



*Mission: We aim to set an example for future generations by giving of time, talent, and treasure to actively impact the lives of youth in Northwest Ottawa County.*

*Vision: A community where all youth have the resources and opportunities available, allowing them to be successful.*

*Values: Empathy – to understand the needs of the youth in our community;  
Integrity – in making equitable decisions for the youth in our community;  
Collaboration – through innovation and teamwork;  
Open-Mindedness – through a passionate and diverse group of youth representation.*

*We encourage grant proposals that celebrate inclusivity and build self-efficacy in our community's youth. Typically, grant awards range from \$2,500 to \$10,000.*

**We Want to Impact:**

- Mental & Emotional Well-Being: promoting and encouraging a positive atmosphere and mindful habits.

**Our Focus:**

- Pressure to succeed academically/college readiness/social emotional curriculum
- Bullying
- Depression & Suicide
- Relationships that encourage emotional well-being and mental development – positive role models, healthy romantic relationships, etc.

**The Data:**

- 1 in 5 teens have been bullied or harassed on school property or on the way to and from school
- 12% of teens report being bullied or harassed electronically in the past 12 months
- 28.9% of students reported being depressed in 2017
- Teen girls are 2x more likely to feel depressed and think, plan, or act on taking their own life
- 19.4% of students reported that they seriously thought about suicide
- 1 in 2 teens perceived little risk to vaping, 1 in 4 8<sup>th</sup> graders have attended a party where alcohol was available, and 1 in 5 teens have used marijuana
- Average age of students first trying drugs/alcohol is between 13.5 and 14.5 years of age – 73% of the behaviors have younger onsets than in 2015
- 90% students reported that their parents know where they are and who they are with



- Physical Well Being: promoting and encouraging a safe and healthy lifestyle.

Our Focus:

- Nutrition & Wellness
- Body Image
- Safety – distracted driving, dating violence, human trafficking
- Substance Abuse

The Data:

- 1 in 8 teens report eating no fruit on an average day and 1 in 5 report not eating vegetables on an average day
  - 1 in 2 females are trying to lose weight, yet 3 in 4 are a healthy rate
  - 1 in 4 teens are above a healthy body weight
  - 500 teens have been trafficked for sex or for work (estimated among the population of 13-18 year olds)
  - 64% of 12<sup>th</sup> graders report texting or using the internet, apps, or email while driving
  - 16% of teens that reported dating or going out with someone said they were called degrading names by this person and 13% said they tried to control when they saw their friends
  - 1 in 2 teens perceived little risk to vaping, 1 in 4 8<sup>th</sup> graders have attended a party where alcohol was available, and 1 in 5 teens have used marijuana
- Community & Cultural Well Being: promoting and encouraging celebrations of harmony between people.

Our Focus:

- Embracing Cultural Diversity
- Social Engagement & Outreach – opportunities to engage, empower, and create youth communities

**Eligibility Requirements:**

Non-profit organizations (including churches, schools, government agencies, and community groups with a 501 (c)(3) non-profit status) may apply for grants for programs that benefit youth in Northwest Ottawa County. The YAC values projects that promote inclusiveness and that work to build self-efficacy in our youth.

**Application Process:**

To apply, please log in to our grant portal: [www.ghacf.spectrumportal.net](http://www.ghacf.spectrumportal.net) and select the Community Impact Grant Program application under *Available Applications*.



Please note that the first step is a *Letter of Inquiry*. Please begin your application at least two weeks prior to the deadline to allow time for the Grants & Program team to open up the full application for you to complete. *We cannot guarantee that applications started the day of the deadline will be opened for completion and submission.*

### **Grant Deadlines:**

- April 3<sup>rd</sup> focusing on Mental & Emotional Well Being and Physical Well Being
- October 3<sup>rd</sup> focusing on Community & Cultural Well Being

### **Helpful Hints**

- The YAC will be prioritizing focus areas for each grant round. However, proposals focusing on any of the 3 focus areas will be accepted at each deadline.
- Have a clear-cut, organized goal with foreseeable long-term benefits for youth in Northwest Ottawa County.
- Involve youth in the program development and/or implementation.
- Address a need identified in the [2017 Youth Assessment Survey](#) (all data shown above is from this survey).
- The online application requires a program budget:
  - o List all expenses and income sources for your project, including the status of other grant sources (*pending or confirmed*).
  - o Specify *exactly* how requested grant funds will be used.

*\*If you have an idea for a project that does not fit in with the YAC's focus areas, please contact Lauren Grevel at [lgrevel@ghacf.org](mailto:lgrevel@ghacf.org) to discuss potential options and partnerships.\**