

Delegation of Grantmaking Authority FY 2026

The Community Foundation makes grants through a decentralized system of volunteer committees. As such, the Board must annually delegate grantmaking authority to each of these groups. This document will then specify the Board's delegation of grantmaking authority for 2026 as outlined below.

This policy applies to all grants except those which may cause embarrassment or reputational harm to the Community Foundation. Staff will be obligated to "red flag" any grant which may cause serious reputational harm or strong controversy, and will not process and finalize the payment of such a grant until the full Foundation board has had time to review the application or request and make a final determination.

1. Grants Committee
 - a. May approve any eligible grant up to \$50,000
 - b. Grants exceeding \$50,000 may only be approved by a vote of the majority of the Trustees in attendance at a full board meeting.
 - c. Includes any other Field of Interest Fund not assigned to another subcommittee or staff

2. Women's Initiative
 - a. May approve grants up to \$50,000. Grants over that amount require approval of the Foundation Board as outlined in item #1

3. Field of Interest Funds (FOI)
 - a. Including but not limited to committees for: Blue Water Arts Committee, Youth Advisory Council, EMCF, Ally Fund, Fallen Heroes Banner Program
 - b. May approve grants up to \$25,000
 - c. Grants over \$25,000 require the approval of the Grants Committee
 - d. BW Arts has authority over the Anderson Fund as well as the Mickey & Agnes Knowlton Fund
 - e. B2B Corridor Fund: shall be overseen by the Mission Related Investments Committee
 - f. Note: most, but not all, FOI funds fall under the responsibilities of the main Grants Committee and unless noted, it is the default option
 - g. Desmarais Fund: This fund's use rotates each year
 - i. In scholarship years the Foundation Scholarship staff shall decide all uses of the fund
 - ii. In grant years, Foundation President or Vice President shall have decision making authority
 - h. Community Assistance Fund – grantmaking decisions will be managed by staff
 - i. Staff will have authority over any and all FOI project funds dedicated to our emerging rural philanthropy work

4. Scholarship Committee(s)
 - a. May approve any individual annual scholarship and/or life needs award
 - b. Knox Scholarship Committee: may approve any award within their annual budget

5. Equity & Inclusion Committee
 - a. May approve any grant up to \$25,000
 - b. Has authority over the Thomas K. Smith Fund, GG Mericka Fund, Special Dreams Farm Fund, Native American Fund, and any allocated scholarship funding along with occasional pass-thru gifts

6. President & Vice President
 - a. May approve requests from Donor Advised Funds up to \$50,000
 - b. Requests from Donor Advised Funds exceeding \$50,000 must go to the full Board
 - c. May approve Executive Level Grants up to \$25,000
 - d. May approve all Pass-Through gifts and grants
 - e. May approve donor directed, or donor specified grants up to \$50,000
 - f. May approve donor designated or agency designated grants up to \$50,000
 - g. May approve agency designated grants, back to the original donating organization, for any amount. Such grants will be reported to the board at the next regular board meeting.

7. SC4 Foundation
 - a. May approve grants and scholarships for all designated funds up to any dollar level providing appropriate foundation staff have signed off on all awards

8. Thumb Coast Dream Makers (TCDM)
 - a. The Board (Exec Cmte) of TCDM must approve all people nominated for inclusion into this program
 - b. Staff may approve funding up to \$25,000 for any one person or family after they are accepted by the Executive Committee
 - c. Funding over \$25,000 for any one person or family requires approval from the Executive Committee

9. Community Capital Club
 - a. May approve grants up to \$50,000. Grants over that amount require the approval of the Foundation Board.
 - b. May approve any type of investment to fulfill their mission up to \$50,000. Investments over that amount require approval of the Finance & Investment Committee.

10. Foundation Staff: may approve any level of individual awards for funds within these categories:
 - a. College Access or College Exploration and Success
 - b. Gap Funds, Completion Grants or other Life Needs funding
 - c. Port Huron Community Fund
 - d. Donnellon Scholarship Funds

11. Community & School District Fund
 - a. May approve grants up to \$25,000
 - b. Grants over \$25,000 require the approval of the Grants Committee
 - c. Algonac-Clay Community Fund may make all scholarship awards from the Caimi and Vera Fuller Hansen Funds.

12. St. Clair Endowment Funds

- a. May approve grants and funding at any level providing the Foundation President also approves

13. Individual Donor Advised Funds

- a. Must be submitted to the President for final approval (see above terms)

12/2/2025