**McGregor Fund**

**Grantmaking Guidelines – 02/17/2017**

**Background and Purpose**

The McGregor Fund is a private foundation organized to relieve the misfortunes and promote the well-being of humankind. It was established by a $5,000 deed of gift from Tracy W. McGregor in 1925 and augmented to nearly $10 million through subsequent gifts from Mr. McGregor and his wife, Katherine Whitney McGregor. The Fund continues to be faithful to the stated intent of the donors and interprets that intent through present day context.

Requests for support are considered from organizations that have received a 501(c)(3) designation letter from the Internal Revenue Service. Grants to relieve misfortune and promote well-being are made in the following program areas: basic needs, recovery and restoration, and skill building and other transformational opportunities.

**Geographic Focus**

The principal area of interest of the Fund is metropolitan Detroit, although requests will be considered from organizations located elsewhere for programs or projects which significantly benefit the metropolitan Detroit area. The Fund defines this area as the City of Detroit and Wayne, Oakland, and Macomb counties.

**Grantmaking Priorities**

Grounded in the lived examples of Tracy and Katherine McGregor, the McGregor Fund works to support and strengthen a safety net of essential resources and opportunities for vulnerable members of our community, particularly those experiencing sustained and concentrated poverty. The Fund accepts applications from nonprofit organizations in the following areas:

Basic Needs

At their most basic, these resources include food, shelter and other necessities for day-to-day living. The Fund supports programs and organizations demonstrating high-leverage, scalable opportunities to strengthen the quality and availability of these essential resources.

Examples include but are not limited to:

* Large-scale distributors of free food.
* Best practice, evidence-based providers of shelter and supportive housing.
* Holistic, casework-based programs that provide various forms of direct aid and help people pursue housing, transportation, education and employment options.
* Programs that help people navigate and connect to complex systems of public and social supports.
* High-leverage projects that increase the availability of primary medical care in the city of Detroit.
* Charitable programs that respond rapidly to family and community-wide emergencies causing acute resource scarcity.
* Providers of other essential resources such as clothing and furniture, that serve a city- or county-wide geography and provide goods free of charge.

Recovery and Restoration

For people living in the grip of interpersonal violence, addiction, human trafficking, gang life or other desolating social conditions, essential resources can take the form of specialized interventions and pathways to new beginnings. The Fund supports programs and organizations demonstrating quality and commitment to making these resources available to our most vulnerable citizens.

Examples include but are not limited to:

* Organizations that offer survivor-centered shelter and services to victims exiting domestic violence, human trafficking, gang membership and other illegal, life-threatening entanglements.
* Partnerships between non-profit organizations, local law enforcement and other stakeholders working to improve the legal, enforcement and data tools they use to reduce, prevent or better respond to the incidence of illegal, abusive activities.
* Programs that support older youth and young adults who have experienced abuse and neglect, particularly those who are aging out of foster or other state-supervised care.
* Programs that offer multi-phased substance abuse recovery services that are minimally or not supported by government funding.

Skill Building

Other essential resources include proven, holistic, transformational opportunities that, once pursued, lead to broader horizons for adults and teens. Such opportunities focus on developing the skills, identity, readiness, relationships and capital necessary for expanding vocational prospects and mobility. The Fund supports evidence-based work with demonstrated outcomes that prepares individuals to overcome future obstacles, increases self-confidence, leads to a more positive view of the future and towards school and employment, and develops the skills required for success.

Examples of programs with demonstrated outcomes and evidence-based design include but are not limited to:

* Programs for teens and young adults that focus on building a particular skill set, often in a sport, an art form or an academic subject, while instilling leadership and other essential life skills. Teens typically connect with these programs over a period of years and reach high levels of educational attainment. These include so-called ***identity projects*** or ***passion projects***.
* Programs that support college students whose circumstances of personal hardship are greater than most of their academic peers and require resources beyond scholarships for them to reach their academic potential.
* Programs that train adults with high barriers to entering the workforce, equipping them with the necessary soft skills, basic reading and math competencies, and other entry-level aptitudes to secure and maintain entry-level employment and pursue advanced education and training opportunities.

We believe that all human beings deserve access to these essential resources and opportunities, without which a healthy, fulfilled life is not possible. People living in poverty differ only insomuch as they are unable to pay for them. Working within the tri-county region of Metropolitan Detroit, we strive to optimize our investments of grants and staff time in order to make the greatest contribution possible toward strengthening the safety net of essential resources for people in need.

We further believe that relationships are essential resources for well being – for emotional support, for practical help with challenges, for connections that lead to opportunity, and for feeling valued and giving to others. For people who experience the isolating and destructive consequences of poverty, essential relationships may be compromised. We recognize the various ways in which the social sector facilitates peer networks, community cadres of coaches and mentors, and caring environments where surrogate families can form. Accordingly, we invest in organizations whose work and culture value and contribute to supportive relationships in the lives of participants.

**Types of Support**

The Fund provides a variety of grants to qualifying nonprofit organizations. These types of support are listed below in general order of priority. However, the Fund is flexible and will consider exceptions based on the merits and potential impact of a specific request. The preferred types of support and particular emphasis for each are as follows:

**Project Support** – time-limited support for innovative programs or projects in order to scale, establish proof of concept, or bring proven ideas to our community; grants are expected to leverage other funding sources and may be multi-year (but generally not more than three years) with interim report(s) specified by the Fund. If you are new to the Fund, this is the type of support to pursue.

**Operating Support** - general operating support is available by invitation for organizations that are previous grantees of the Fund, well managed and governed, and providing services of exceptional quality. Priority is given to organizations that fit within the Fund’s Basic Needs and Recovery and Restoration grantmaking priorities.

**Capital Support** - support for the acquisition, construction and/or renovation of facilities of organizations that, typically, are previous recipients of grant support from the Fund. May also be provided for other forms of capital in accordance with a formal capitalization plan.

**Grant Reporting & Learning**

All grantees are required, at a minimum, to submit a final report to the Fund at the close of the grant period. Reports are critical sources of information for the Fund to understand what has happened over the course of implementing the grant.  They also are reviewed in tandem with the submitted grant application, offering opportunities for grantees and the Fund to reflect on the development of the work, and keeping the original intent and ultimate results of the grant in mind. Through grantee reporting, the Fund seeks to learn:

* what happened;
* how grantees track the quality and progress of the work; and
* what grantees are learning and how those reflections inform ongoing work.

Please consider describing in the proposal narrative how your organization approaches the tracking, analysis and communication of your efforts and results.  The Fund encourages grantees to strengthen this important aspect of their work, and we recommend that you consider what tools and supports, financial or otherwise, would enhance/improve information collection, periodic analysis and reflection, and opportunities to share what you are learning.  These may include, but are not limited to, technical assistance for performance measurement, third party evaluation, training or capacity building of staff, and increasing data systems capacity.  In some instances, grant support for these enhancements may be available.  Fund staff are available to discuss with applicants in more detail upon request.

**Limitations**

In general, organizations are limited to submitting one grant application per year. If a grant is awarded, the organization will not be eligible to apply for a new grant from the Fund until the grant period is concluded and a final report has been submitted and accepted by the Fund.

The Fund does not provide support for loans, individuals, direct grants for student scholarships, or research, nor is support generally provided for event or conference sponsorship, film or video projects, or disease specific organizations and their local affiliates. Additionally, the Fund generally does not support start-up organizations or requests under $25,000.

**Timing and Decision Process**

All grant decisions are the responsibility of the Board of Trustees. Trustee meetings are scheduled four times per year, generally in March, June, September and December. Grant requests may be submitted at any time but typically take up to three months for staff review. Therefore, applicants are encouraged to submit proposals well in advance of when support will be needed.

**Before Submitting an Application**

The application process is initiated by submitted a [General Inquiry Form](http://www.mcgregorfund.org/submit-an-inquiry/) through the McGregor Fund website.

To be eligible for consideration, applicant organizations must:

* Be a nonprofit with 501c3 federal tax exemption
* Have audited financial statements
* Have a demonstrated programmatic and financial track record
* Be located or provide services in the city of Detroit, or Wayne, Oakland or Macomb counties
* Not have a current, active grant with the Fund

Programs for which funding is being sought must:

* Align with the Fund’s Grantmaking Priorities
* Serve adults and/or teens living in poverty

Questions about the grant process or guidelines can be directed to Heidi Alcock at heidi@mcgregorfund.org or 313.963.3495.