

Youth Advisory Committee

2009 Grant application instructions



About the Ionia County Community Foundation's Youth Advisory Committee (YAC)

The Ionia County Community Foundation's YAC is composed of students representing high schools located in the Ionia County. We are committed to addressing and improving problems concerning young people, by funding programs directed toward youth. Membership on the YAC is open to Belding, Ionia, Lakewood, Portland, and Saranac youth. The YAC is affiliated with the Ionia County Community Foundation.

What will be funded?

Programs that benefit Ionia County youth will be funded. A total of \$10,000 is available for grants. The Youth Advisory Committee conducts a needs assessment every two years to identify funding priorities. Focus groups conducted in fall 2004 by members of the YAC with students attending five Ionia County High Schools identified the following grant priority areas:

- Drug, alcohol, tobacco use
- Teen pregnancy
- Depression/suicide
- Parent education
- Community service
- Guest speakers that address youth issues
- Literacy
- Obesity

The YAC is especially interested in youth projects that assist students in bridging the **achievement gap**. The YAC is using the definition below:

- An achievement gap refers to the observed disparity on a number of educational measures between the performance of groups of students, especially groups defined by gender, race/ethnicity, ability, and socioeconomic status.
- The achievement gap can be observed on a variety of measures, including standardized test scores, grade point average, dropout rates, and college-enrollment and completion rates. Such standardized test are ACT, SAT, and MME.

Who is eligible to apply?

Student groups and local non-profit organizations (including churches, schools, government agencies, and community groups with a 501 (C)(3) non-profit status) may apply for grants for programs that benefit Ionia County youth. The YAC values projects that promote inclusiveness and that do not discriminate in hiring of staff or providing services on the basis of race, gender, religion, marital status, sexual orientation, age, national origin or disability. Applications from religious organizations for a non-religious purpose will be considered.

When are proposals due?

Grant applications must be submitted electronically by noon on Monday, February 9, 2009. The online grant application can be accessed at www.grfoundation.org/onlinegrants.php. Applicants will be notified of the YAC's decision in May 2009.

What makes a good grant proposal?

Grant proposals should assist the applying organization to implement a project or program that benefits youth. Proposals developed by youth or with youth involvement in planning are encouraged. The proposed project or program should:

- Have clear goals.
- Impact a significant number of Ionia County youth from birth to age 18.
- Avoid duplication with other projects and programs in the community.
- Address an identified priority area and make a significant difference for youth.

Project Budget

The online application includes a project budget. List all expenses and income sources for your project. **Specify EXACTLY how grant funds will be used.** Be as detailed as possible (i.e.; 25 calculators @ \$10 each=\$250.00)

The deadline to submit all application materials is noon on Monday, February 9, 2009.

Additional questions?

For questions related to the content of your proposal, call Debbie Wagner, YAC Advisor, at 616-522-1405. For technical questions about the online grant application, call Amy Price at 616-454-1751, ext. 111.