Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation

2018 Community Grantmaking

General Operating Support
Two year, $15,000 grant awards

826michigan
Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum
Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra
Ann Arbor YMCA
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Washtenaw County
Cancer Support Community
Food Gatherers
Foundations Preschool
Girls Group
Habitat for Humanity of Huron Valley
Huron River Watershed Council
Ozone House
Student Advocacy Center
The Ark
The Shelter Association of Washtenaw County
Community Grantmaking Program

Our Community Grantmaking has three key programs: Rewarding Success operating support grants; Strengthening the Nonprofit Sector capacity-building grants; and Encouraging Innovation grants for “Bold Ideas.”

**REWARDING SUCCESS**
Grant Awards for Operating Support
Grantees demonstrate strength in:
- Leadership & Governance
- High-Quality, Impactful Programs
- Financial Strength

**STRENGTHENING THE NONPROFIT SECTOR**
Grant Awards for Capacity Building
Grantees demonstrate a plan to strengthen:
- Leadership & Governance
- High-Quality, Impactful Programs
- Financial Strength

**ENCOURAGING INNOVATION**
Grant Awards for “Bold Ideas”
Grantees demonstrate innovative ideas and projects that generate a significant leap in how our community addresses a challenging community issue

Based on national best practice and local nonprofit input, our Community Grantmaking Program supports the mission, activities, and community impact of the local nonprofit sector. In 2018, the Rewarding Success—General Operating Support grants were increased to two year, $15,000 awards.

These General Operating Support grants support high-performing nonprofits in Washtenaw County. High performance is the ability to deliver—over a prolonged period of time—meaningful, measurable, and financially sustainable results for the people or causes the organization is in existence to serve. *(Source: Leap Ambassadors)*

Evaluating General Operating Support grants can pose challenges, given the unrestricted nature of the funding and the many ways funds can be used by nonprofits. To better understand how to overcome this challenge, AAACF held 3 workshops in 2018 with Washtenaw County nonprofit partners to surface how funding is utilized and the priority outcomes we should track for our evaluation efforts. **Five outcomes were raised up from the workshops:**

1. Increased program quality and density
2. Less redundancy in programs within the community
3. Longer-term planning
4. Financial stability
5. Nonprofit leaders’ ability to expand from program to field leadership

AAACF staff will deepen their understanding of these outcomes through evaluation and learning.