

Opportunity Fund Grants Overview FY19



These grants provide support for organizations whose work benefits priority populations in Washtenaw County: lower-income populations, communities of color and groups deemed to be marginalized. In addition to the above, the work of the program must align with one or more of the following criteria:

- Meet an emergent, unmet community or organizational capacity need
- Leverage United Way support as match for additional grant funding
- Pilot a promising or evidence-based practice
- Increase the financial stability of individuals and families
- Prioritize systematic racial equity

Agency Name	Program/Project Initiative Name	Priority Area	Award Amount
Black Men Read	Black Men Read	School-Aged Youth	\$14,140
Black Men Read is a program open to all children that promotes literacy, racial equity, and community engagement. By uplifting Black men as readers, leaders, and teachers, the program enables all young people to envision them as positive role models instead of relying on stereotypes. Black Men Read also helps to "flip the script" about who gets to tell stories and about which stories are valued.			
Community Action Network	Building Foundations at Brick Elementary: Oasis in the Resource Desert	School-Aged Youth	\$15,000
CAN will provide its full cohort of services including education, housing stabilization and community building services to the students and families at Brick Elementary in the Lincoln Consolidated School District.			
Riverside Arts Center	FLY Creativity Lab (4th grade field trips)	School-Aged Youth	\$5,000
Partnership with Ypsilanti Community Schools to provide every 4th grader an arts experience & tour at Riverside Arts Center that includes a FLY Creativity Lab project. This project shares a safe space in downtown Ypsilanti where youth feel at home, express themselves creatively, nurture 21 st Century & life skills, and contribute to discussions on community growth.			
Washtenaw Intermediate School District	Trusted Advisor Program of Success by 6 Great Start Collaborative	Early Childhood	\$12,000
The Trusted Advisor program trains and supports parents from low-resourced neighborhoods to connect with parents of young children through their shared experiences, and includes canvassing in low-income neighborhoods and family friendly community events in order to connect families to early education programs and community services. One of the program goals is to help young children be ready for success in school.			
We the People Growers Association	Organizational Capacity Building	Capacity Building	\$10,000
We The People Growers Association (WTPGA) is a sustainable farming initiative dedicated to workforce development by creating dignified, employment and training for men and women returning home from incarceration. This investment supports general operating support and capacity building of this start-up organization.			
Ypsilanti District Library	Library Field Trips & Education for YCS Students	School-Aged Youth	\$3,000
Budget cuts forced Ypsilanti Community Schools to lay off librarians and reduce nearly all of their school library services in the last decade. School libraries are frequently closed for secondary use as a standardized testing site, and the school district does not have a standardized curriculum for information literacy or research skills. This investment will allow YDL to provide bus transportation for students to visit the library to learn basic information literacy skills concurrent with grade-level benchmarks, and allow YCS staff to learn alongside their students and incorporate learning into classroom lessons.			

University of Michigan	OptiMize Bold Futures Event	School-Aged Youth	\$2,500
OptiMize unleashes student potential by creating inspiring environments for students to take action on self-directed projects that work toward a just and sustainable world. This grant supports an OptiMize Innovator Development program for EMU and WCC students, including planning of BOLD Futures event.			
Avalon Housing Inc	Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at Avalon Housing, Inc	Housing & Homelessness	\$15,000
Avalon Housing serves over 740 people across Washtenaw County and employs 100 staff members. The agency is partnering with NEW Solutions for Nonprofits to advance Avalon's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) work with the ultimate goal of making Avalon a race explicit organization.			
Fair Housing Center of Southeast & Mid-Michigan	Cooperating Attorney Recruitment	Housing & Homelessness	\$5,000
Fair Housing Center of Southeast & Mid-Michigan investigates complaints of housing discrimination. This investment will allow FHC to recruit additional cooperating attorneys that can take local fair housing cases to federal court. There are currently six new cases in need of cooperating attorneys, and recent events have slowed the agency's capacity to address racial equity and justice through the courts.			
Food Gatherers	Mobile Summer Food Service Pilot Program	Hunger Relief	\$10,000
The existing structure of Food Gatherers' Summer Food Service Program relies on partnerships with host sites – typically schools, churches, and community centers – who provide meeting spaces and assist with meal set-up, serving, clean-up, and supply storage. This program will serve high-need areas with no willing or secured host site partner, by providing mobile summer meals and snacks to children living at or near identified sites in Washtenaw County via van and Food Gatherers' staff.			
Nonprofit Enterprise at Work & Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice	Race Forward Conference	Capacity Building	\$2,000
Nonprofit Enterprise at Work (NEW), in collaboration with the Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice is providing scholarships to leaders of color in Washtenaw County who would not otherwise be able to attend for the Facing Race conference on November 8-10, 2018 in Detroit. Scholarships will subsidize the costs associated with travel, lodging and conference attendance.			
Washtenaw Intermediate School District	Operating Funds	School-Aged Youth	\$5,000
The Washtenaw Futures College Access Network is a community network focused on making college an achievable reality for all students in Washtenaw County, with emphasis on supporting low-income youth, youth of color, and youth who will be the first in their families to pursue college.			
Total FY19 Opportunity Fund Investment			\$98,640

**Orange shaded indicates Ypsilanti-focused investments.*

Contact Bridget Healy, Director of Community Impact for more information about UWWC Investments: 734.677.7209, bhealy@uwwashtenaw.org