



Wyoming
community foundation

An affiliated fund of the Grand Rapids Community Foundation

Wyoming Youth Advisory Committee

GRANT APPLICATION GUIDELINES

PRIORITY AREAS

The Wyoming Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) makes grants to programs that benefit youth in the Wyoming area. Grants range in size from \$300-\$1,000, with a total of \$2,750 available to award. Based on the results of a survey conducted at four Wyoming-area high schools, **primary consideration will be given to programs or projects that address depression, getting into and paying for college, stress affecting families (divorce, job loss, financial problems) and pressure to succeed academically.**

In a survey conducted in the fall of 2012 by members of the YAC, the types of programs that youth identified as most helpful in addressing these issues were:

- Competitive sports
- “Real life” learning experiences, or experiential learning activities
- Arts, writing, or music-focused activities
- Homework assistance or tutoring
- Jobs and career options or job preparation
- Self-defense or martial arts
- Time or money management
- Mental health issues
- Outdoor experiences, camps, or challenge courses

APPLICATION PROCESS

Grant applications must be submitted electronically by **11:59 p.m. on Monday, February 8, 2016**. Decisions are announced the following May.

ELIGIBILITY

Non-profit organizations (including churches, schools, government agencies, and organizations with a 501 (C)(3) non-profit status) may apply for grants for programs that benefit youth in Wyoming. 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.

HELPFUL HINTS

Historically, the Youth Advisory Committee has looked more favorably on proposals for projects that:

- Have clear goals with foreseeable long-term benefits for youth in Wyoming.
- Are original, unique, and CREATIVE!
- Involve youth in program development and/or implementation.
- Address a need area identified in our survey, and benefit a significant number of youth.
- Have limited funds and lack of other resources

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

NEED HELP?

- For questions related to the content of your proposal, call Valarie Mester, YAC Advisor, at 616-261-3517 or mesterv@wyomingmi.gov.
- For technical questions about the online grant application, email Keri Jaynes at kjaynes@grfoundation.org or call 616-454-1751.

The Wyoming Youth Advisory Committee operates in partnership with the City of Wyoming Parks and Recreation Department.

The Wyoming Youth Fund is an affiliate fund of Grand Rapids Community Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

YOUTH GRANT APPLICATION QUESTIONS

The grant application must be completed online. The application requires submission of a budget and narrative responses to the following questions:

- **Youth Project Information**
 - What is the goal of your project or program? Your goal should be Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic, and Timely. (50 words or less)
 - What issue area or need area (from the list of Priority Areas) does your project or program address?
- **Program or Project Description**
 - Follow these instructions carefully:
 - Provide a SPECIFIC and CONCISE description of the proposed project or program (who, what, where, when and how).
 - Include a timeline and expected date of completion (projects should take place between May 2016 and May 2017).
 - If the program involves regular times that participants meet or conduct activities, specify how often the activity will take place, the location, length of each session, and on how many occasions the activity takes place. (For example, an activity occurs twice each week for six hours per week, over a ten week period.) 300 words or less
- **Youth Involvement**
 - How are youth involved in planning, designing, or leading the project or program?
 - Estimate the number of youth who will participate and their ages.
 - How will youth be identified, selected, or recruited for participation in the project or program? How does the program engage diverse audiences?
 - Describe the role of adults in the project or program, and their qualifications.
- **Evaluation**
 - What specific and quantifiable measurement will you use to determine if your project was successful? If it is an existing program, what actions have you taken to improve it? (200 words or less)
 - Which specific portion of the expenses listed in your budget would be paid for with this grant? If this grant were not fully funded, will you carry out the project or program and where will you find funding?
 - What makes this project or program unique from others in the community?