The Youth Advisory Council seeks to fund programs that work to educate, prepare, develop, advocate for, and raise awareness of issues that impact youth in the Tri-Cities and West Michigan Region.

Priority will be given to projects that address the following:

**Health & Human Services**
- Raise awareness and educate youth on the importance of *mental health*, reducing the stigma, and recognizing signs in their peers
- Educate youth on the impact of *drug/alcohol use*
- Build *self-confidence* and increase *body image*
- Increase *healthy eating habits* and knowledge on *nutrition*
- Provide education on *healthy and unhealthy relationships*
- Create *safe spaces* for youth and help all youth feel *safe and accepted* at home and at school
- Raise awareness for *internet safety* and *bullying*
- Emphasize the risks and consequences of *distracted driving*

**Education**
- Educate on the various *post-secondary opportunities* available
- Provide opportunities for youth to *prepare for the future*
- Prepare youth for *future financial success*

**Arts & Culture**
- *Appreciate history*, especially in the Tri-Cities area.
- *An understanding of other cultures* and *open-mindedness*
- *Opportunities for self-expression* through various safe spaces such as *art, music, and the theatre*
- Build and emphasize the *importance of community*

**Economic & Community Betterment**
- Develop opportunities for youth and the community to be *active* in nature
- Ensure our community is well-positioned for the *future*
- Utilize our resources and *support our local economy*

**Environment**
- Appreciate and care for the *natural resources* in our community
- Feel *connected* with our area