

About the Fund

The Chelsea Community Foundation, an affiliate of the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan, is a permanent community endowment that was established in 1995 to enhance the quality of life in Chelsea, as defined by the geographic boundaries of the Chelsea School District. The Chelsea Community Foundation is directed by a group of civic leaders who live or work in Chelsea and care deeply about the community. The fund continues to grow as a result of the generous contributions of many individuals and businesses.

The Chelsea Community Foundation grants approximately \$100,000 a year. Each grant ranges from \$5,000-\$25,000 for a one-year grant period. If you are interested in applying for funding from the Chelsea Community Foundation, details are below.

Who May Apply

The Foundation makes grants to 501(c)(3) organizations, government entities, school districts and universities that provide programs that serve Chelsea. We do not make grants to individuals, sectarian religious programs, or to cover deficits or other previously incurred obligations.

Grantmaking Process

The Chelsea Community Foundation recently instituted a two-stage application process. This enables the Chelsea Community Foundation to efficiently assess proposed ideas and reduce the effort required from organizations in the early stages of applying.

The Chelsea Community Foundation proposal requests are due by **December 5, 2025 at 11:59 p.m. ET.**

Step 1: Proposal Request (Initial Inquiry)	Step 2: Full Application (By Invitation Only)
All applicants begin by completing a short, simple request form. This does not require registering in the MyCF portal. The proposal request includes: • Basic organization information • A brief summary of your funding request If your idea aligns with our funding priorities and there is available funding, you will receive an invitation to submit a full application in February 2026.	If invited, you must be registered in MyCF, our new application portal. The full application includes: • A detailed description of the request • Grant Budget • Organizational documents (organization budget, board list, etc.) • Information on expected outcomes and how you plan to measure impact We may also request a conversation to learn more before making final decisions.

Important Dates and Deadlines

As noted above, the Chelsea Community Foundation proposal requests are due by **December 5, 2025 at 11:59 p.m. ET**. If a proposal request is not received by the deadline, the Foundation will be unable to invite a full application.

PROPOSAL REQUEST (INITIAL INQUIRY)	
Wednesday, November 5, 2025	Proposal Request Opens
Friday, December 5, 2025 at 11:59 p.m. ET	Proposal Request Deadline
FULL APPLICATION (BY INVITATION ONLY)	
Monday, February 2, 2026	Full Application Opens by Invitation Only
Friday, February 27, 2026 at 11:59 p.m. ET	Full Application Deadline
GRANT DECISIONS ANNOUNCED IN MAY 2026	

How to Apply

The Chelsea Community Foundation's proposal request can be found in the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan's new grantmaking portal, MyCF. You do not need to be registered in the grant portal to submit a proposal request. More information can be found here: <https://mycf.cfsem.org/s/grant-opportunities>.

Whether or not you decide to proceed with an application, we welcome the opportunity to learn more from you about the issues and opportunities in Chelsea as you see them. Please feel free to connect with Erin Marie McDonald, Program Officer, emcdonald@cfsem.org.

Contact Us

Interested in learning more about the Chelsea Community Foundation? Have questions about the application process? Please do not hesitate to call us at 313-961-6675 or chelsea@cfsem.org.