

## Opportunity Fund Grants Overview FY20

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, the work of an application organization must align with one or more of the following criteria:



- Increase organizational capacity to deliver a community solution
- Leverage United Way support as match for additional grant funding
- Pilot a promising practice
- Engage in advocacy and/or community mobilizing
- Aligns with one or more of United Way's priority areas: early childhood; school-aged youth; safety net health & nutrition; housing & homelessness; older adults, financial stability.
- Prioritize systematic racial equity\*

Agency Name	Program/Project Initiative Name	Priority Area	Total Grant Amount	Grant Term
<b>A Brighter Way</b>	Clearing a New Path: Creating Opportunities for Returning People	Financial Stability	\$10,000	1 year
Creation and delivery of a public education and capacity building campaign that will include a series of educational presentations and small group dialogues across Washtenaw County that will increase landlord, employer, and public awareness and engagement around: the stigma of living with a criminal record; the challenges of inaccessibility of housing and employment; benefits & strategies to reducing these barriers.				
<b>Black Men Read</b>	Black Men Read	School-Aged Youth	\$30,000	2 years
BMR has identified an opportunity to more deeply connect with children in Washtenaw County through school-based programming. In a community where the academic outcomes for children of color are far less than their white counterparts, Black Men Read seeks to serve as a short-term solution to helping learners engage with Black males during their school day.				
<b>Children's Literacy Network</b>	BookPALS	School-Aged Youth	\$12,000	1 year
The goal of BookPALS is to increase oral reading practice for students in order to promote development of fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension skills. Inspired by the concept of "pen-pals," this program employs an evidence-based Peer Assisted Learning Strategy ("PALS") to advance children's reading and language skills while building bridges between students who come from different socioeconomic and cultural backgrounds.				
<b>Faith In Action</b>	Employment Navigation	Financial Stability	\$4,760	1 year
Employment navigation services layered into existing community resource services at Faith In Action to reduce obstacles to employment, by serving folks that reside far from the concentration of services on the east side of the county, and may not have access to reliable transportation, phone or internet access in order to secure employment.				
<b>Friends In Deed</b>	Transportation Program	Financial Stability	\$20,000	2 years
Expansion to pilot new services and processes of Friends In Deed's transportation assistance, in order to provide low-income families the access to transportation, often critical to achieving or maintaining financial stability.				
<b>Journey of Faith Christian Church</b>	Peace House Ypsi	Housing & Homelessness	\$19,400	2 years
This three-pronged expansion of Peace House Ypsi will: create a house coordinator position to manage, coordinate activities and upkeep of house; execute an information and advertising campaign in the coming year; pilot a microloan program at the house, to help people with relatively small purchases that could have a big impact on a person's financial future.				

<b>Michigan Organization for Adolescent Sexual Health</b>	Michigan Youth (MY) Trans Voice - Washtenaw County	School-Aged Youth	\$25,000	2 years
MOASH will work alongside the Washtenaw Intermediate School District (WISD), Livingston and Washtenaw Counties Transgender Task Force (TTF), Michigan Department of Education (MDE), and Stand with Trans (SwT) to develop an informed and coordinated effort to improve inclusion and affirmation and, thereby, health and educational outcomes, of transgender youth in Washtenaw County.				
<b>Neutral Zone</b>	Future Corps	Financial Stability	\$15,000	2 years
The Neutral Zone partners with the City of Ann Arbor and Washtenaw Community College to pilot a workforce development program to engage the most under resourced youth (18-24 years old) in targeted employment and educational training opportunities that support their health and wellbeing to successfully transition to adulthood.				
<b>Our House</b>	Housing Connections	Housing & Homelessness	\$31,200	2 years
The Home Connections pilot program is designed to connect individuals with community volunteers willing to provide a non-permanent housing solution by opening their homes to those in need, playing a critical role in addressing homelessness for our participants by mobilizing community resources and caring adults.				
<b>University of Michigan-Telling It</b>	Returning Citizens Address Mental Health Needs of Under-Resourced Teens at Telling It	School-Aged Youth	\$5,000	1 year
This project will provide teenage youth on the southside of Ypsilanti at Parkridge Community Center with weekly creative writing workshops as part of Telling It, led by skilled Resident Artists with the goal of creating a safe space for youth to tell their stories, find connection with others, shift feelings of isolation to community building and address mental health issues such as thoughts of self-harm and suicidal ideation.				
<b>Washtenaw Intermediate School District</b>	Washtenaw Futures	School-Aged Youth	\$5,000	1 year
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.				
<b>Washtenaw Intermediate School District</b>	Trauma-Informed Schools	School-Aged Youth	\$17,640	1 year
WISD will increase community trauma knowledge by providing an "Understanding Adverse Childhood Experiences: Building Self-Healing Communities" training in schools. A follow-up training will also include specific strategies and suggestions for creating a trauma-informed school environment, including: strategies to create a physical environment that promotes safety, how to speak to students without re-traumatizing them, and ways to help students build resilience.				
<b>Ypsilanti District Library</b>	Expanding Ypsilanti's News Access through Libraries	Advocacy	\$5,000	1 year
In response to declining availability of printed news on the east side of the county, YDL will expand its existing printed newsletter as a vehicle for key information about government services and an opportunity to promote civic engagement for 2020, with an emphasis on 2020 Census and voter education & access.				
<b>Total FY20 Opportunity Fund Investment</b>			<b>\$200,000</b>	

*Contact Bridget Healy, Vice President of Impact & Advocacy, for more information about UWWC Investments: 734.677.7209, bhealy@uwwashtenaw.org*