

Mackinac Island Community Foundation

2023 Community Grant Making
Needs Assessment



Mackinac Island
community foundationSM

Community Feedback

Public feedback can be the compass that moves your community in the right direction. Gaining insights into the challenges and opportunities available will make Mackinac Island a more desirable place to live, work, and play. Feedback from the community was gathered through the following methods:



The Community Survey, conducted from June to August 2023, provided the MICF with a roadmap to support the wellbeing of Islanders and visitors.

- 238 total respondents
- Widely publicized among seasonal and permanent residents.
- Largest majority of respondents were in the 50-69 age range.
- Largest majority of respondents were year-round residents or summer residents.



Facilitated stakeholder focus groups

were held to discuss the issues, services, and needs of the island related to the areas of Health, Education, and Recreation.



Personal interviews with key stakeholders. 2 Individual Interviews: Business/Employment, Arts & Culture



In depth research into county statistics related to overall health trends and access to services.

Emerging Themes

- 82% support a newly-constructed Community Recreation Center for year-round activities.
- Recognize the need for diverse housing solutions and balanced growth.
- Praise current housing initiatives, acknowledging the need for continued efforts in this area.
- 90% feel the number one attribute of a successful school is Opportunities to advanced classes or career tech opportunities, with the second highest ranking of 88% indicating Happy Teachers and Students.
- 54% use the medical center as only an emergency choice for healthcare, with 23% stating that they never use healthcare services on the island.
- 18% state that they have needed mental health services and have been unable to access them on island.
- Responsive emergency care cited as the number one attribute for a successful healthcare system on island.
- 58% seek ample continuing educational opportunities for adults and seniors on island.
- 63% are interested in volunteering locally, but are unsure where to start.
- 90% feel safe and respected by their community.

Grantmaking Focus

Capacity



BUILD THE CAPACITY OF ISLAND NONPROFITS, INCORPORATING BEST PRACTICES FROM OTHER COMMUNITIES.

- Expand capacity for nonprofits so that they can better address community needs.
- Encourage nonprofits to find and employ innovative solutions and best practices from other communities to solve pressing island problems.
- Support multi-year grants to promote effective planning, organizational capacity building, and staff and board training.

Culture



SUPPORTING THE DISTINCTIVE AND HISTORICAL ASPECTS THAT DEFINE THE IDENTITY AND UNIQUE CHARACTER OF MACKINAC ISLAND.

- Maintain, support, and increase access to the island's horse culture.
- Create platforms for engagement and encourage a culture of volunteerism.
- Build capacity and support nonprofits working in these spaces.

Wellbeing



FOCUSING ON THE HEALTH, SAFETY, AND OVERALL QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL RESIDENTS AND SEASONAL WORKERS ON MACKINAC ISLAND.

- Prioritize responsive emergency medical care.
- Support the needs of the seasonal worker.
- Promote the expansion of mental health access and services on the island.

Vibrant Island Life



FOSTERING A THRIVING AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY YEAR-ROUND, TO SUPPORT AND ATTRACT FAMILIES AND RESIDENTS.

- Encourage social opportunities for isolated residents.
- Increase adult education opportunities, advanced academic classes, and vocational pathways that encourage life on the island.
- Support all aspects of education, including emotional intelligence.
- Focus on creative solutions to the housing crisis.
- Support healthy and happy students and teachers.

What Success Looks Like

The Mackinac Island Community Foundation is mission-driven to advance wellbeing within the community. By focusing on the framework shared above, MICF can deliver lasting results to the people it serves. Taking a consistent, proactive approach to grantmaking is a key pillar of this plan. Making long-term grants to organizations that target specific issues will help MICF move the needle for the community. Additionally, awarding working grants to organizations will help MICF address urgent issues on the island. By empowering nonprofits to think outside of the box, MICF will encourage organizations to mirror best practices that are successful in other communities and collaborate effectively to deliver results. This comprehensive approach will keep MICF nimble and responsive to community needs today and tomorrow.

GRANT GOALS:

- Focus on creative solutions.
- Take a lead on projects when appropriate and applicable.
- Champion projects from start to finish.
- Pilot, accelerate, scale, or fill significant gaps in targeted areas of need.
- Respond throughout the year to evolving community needs, based on the identified themes.
- Leverage greater funds from outside the community through matching grants (when possible).
- Promote collaboration.
- Focus on multi-year grants.

