

Sanilac County Community Foundation
PURPOSES, RESTRICTIONS AND POLICIES
ON THE
DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS

I. PURPOSE

The SCCF is interested in funding projects which will improve the quality of life for citizens of Sanilac County. Eligible projects generally fall within these categories:

Arts and Culture
Community Development
Education
Environmental Issues
Health and Wellness
Recreation
Social Services
Youth Projects
Improvement in the Physical, Mental, and Community
Value of Sanilac County Residents

The Foundation aims to support creative approaches to community needs and problems which benefit the widest possible range of people. The SCCF encourages organizations to apply for seed money for projects which will meet the changing needs of the community.

II. ELIGIBILITY

The Foundation welcomes grant applications from the Sanilac County area or outside areas if a significant number of the persons who will be served reside within Sanilac County. Applicants must be a non-profit organization or obtain sponsorship from a non-profit organization.

III. FUNDS

There are a number of individual funds administered by the Foundation as part of its endowment. Many of these are restricted to certain purposes, in accordance with the wishes of the donors.

Grant requests may be considered by one or all of the following grant-making committees:

- 1) **Board Discretionary Grants** –These grants are available due to the interest generated from select endowments within the Foundation. The Grant Advisory Committee membership is solely comprised of SCCF members. These funds are used to support innovative, community-based projects that enhance Sanilac County and the lives of its residents. Eligible programs fall into a variety of categories.
- 2) **Youth Advisory Council (YAC) Grants** –Funding is made available through grants that were supplied by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. These funds must be used for youth projects in Sanilac County, and must include youth in the planning and implementation of the project. The Advisory Committee consists of Youth Advisory Council (YAC) members.
- 3) **Healthy Youth and Seniors Fund** –Funds available for these grants are obtained from the State of Michigan as part of its Tobacco Settlement Agreement. The Advisory Committee and specific grant-making guidelines are designated by the State of Michigan. Eligible projects must include plans to improve the health of youth and/or senior citizens in Sanilac County.
After the May 1, 2003 grant round, only programs dealing with the issues of tobacco use prevention and cessation will be considered for funding.

IV. GRANTMAKING POLICIES

The Foundation gives highest priority to programs which:

- ◆ Reach as many people as possible in the county
- ◆ Increase individual access to community resources
- ◆ Examine and address the underlying causes of local problems
- ◆ Promote personal independence and achievement
- ◆ Seek challenge or matching grants
- ◆ Attract volunteer resources and support
- ◆ Strengthen the private, non-profit sector
- ◆ Encourage the collaboration with other organizations
- ◆ Build the capacity of the applying organization

The SCCF reserves the right to make a site visit before or after the grant approval.

In order to make the best use of available funds, the Foundation usually does not make grants for the following (unless designated by the donor):

- ◆ Religious or sectarian purposes
- ◆ Legislative or political purposes
- ◆ Loans

V. EDUCATIONAL GRANT GUIDELINES

The SCCF strives to see that educational grant funds are available to all of the school districts and private schools in the county. Actual grant awards are made for those programs which are in keeping with the mission statement and goals of the Foundation and which will benefit the greatest number of our citizens.

The Foundation encourages innovative solutions for education problems from youth, parents, administrative, and teaching staff. The committee will use these ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES in assessing all educational grant requests:

A. The Foundation encourages each private school, public school district, and/or the ISD to have an informal committee of teachers, and/or administrators, and parents and youth to formulate grant requests. Each request must carry the approval of the school district board.

B. The SCCF highly favors those requests that represent consortia of districts or the entire county.

C. Educational grant funds can be used for either program or equipment costs.

VI. GOVERNMENT GRANT GUIDELINES

Grant requests received from a government unit present a slightly different situation and for that reason we will be using the following parameters in addition to those we use to evaluate any other grant request:

A. The Foundation generally does not fund programs or projects that are normally covered by tax revenues. In special cases, the Foundation may augment, but not totally underwrite, the costs of these programs.

B. The SCCF encourages special non-recurring requests that usually play no part in normal governmental funding. An example would be a special-needs playground equipment in a public park.

C. The SCCF encourages requests from governmental units or special committees thereof that are working in a collaborative effort with other non-profits.

VII. APPLICATION PROCEDURES

- ◆ Please call and discuss the details of the project with us before you fill out an application. We are glad to offer suggestions that we feel could make your grant more acceptable to the committees.
- ◆ The grant applicant or a representative of the applying organization is required to attend one semi-annual grant seminar in a 12 month period to be eligible for funding. Grant packages will be distributed at the grant seminar.
- ◆ Grant applications are to be received by the SCCF by 5 p.m. on the due date specified for that grant round. If the due date falls on a weekend or holiday, the due date will be the next business day following the weekend or holiday. Late applications will not be considered for funding.
- ◆ The SCCF reserves the right to request additional information about your organization, project, and any added financial details.

Requests for information should be directed to:

SANILAC COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

P.O. Box 307
47 Austin Street
Sandusky, MI 48471
(810) 648-3634

If your grant cannot be approved in this round of funding, the SCCF encourages you to reconfirm your application 10 to 15 days before our next May or November grant review, if the need still exists and remains unfunded from other sources.