



COMMUNITY RECREATION FACILITIES & RESOURCES

GRANT TIMELINE

July 8, 2025	Request open for Concept Paper Submissions
August 22, 2025	Concept Papers are due by email at 5 p.m. Required (2 pages maximum)

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Copper Shores Community Health Foundation's mission is to positively influence a healthful community through enhanced philanthropy and collaboration.

During the past seven years, several requests have been made to support repairs, expansions, and upgrades to existing community recreational facilities throughout the four-county (Baraga, Houghton, Keweenaw, and Ontonagon) community. Copper Shores recognizes the important role these facilities play in our community's ability to live an active, healthy lifestyle and the overall contribution to quality of life for our citizens. Developing and maintaining recreational facilities requires significant financial and operational commitments. Some communities struggle to maintain or update existing facilities, while others are unable to provide new recreation opportunities needed to support physically active lifestyles. It is the intention that these funds would ideally be used as matching monies to leverage more substantial investments that will enhance and improve the recreational opportunities through a maintained or expanded built environment (buildings, trails, capital equipment.)

Copper Shores is dedicated to promoting inclusivity and accessibility in all aspects of community life; and inviting proposals for community recreation projects with a strong emphasis on universal design for funding. Universal Design is the design and composition of an environment so that it can be accessed, understood, and used to the greatest extent possible by all people regardless of their age, size, ability, or disability. An environment (or any building, product, or service in that environment) should be designed to meet the needs of all people who wish to use it. This is not a special requirement for the benefit of only a minority of the population. It is a fundamental condition of good design. If an environment is accessible, usable, convenient, and a pleasure to use, everyone benefits. By considering the diverse needs and abilities throughout the design process, universal design creates products, services, and environments that meet people's needs. Simply put, universal design is a good design.

Copper Shores Community Health Foundation is now accepting concept papers for innovative projects that promote recreation, personal wellness, and community engagement. Proposed projects can be used for a new or existing community recreation initiative.

ELIGIBILITY AND GRANT AMOUNT

ELIGIBILITY

- Be recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization; a local unit of government or a public institution of education; (Note: Applications must be current with their IRS tax-exempt organization determination and have a current License to Solicit Charitable Contributions as required, unless exempt under MCL 400.283)
- Be domiciled (incorporated) in Baraga, Houghton, Keweenaw, and/or Ontonagon counties of Michigan and serve the citizens of the same;
- Have filed their most recent 990, 990-EZ, or 990-N filing;
- Have a certified financial audit or reviewed financial statements as required by state law. Note: for all nonprofits with annual gross receipts of \$250k or less, Copper Shores requests CPA prepared compiled financial statements for their most recently completed fiscal year, and;
- Have adequate and demonstrated organizational capacity to successfully execute the proposed grant, including all reporting requirements.

EXCLUDED FROM FUNDING CONSIDERATION

- Repayment or securing loans;
- Activities supporting religious organizations for religious purposes;
- Activities supporting political organizations for political purposes;
- Organizations that practice exclusivity based on race, color, religion, sexual orientation, gender, national origin, age, marital or veteran status;
- Proposals in which granted funds will be used to maintain the existing program(s) or solely fill in budget gaps for current services, and;
- Individuals or families and for-profit entities.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

Please let us know what funds it will take to complete your project.

APPLICATION PROCESS

STEP 1: CONCEPT PAPER, REQUIRED

Copper Shores is looking specifically for recreational projects larger in size to be completed in 2026 and beyond. Applicants are required to submit a concept paper (2 page maximum) for feedback prior to receiving an invitation to submit a full proposal. Competitive concept papers that align with Copper Shores goals and mission will receive an invitation to submit a full proposal. Non-competitive concept papers will not be invited to apply.

Please note that concept papers longer than two pages will not be accepted.

The concept paper should include the following sections in this order:

- Organization name, mission & EIN
- Project information:
 - Title
 - Project description
 - List of key partners and their roles
 - How the project will continue to live on in the community once the grant period ends
 - Estimated budget (no detailed breakdown is required at this time, just tell us what the budget will cover and the total amount you intend to request).

Send your concept papers to grants@coppershores.org by 5:00 p.m. on August 22, 2025.

STEP 2: APPLICATION, BY INVITATION ONLY

Following the review of submitted concept papers, selected applicants will receive an invitation from Copper Shores to apply for this grant funding by submitting a full application.

MORE INFORMATION AND FURTHER QUESTIONS

HELPFUL HINTS

- Clearly explain your project. Be prepared to describe the who, what, where, when, and how of the initiative. Limit the use of buzzwords and jargon throughout your proposal in favor of plain language that accurately describes your intended impact.
- Collaboration is essential. The most effective programs we support often involve multiple community partners. We'll look at whether you're engaged with relevant stakeholders; and how their participation is informing your proposal.
- Health outcomes are key. Connect the dots and tell us how your activities will lead to better health for members of the community. Select outcomes that will help you know how your grant is doing.
- Impact beyond the grant. Describe how the project has the potential to achieve long-term impact by implementing effective models, supporting needed innovation, is time-limited by design, or developing programs that can be sustainably funded or implemented beyond the completion of the grant.

If you have further questions, please contact us at grants@coppershores.org or by calling 906-523-5920.