



Western Michigan University

**School of Public Affairs & Administration**

## **Western Michigan University School of Public Affairs and Administration Nonprofit Education Program Grant Guidelines 2012**

### **BACKGROUND**

**Western Michigan University** will for the fourth year grant up to \$10,000 to nonprofit organizations serving Kalamazoo County. Campus Compact through a program called Pay It Forward and the School of Public Affairs and Administration at WMU, and donors to the Nonprofit Leadership Student Association have generously provided the funding. Nineteen students enrolled in a seminar in nonprofit leadership will make the grant decisions.

**Western Michigan University's Nonprofit Education Program Undergraduate Students** are pursuing the minor in Nonprofit Leadership along with a national certification from the Nonprofit Leadership Alliance. United in their desire to manage various types of nonprofit organizations, these students major in disciplines from colleges as diverse as Business, Health and Human Services, Fine Arts, and Arts and Sciences. Granting money for specific purposes to nonprofit organizations in Kalamazoo County impresses them with the difficulty of making decisions that impact critical economic and social challenges.

Through their grant-making, they hope not only to learn but also to strengthen the relationship between the student body of Western Michigan University, grantees, and the community these nonprofits serve.

### **CURRENT FUNDING PRIORITY**

During the 2012 funding cycle, grants will be made *only* to organizations making efforts to:

- 1) Promote economic and community development for sustainable growth within low-income neighborhoods.
- 2) Develop children ages 0-19 that have been held back due to social upbringing, economic status or disabilities.

While students decided to keep their priorities broad this year to encourage creativity, successful proposals will be focused, fit the amount of money requested, and indicates how the impact will be measured.

Please note that we do not require applicants to work exclusively on youth development, economic development, or community development. However, the program or project to be funded by this grant must be aimed at addressing these issues.

### **ELIGIBILITY**

These grants will only fund registered 501(c) 3 organizations based in and serving Kalamazoo County. We cannot fund governmental entities. Applicants will be asked to demonstrate non-discriminatory workplace practices and a commitment to diversity within their organizations and the populations they serve. We welcome applications from faith-based organizations provided that the program or project for which funding is sought is wholly secular. Applicants will be asked to demonstrate fiscal responsibility and sound governance.

Applicants may be asked to allow students participating to make a site visit. At the conclusion of the grant period, recipients will be asked to submit a report on their use of the grant.

## **WHAT WE WILL FUND**

We favor requests for funding in the range of \$2,000 to \$4,000, but will consider requests for up to \$7,500 if an organization can provide a highly compelling reason to justify the additional funding.

Funds may be applied toward an existing project or program (e.g., materials for an after school program) or toward a non-program cost directly related to the organization's ability to address our priorities. Applicants will be asked to demonstrate how this particular grant will make a meaningful difference in the organization's ability to promote youth development or economic and neighborhood development. Preference will therefore be given to requests for a specific purpose rather than general support for a program or organizational operations where this grant will be indistinguishable from other revenue. Funding requests will not be considered for endowments.

We anticipate receiving far more requests than we can fund and reserve the right to limit the number and amount of grants awarded.

## **DECISION CRITERIA**

The following questions will guide our deliberations:

- (1) Is there a need in the community for what you are asking us to fund?
- (2) Will we know whether our money was used well? Do you either have a track record of success in this program or do you have a good plan for how to measure impact?
- (3) Do you have staff and/or volunteers that have expertise in the areas you are requesting money?
- (4) Will the organization be able to continue this program after our money is gone?
- (5) Do you serve a diverse population?
- (6) Are the people you serve involved in planning, feedback, or implementation of the project?
- (7) Does the organization partner with organizations to help it fulfill its mission?
- (8) Does the proposal fit with at least one of our priorities?
- (9) Is the application complete?

## **Important Dates and Information**

- Applications must be submitted by Tuesday, Feb. 28 at 5:00 p.m. electronically **and** in a hard copy. Copies may be dropped off to the School of Public Affairs and Administration on the second floor, east side of Walwood on Oakland Drive between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. or via the postal service provided they are received by Tuesday, Feb. 28.
- **Grant awards will be announced** at WMU's Fetzer Center on April 12, 2012 from 4:30-6:00 p.m. We hope that all applicants can send at least one representative.
- Please e-mail all applications to [jmaatman@wmich.edu](mailto:jmaatman@wmich.edu) as well as a hard copy to:  
Janice Maatman  
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1903 W. Michigan  
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- For more information, please contact Janice Maatman at 269-387-8945 or 269-352-6818.