines' definition of 'impacted' or 'disproportionately impacted'.

Sustainability

Does not include a funding plan or fund availability after expending all the ARPA dollars.

Feasibility

New organization

Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

n/a



PROJECT #152

Alpha Grand Rapids Men's Center Basement

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$55,000

Maximum Cost: \$60,000

Submitter Info

Name: Brad Smith

Organization: Alpha Grand Rapids

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Youth Support

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Identify the need for the proposed project

The need for active, intentional fathers who are not only contributing members of their families but also contributing members of the economic engine of our community is needed more than ever. The National Fatherhood Initiative has conducted extensive research surrounding the impact of fathers on not only their individual families but also their communities as a whole. Below are some of the most impactful conclusions of their research. Children raised in homes with absent fathers are: 4 times more likely to grow up in poverty. 7 times more likely to become pregnant as a teen. 2 times more likely to drop out of high school. 2.79 times more likely to carry guns and deal drugs. With statistics like these, one does not have to stretch one's mind very far to see the lasting impact fathers can have on the greater community, particularly regarding the economy and its future workforce. Alpha Grand Rapids already provides a fatherhood support group, one-on-one coaching, and many other programs. But, based on these facts, we knew we needed to provide a place for men to not only grow in their personal lives, but also in their professional lives. This began an extensive search for a job training program that we wanted to make available to our male clients (after piloting the program for our male clients we hope to offer this program to our female clients in the future as well). Our search concluded with the international organization, Jobs For Life (JfL), which features an extensive soft skills job training program. In order to properly provide this service, the basement of our newly built, and first in the nation, Men's Center needs to be finished. The full-circle potential of our programs is evident in the story of Carlos. He attended programs for male clients before we opened our Men's Center, so he came to our Women's Center for programming. He earned his GED which led to him getting a job in construction. His new employer was one of the contractors that worked on building our Men's Center, so Carlos was able to pour back into other men within our community. Carlos is a prime example of the holistic approach to our programming, and if we had our Jobs For Life program when Carlos was a client, he would have benefited greatly! To see more of Carlos's story, click here: <https://vimeo.com/296035847>.

Brief Description

JfL has existed for over 25 years in over 300 cities and 9 countries. Their motto is Uplifting Humanity Through the Dignity of Work. JfL teaches the soft skills needed to make men and women better employees: resumes, interview skills, what employers are looking for, overcoming previous employment barriers, etc. Each student is matched up with a Champion to walk with them through classes and help job searching post-graduation. Over an eight-week period each fall and spring, 16 classes will run on Monday and Wednesday nights from 5:45-8:00 pm; dinner is included. Students must complete a minimum of 13 classes to graduate, earning points for each class. Points are transferred into a gift certificate to purchase materials to help launch their career. See the full story of how JfL started here: <https://jobsforlife.org/our-story/>. In order to provide this much-needed program, we require a space to hold classes. Not only will the basement be the hub for our JfL classes, but we will also be adding additional rooms for our one-on-one coaching. Clients have coaching sessions monthly with a trained volunteer. These sessions focus on a multitude of topics ranging from personal relationships and finances, parenting, mental health, and more.

Long-Term Benefit

With men learning lifelong skills through JfL, as well as the benefits if they attend coaching, the long-term impact on the community is staggering. Imagine the impact if men have more stable employment. Imagine a community where dads have better-paying jobs so fewer kids grow up in poverty. Imagine more engaged fathers so there are fewer high school dropouts, teen pregnancies, and kids carrying guns and dealing drugs. Those are the impacts that change a community now and in the long term.



(Page 2)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$55,000

Maximum Cost: \$60,000

Submitter Info

Name: Brad Smith

Organization: Alpha Grand Rapids

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Youth Support

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Intended Beneficiary

Men in our community are the direct beneficiaries of finishing our Men's Center basement. Learning skills to grow professionally as well as personally will benefit every man that works through our programs. However, the long-term impact felt by their partners, children, and our community is the most important and the longestlasting benefit. As mentioned above, those are the changes that will impact an entire community for generations to come.

*Partnership

We of course are partnering with JfL in order to use their curriculum. We are also currently partnering with several local businesses/organizations that will provide critical support in the form of resume and interview help, as well as receiving the first opportunity to hire our graduates. Those companies are: Amway, West Michigan Janitorial, Godwin Plumbing, Poolcat, University of Michigan Health West, Express Professionals Employment, Grand Rapids Community College, and Right Touch Painting. With this being our first year running JfL, our hopes are to grow these partnerships every year.

Estimated Cost

\$55,000 - \$60,000.

Project Management Experience

Last year we completed construction on our Men's Center, which is the first of its kind in the nation. This was a \$1.5 million project and was completed debt free.

Federal Funds Experience

We received COVID emergency response funds during the COVID19 pandemic. This is the whole of our experience working with federal funds.

Studies on Impact

The National Fatherhood Institute has conducted a multitude of research. Results of their research can be found here: <https://www.fatherhood.org/father-absence-statistic>. AGR currently surveys our clients to ensure our programs are beneficial and accomplish their intended goal. We plan on continuing these surveys for our JfL program as well.

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

May be eligible as job training to unemployed

PROJECT #292

Top Notch Kids agenda



Identify the need for the proposed project

Boston Square neighborhood association

Brief Description

Top Notch Kids is a personal vision and community engagement effort to encourage and inspire youth ages 8 to 17 years of age to help revitalize their neighborhoods making the infrastructure more energy efficient and LEED Certified as well as safer for residents. As we know, crime, poverty, vandalism, and violence have no boundaries. Gun violence in schools has also been on the rise. Top Notch Kids provides a fun, positive, and safe alternative to this culture of violence. Although the history of the gun has been one filled with the taking of life and the destruction of communities, Top Notch Kids will change the narrative of the gun and how it effects our communities by providing real life opportunities to save lives and revitalize communities using the "GUNS" of home improvement. Not only does this community effort allow for residents to take part in the beautification of their communities making them more attractive to new businesses and various investments, but it also allows for children to attain a valuable skill set which helps with career readiness and future orientation. Our motto is "We don't kill with guns, we build with guns" as they learn how to improve the conditions of their community with caulk guns, staple guns, nail guns, and paint guns!

Long-Term Benefit

The long term benefits of this proposed project is safer communities, home ownership and a community that could be lucrative to businesses that could be encouraged to move in and create more job opportunities.

Intended Beneficiary

Single parent structured homes , 1st time home buyers and the youth who will gain a skill set while they help to beautify the community they live in.

Estimated Cost

\$150-200

Project Management Experience

My team and myself have worked on major projects throughout the city such as the " 1st Street Office Building dwntwn Grand Rapids , Meijers store (Lansing) Ambiance Resturant, Chaz Oga Restaurant , Wing Heaven , Load a Spud. We have remodel many home for ICCF and also did volunteer work for Amplify GR , the Linc Organization , Urban League and Destiny's Place to name a few.

Federal Funds Experience

We have never received any Federal grants through our nonprofit organization.

Studies on Impact

No

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$150

Maximum Cost: \$200

Submitter Info

Name: Cory McIiechey

Organization:
Descendants of the Truth

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Youth Support

Project Status: Existing Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

The "Love movement" as well as " The M.e.d.I.c.I.n.e. (2 organizations that I worked with in the past)



Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Eligible with narrowly tailored beneficiaries. Will need to be detailed in program design.



Sustainability

Does not include a funding plan or fund availability after expending all the ARPA dollars.



Feasibility

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$150

Maximum Cost: \$200

Submitter Info

Name: Cory McIeichey

Organization:

Descendants of the Truth

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Youth Support

Project Status: Existing Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

The "Love movement" as well as "The M.e.d.i.c.i.n.e. (2 organizations that I worked with in the past)

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INTERNAL COUNTY PROJECTS





DEPARTMENT PROJECT #1

Broadband Installation

Project Cost

ARPA Request: \$40,000,000

Kent County Dept.

Administrator's Office

Project Overview

Funding Group: Improving
Government Operations

Project Theme:
Government Services
Broadband

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Eligibility Notes

n/a

Completed by 2026?

It is estimated that \$40 million dollars of broadband installation can be completed in that time, with specific costs dependent on formal agreements with providers to install the service and partner investments. Installation costs can vary based on the locations of the projects, the cost of materials and labor and other factors.

Project Description

The project will install broadband internet service in Kent County where it is not currently provided through internet service providers or where existing service speed/quality is inadequate. The installation project will be based on maps that identify gaps in broadband service and data on other barriers to access (e.g., affordability, device access). The maps and data collected will be used to prepare a strategy to fill internet service gaps and improve service speed where it does not meet federal guidelines. The ARPA dollars will fund internet service provider installation of new and improved services in alignment with the strategy.

Long-Term Benefit

The project responds to the increasing reliance on internet service for to meet basic household needs. Those without access to internet service experience disadvantages in employment, education and health care, as well as other quality of life factors. As technologies evolve, the need for access will to continue to grow. Areas of Kent County experience economic disadvantages as households and businesses avoid purchasing property or move away from areas where internet service is not available. Rural areas are most impacted. The revenue generated from broadband installation in rural areas does not incentivize service providers to install and the expense to bring the service to properties is too high for most households to afford. This also impact Kent County's agricultural community which uses increasingly uses technology in farming that requires broadband access. Without partnerships and additional investments, like ARPA, the providers will not have the economic incentive to expend broadband service to all who need it. In the long term, access to broadband will improve quality of life, economic outcomes, and health and education services for more people in Kent County

Estimated Cost

The mapping and data collection work will identify the specific locations that require broadband installation and collaboration with service providers will determine the cost to install broadband in specific geographic areas of need.

Other Sources of Funding

Kent County will partner with local units of government and internet service providers for each specific installation project in order to leverage county, municipal and service provider resources. Municipal partners have expressed interest in meeting their residents' needs for broadband and in partnering with Kent County. They will continue to be engaged in the mapping and strategy development. Internet service providers that currently operate in Kent County have been consulted through the Board's Technical Broadband Subcommittee and support the county's efforts. With specific gaps in service identified, formal funding arrangements will be developed with local partners and service providers for installation projects. Additional state and federal resources will be allocated for broadband, such as Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill dollars and Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) grants. Staff and the county's lobbyists are monitoring those opportunities and maintaining contact with the Michigan High-Speed Internet Office's work to support broadband installation statewide.

DEPARTMENT PROJECT #2

Organizational Improvement and Employee Wellbeing & Development



Project Cost

ARPA Request: \$1,500,000

Kent County Dept.

Administrator's Office

Project Overview

Funding Group: Improving Government Operations

Project Theme:

Government Services

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Eligibility Notes

Eligible as a Government Service

Completed by 2026?

This project will be completely finished before December 31, 2026

Project Description

Kent County has long been an organization that values serving as responsible stewards of County resources and providing high-quality service to residents. As the Kent County population has grown substantially in recent years (+10.8% between 2010 and 2022), so too has grown the need to invest in our employees and internal processes. The County has already begun to roll out some of these organizational improvements to set Kent County up to be continually successful in the years to come. Some of the efforts underway include:

- The County Administrator's 6Cs Organizational Improvement Initiative (Customer Service, Creativity, Communications, Cultural Intelligence, Competency, and Collaboration)- a "playbook" to lead organizational improvement efforts
- Robertson Brain Health- an opportunity for employees to understand their brain chemistry and improve health and well-being
- The Customer-Centric Culture Workshop led by Bill Capodagli
- Kolbe conative assessments available to all County departments
- Implementing a Kent County futuring plan (i.e., 20, 30, or 40 year strategic plan)

The Administrator's Office is requesting funds to continue organizational improvements, employee well-being, and employee development opportunities. The \$1.5 million requested will fund the following endeavors:

- Developing a Kent County data warehouse
- Redesigning AccessKent.com
- Further supporting the efforts outlined in the previous section

Long-Term Benefit

Some of the significant long-term benefits of investing in the outlined organizational improvement efforts will be:

- Improving internal process efficiency
- Continuing to strengthen the culture of Kent County
- Creating opportunities for more informed decision-making
- Talent attraction and employee retention

Estimated Cost

\$1,500,000

Other Sources of Funding

This proposal will primarily be funded by ARPA. Certain areas of this proposal will be sustained through General Fund.



DEPARTMENT PROJECT #3

Behavioral Health Crisis Center

Project Cost

ARPA Request: \$3,923,356

Kent County Dept.

Administrator's Office

Project Overview

Funding Group: Improving
Government Operations

Project Theme:
Government Services
Mental Health

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Eligibility Notes

n/a

Completed by 2026?

Yes

Project Description

The Fiscal Year 2023 State of Michigan budget included a \$5M allocation for this project. This additional funding will cover FY23, but the project is short \$1.6M of non-public patient cost for FY24. Project Description: Kent County is launching a continuum of innovative crisis mental health and substance use disorder services to fill a critical community need. Too many people with urgent behavioral health needs cannot gain access to a psychiatric hospital and end up in emergency departments or a correctional facility. Patients can remain in these settings for days or even weeks, creating significant strain on emergency medical and law enforcement systems, which are not designed and frequently not compensated for managing behavioral health crises. Patients are also impacted: settings not designed for mental health treatment often generate added trauma and can make a crisis worse.

Crisis services are clinically sound and cost-effective but are not generally funded by private insurance.

Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU): The planned CSU is a secure, high intensity alternative to full psychiatric hospitalization, capable of providing involuntary treatment and accepting direct drop offs from law enforcement. Enabled by Public Act 402 of 2020, the CSU will be jointly operated by Network180 and Mercy Health St. Mary's Hospital.

Long-Term Benefit

A continuum of nimble, rapidly accessible crisis services can de-escalate situations early and resolve most behavioral health crises in less than 24 hours, preventing the need for full hospitalization. These services are much needed and bring significant relief to safety net systems in communities where they are made available. They also lower healthcare costs in the long run by avoiding unnecessary emergency department, hospital, and ambulance use.

Estimated Cost

\$4,000,000

Other Sources of Funding

The State of Michigan has appropriated \$5 million for this project; other grant funding is also being pursued.



DEPARTMENT PROJECT #4

Kent County Insurance Authority

Project Cost

ARPA Request: \$5,000,000


Kent County Dept.

Administrator's Office

Project Overview

Funding Group: Improving
Government Operations

Project Theme:
Government Services

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Eligibility Notes

Eligible as a Government Service

Completed by 2026?

Yes

Project Description

Funds will be used to establish an Insurance Authority for Kent County, the benefits of which are many including: An Authority ensures liability and property insurance even when the private market is tight or wholly uneconomical and offers flexibility to offload risk when market is favorable. Essentially, an Authority may invest like an insurance company in corporate bonds and securities as well as tangible assets such as land.

Long-Term Benefit

An Insurance Authority provides an opportunity for risk management in the following ways:

- An internal group is created to meet monthly to review claims regularly and discuss risk management and mitigation.
- An attorney would participate in those sessions and provide insight from handling claims in court and through discovery.
- The Sheriff can sit on those sessions as the largest risk source and most productive for risk management.
- Departments have to run risky ventures by the internal group to identify opportunities for risk mitigation.
- Allows the benefits of risk management to accrue exclusively to the County.
- The group can create special funding opportunities for departments to mitigate risk.

Estimated Cost

\$5,000,000 million is required to be deposited with the State of Michigan to start the Authority. Future contributions will be built into the 2024 budget process.

Other Sources of Funding

Yes, a percentage of payroll will be added into future budgets to fund the Authority on-going.



DEPARTMENT PROJECT #5

South, North, & Kentwood Landfill - PFAS Treatment Facility

Project Description

PFAS pretreatment facility(s) designed to remove PFAS contaminants from landfill leachate prior to discharge to municipal waste water treatment facilities.

Long-Term Benefit

Landfills and waste water treatment facilities are passive receivers of PFAS/PFOS compounds contained in municipal solid waste and waste water treatment facilities do not have treatment capabilities to effectively remove PFAS compounds from waste water prior to discharge to Waters of the State. Kent County DPW proposes to construct pretreatment facilities to remove PFAS/PFOA compounds that otherwise pass through to Waters of the State and increase the loading of these chemicals in surface water and groundwater.

Estimated Cost

\$6,500,000

Other Sources of Funding

Department of Public Works will cover ongoing operations and maintenance

Project Cost

ARPA Request: \$6,500,000

Kent County Dept.

Department of Public Works

Project Overview

Funding Group: Improving Government Operations

Project Theme:
Water and Sewer

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Eligibility Notes

Eligible as a Government Service

Completed by 2026?

Yes

DEPARTMENT PROJECT #6

Medical Examiner Facility



Project Cost

ARPA Request: \$6,000,000

Kent County Dept.

Facilities

Project Overview

Funding Group: Improving Government Operations

Project Theme: Medical Care

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Project Description

The Medical Examiner's Office is mandated by State Statute to investigate reportable deaths, those that are sudden, unexpected, accidental, or violent. Additionally, the investigation of a death can be ordered by the County Prosecutor, Attorney General or by petition. Not all deaths investigated by the Medical examiner result in an autopsy. For over 30 years, the physical operations of the Medical Examiner's Office have been located at the Spectrum Health – Blodgett Campus and the Health Department. Over the past several years, a number of facility challenges have been identified including: operational and administrative support fragmentation resulting from two geographic locations, crowded autopsy room, inefficient physical layout, and a family viewing area that does not accommodate family needs. With Spectrum – Blodgett lacking available space and the desire to fully accommodate a possible medical examiner facility expansion, the County has identified the need to construct a standalone County owned and operated Medical Examiner's facility.

Long-Term Benefit

A standalone medical examiner facility at the Fuller Campus which includes potential consideration for regional and teaching program options in the design will address the following issues:

- Replace an aging and undersized autopsy area
- Improve operational and administrative fragmentation from having two geographically distant offices
- Improve accessibility and proximity to I-196 and US-131; out of town funeral directors often have difficulty locating the Blodgett campus
- Address the current lack of sufficient space to meet the Kent County's medical examiner's needs

Estimated Cost

\$6,000,000 million

Eligibility Notes

Eligible as a Government Service

Other Sources of Funding

This proposal will primarily be funded by ARPA. Certain areas of this proposal will be sustained through General Fund.

Completed by 2026?

Yes



DEPARTMENT PROJECT #7

New County Administration Building

Project Description

The funding would include the construction of a new administrative services facility at the County's Fuller Campus and renovation of two existing downtown Grand Rapids facilities to improve service delivery, access, and customer service to the public. A new administrative facility at the Fuller Campus would consolidate Administration, Equalization, Board of Commissioners, Fiscal Services and Purchasing, Human Resources, Facilities, Treasurer, Central Services, Information Technology, Friend of the Court, County Clerk/Register of Deeds and leasable space to accommodate growth of Network 180. The current administrative offices (300 Monroe) would be renovated to support the Office of the Prosecutor, the Kent County Board of Commissioners, some support offices for Friend of the Court, and provide flex-meeting space for County staff. 320 Ottawa (Information Technology) would be renovated to support the growing needs of Indigent Defense.

Long-Term Benefit

Consolidating services at the Fuller Campus would substantially improve internal/external service delivery and public access to county services. Additionally, the renovated spaces (300 Monroe and 320 Ottawa) would centralize justice administration services that have a need to be adjacent to the County Courthouse.

Estimated Cost

\$53,000,000 million

Other Sources of Funding

Additional funding, such as General Fund or Capital improvement Funds, could be used for this project as well as proceeds from the sale of 82 Ionia.

Project Cost

ARPA Request: \$53,000,000

Kent County Dept.

Facilities

Project Overview

Funding Group: Improving

Government Operations

Project Theme:

Government Services

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Eligibility Notes

Eligible as a Government Service

Completed by 2026?

Yes - in whole

DEPARTMENT PROJECT #8

Fixture Replacement for homes needing Lead Remediation



Project Description

Because people remained in their homes for an extended period of time throughout the pandemic, it is expected that blood lead levels will rise in the coming years due to lack of access to testing and increased exposure. Many of the homes that we have historical data of multiple children from different families with EBLLs still remain in our community and may be still renting the properties to people with children under six or women who are pregnant. Due to the lack of testing and participation from landlords, this is an elevated concern. One of the barriers for either inspection of the dwelling or apartment is the cost of the mitigation or abatement strategy. We propose that funds be set aside for property owners as incentive to take the needed measures to mitigate the risk. This would be for property owners that do not qualify for other lead programs. We currently have nearly 300 homes on the list. One hundred twelve of the homes have been contacted for investigation and only four have been able to access funding support. This is the same for homes in the 49507, 49504 and 49503 zip codes that are owner-occupied who do not qualify for funding support to eliminate the lead hazards harming their children in their homes. The remediation process varies from home to home and ultimately ends as abatement. We are using the average cost of abatement/mitigation for our estimates at \$25,000. We would like to have an amount of \$1,500,000 to cover the expense of lead remediation for 60 homeowners and landlords that are ineligible for lead remediation funding.

Long-Term Benefit

Lead quickly enters the blood and can harm a child's health. Once a child swallows lead, their blood lead level rises. Once a child's exposure to lead stops, the amount of lead in the blood decreases gradually. The child's body releases some of the lead through urine, sweat, and feces. Lead is also stored in bones. It can take decades for lead stored in the bones to decrease. The long-term benefits of mitigating this hazard are enumerable.

Estimated Cost

\$2,000,000 million

Other Sources of Funding

The Kent County Health Department is also seeking ARPA funds from the State of Michigan.

Project Cost

ARPA Request: \$2,000,000

Kent County Dept.

Health Department

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme:

Public Health

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Eligibility Notes

Eligible as a Government Service

Completed by 2026?

Yes

DEPARTMENT PROJECT #9

Lead Paint Remediation for Qualified Census Tracts



Project Description

Lead paint remediation from Qualified Census Tracts. Buildings must be built prior to 1978, the year lead-based paint was banned from use in residential units. Remediation is any procedure that reduces the risk of lead-based paint on a site, which may be classified into encapsulation and enclosure procedures. Encapsulation, or sealing, involves applying paint approved by the EPA over the lead-based paint to create a watertight bond. Enclosure, or covering, is a process that covers the surface in question with a new surface such as drywall or cladding.

Long-Term Benefit

Lead quickly enters the blood and can harm a child's health. Once a child swallows lead, their blood lead level rises. Once a child's exposure to lead stops, the amount of lead in the blood decreases gradually. The child's body releases some of the lead through urine, sweat, and feces. Lead is also stored in bones. It can take decades for lead stored in the bones to decrease. The long-term benefits of mitigating this hazard are enumerable.

Estimated Cost

\$1,500,000 million

Other Sources of Funding

The Kent County Health Department is also seeking funds from the State of Michigan.

Project Cost

ARPA Request: \$1,500,000

Kent County Dept.

Health Department

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme:

Public Health

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Eligibility Notes

Eligible as a Government Service

Completed by 2026?

Yes



DEPARTMENT PROJECT #10

Grand River Greenway - Paved Trails, River Access & Parking

Project Cost

ARPA Request: \$6,000,000


Kent County Dept.

Parks

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme:
Parks & Recreation

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Eligibility Notes

Eligible as a Government Service

Completed by 2026?

Yes

Project Description

The Project will provide a 40 plus mile paved trail along the Grand River corridor. The current Greenway plan will connect from the Lake Michigan shoreline to the eastern Kent County border in Lowell. This will serve as a main east/west paved trail connecting communities. The route will provide greater river access for Kent County residents and visitors alike with an increased focus on access for all. The completed Greenway will have greater regional and national appeal for trail enthusiasts, kayakers and bicyclists including cycling tourists.

Long-Term Benefit

The route will provide trail connections across communities and tie in local and regional Parks. The long-term goal is to have a national destination for cycling tourists.

Estimated Cost

\$50,00,000 million

Other Sources of Funding

State ARPA funds, DGRI ARPA funds, DNR Spark Grants, Local Townships, Parks Foundation, Local Foundations



DEPARTMENT PROJECT #11

Cannonsburg - DNR Trust Fund Grant

Project Cost

ARPA Request: \$2,500,000

Kent County Dept.

Parks

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme:
Parks & Recreation

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Eligibility Notes

Eligible as a Government Service

Completed by 2026?

Yes

Project Description

Kent County Parks is seeking to acquire and preserve Cannonsburg Ski Area. Established in 1965, and at 272.4 acres, the Ski Area is home to year-round activities including 11 miles of trails for hiking, mountain biking, and trail running; a zipline course; and of course, winter skiing and tubing. The property also features 0.65-mile length of Bear Creek, over 180 acres of woods, a ski lodge with restaurant, concessions, and pro shop, and maintenance facilities to support the recreation facilities.

Long-Term Benefit

Due to the unique topography, Cannonsburg is a one-of-a-kind outdoor recreation facility in West Michigan. The KCP 5- year Master Plan identifies several objectives under Goal #1 of addressing the growing need for additional recreational space in Kent County. Objective 1a is to reach 7,500 acres by 2023, currently KC Parks has 7,447 acres under ownership, this acquisition will take it over the top. Objective 1b is to reduce the county's deficit in regional-quality recreation space (i.e., parks of 200+ acres), this acquisition will also apply to that objective. Objective 1e is to preserve unique natural areas, and the Cannonsburg Recreation Area is a unique area with all its year-round recreation opportunities.

Preserving the 272 acres would allow the public to continue this unique place for many recreational activities including hiking, mountain biking, trail running, dog walking, bird watching and fishing. Future benefits will include trailhead facilities to connect neighboring communities and parks with regional trails, spaces for group picnics and community gathering spaces. We also see this location serving as a premier space for a regional adaptive sports park.

Many groups utilize Cannonsburg throughout the year: Cannonsburg Challenged Ski Association (CCSA) provides an opportunity for all individuals with disabilities to build skills, develop independence, gain confidence, improve fitness and achieve a sense of accomplishment through snow sports; CHILL West Michigan is a snowboard program for 10 to 18 years old who are dealing with various life challenges. They work with schools, youth agencies, social programs, and board sports partners to provide these programs with all associated costs covered and barriers to participation removed; Dirt Dawgs is a youth mountain bike program teaching kids trail stewardship and healthy living. The West Michigan Coyotes is composite team of Mountain bikers' grades K-12 from West Michigan that utilize Cannonsburg as a training and racecourse. Seven regional High School Ski teams and many High School ski clubs call Cannonsburg home.



DEPARTMENT PROJECT #11

Cannonsburg - DNR Trust Fund Grant *continued*

Estimated Cost

\$10,000,000

Project Cost

ARPA Request: \$2,500,000

Kent County Dept.

Parks

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme:
Parks & Recreation

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Eligibility Notes

Eligible as a Government Service

Completed by 2026?

Yes

Other Sources of Funding

The \$2,500,000 as a match to the Parks Department's 2022 MDNR Trust Fund Grant Application



DEPARTMENT PROJECT #12

School Safety Radio Network

Project Cost

ARPA Request: \$2,837,500

Kent County Dept.

Sheriff's Office

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme:
Public Safety

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Eligibility Notes

Eligible as a Government Service

Completed by 2026?

Yes

Project Description

At the end of last year, all area superintendents, police chiefs, and the prosecutor convened to discuss school safety in the aftermath of our state's own tragic school shooting in Oxford. Since the meeting, unfortunately, there have been several other school shootings, including one locally here at East Kentwood High School and, most notably, the incident at Robb Elementary in Uvalde, TX.

Even before last year's meeting, our agency had always done everything we could to ensure each school district within our jurisdiction received all of the law enforcement resources necessary to keep every student safe. However, since our meeting last year, we have increased our agency's presence and communication within all of our public and non-public schools. We have listened to the concerns of school administrators, parents, and students. Based on everyone's concerns, we have increased the frequency of our Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events (CRASE) training, implemented a countywide Rescue Task Force (RTF) to ensure all area first responders are prepared to respond to an active assailant incident, updated school site surveys, provided school security assessments, and initiated monthly meetings and training with school security and administrative staff. We've learned from these debriefings, along with many other agencies nationwide, that communication is consistently identified as the most significant point of failure. The inability of those affected by these incidents to provide law enforcement with timely, factual information has resulted in countless deaths. The lack of effective, timely communication between school administrators and law enforcement must be addressed to ensure there are no senseless deaths in our county.

Before the deployment of our county's 800 MHz radio system, we were solely reliant on 9-1-1 calls to receive information from school administrators, staff, parents, or students when there was a need for an immediate police response to an incident within a school. However, with the number of mobile devices within our schools and the ability to not only call 9-1-1 but to text 9-1-1, agencies across the country, including our own, have documented the failure of their 9-1-1 systems in handling critical incidents. The 9-1-1 system is simply overwhelmed with callers, many with outdated, unreliable, or third-party information about what is occurring.

With the implementation of our county's new 800 MHz system, we now have a more viable option to communicate with school administrative staff that is scalable to the needs of each district and will provide area law enforcement with critical, factual, and real-time information they need to respond and end school-related incidents. The proposed solution would be to deploy a network of 800 MHz radio consoles into every K-12 school building, which regularly houses students.



DEPARTMENT PROJECT #12

School Safety Radio Network *continued*

Project Cost

ARPA Request: \$2,837,500


Kent County Dept.

Sheriff's Office

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme:
Public Safety

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Eligibility Notes

Eligible as a Government Service

Completed by 2026?

Yes

Long-Term Benefit

With the 800 MHz system, we can program radios with specific school safety talkgroups monitored by our agency's dispatch center and school administrative staff. The talkgroups would help establish a 2-way communication plan and allow school staff to request immediate police assistance. It would also enable our dispatch center to relay emergency notifications to school districts, such as the need to lock down buildings, the threat of inclement weather, or the need to alter bussing routes.

This type of communications network is already established within several communities across the country. Still, traditionally it has been seen as either cost prohibitive or impossible because of the number of dispatch centers or radio technology used by first responders.

Kent County is unique with only having two dispatch centers and having all area first responders utilizing the same 800 MHz system. This uniqueness allows us to successfully deploy a school safety radio network and address what has been identified as the most significant point of failure in responding to school-related incidents, communication. The radio system requested is specially designed for use within the school setting.

Estimated Cost

\$2,837,500 million

Other Sources of Funding

The KCSO continues to pursue grant funding for this project.



DEPARTMENT PROJECT #13

Comprehensive Records Digitization

Project Cost

ARPA Request: \$3,200,000

Kent County Dept.

17th Circuit Court & Probate Court

Project Overview

Funding Group: Improving Government Services

Project Theme: Government Services

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Eligibility Notes

Eligible as a Government Service

Completed by 2026?

Yes

Project Description

Court records for the 17th Circuit Court, Probate and 63rd District Courts are largely paper, taking up space, precluding the ability for files to be accessed by more than one person at a time, and allowing for files to be misplaced.

Long-Term Benefit

Digitizing the files will increase efficiency by allowing court staff to access court files quickly which will meet the needs of the community.

Estimated Cost

\$3,200,000 million

Other Sources of Funding

Additional funding will be sought from the State of Michigan