



Safe & Healthful Communities Grant Opportunity

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

1. OVERVIEW

The Copper Shores Community Health Foundation’s (CSCHF) 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. CSCHF 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.)

Please note that the allotted funding for 2025 has been fully allocated. CSCHF is releasing this RFP at this time so that appropriate planning can be done for projects in 2026. CSCHF 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 in 2026. Universal Design is the standard. 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.

This request for proposal is specifically addressing CSCHF’s long-term sustainability goals of healthy living. Community Health grants provide support for activities or opportunities that promote healthy lifestyles which improve the overall health of a community.

All Community Health grants must align with CSCHF’s mission and in this call for proposal shall address **Community Recreational Facilities and Resources.**

2. REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL SOLICITATION TIMELINE

Monday, March 10, 2025	RFP Publicly Announced
Friday, April 4 2025	Letter of Inquiry (LOI) Due*
Monday, May 12, 2025	Grant Applications Due
Friday, June 6, 2025	Grant Awards to be announced

*Although not required, a Letter of Inquiry (LOI) is strongly encouraged!

All application information and LOI forms can be found at www.coppershores.org

3. ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible to apply for a grant under this program, the applicant must:

- 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: Applicants 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 CSCHF 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.

TO BE CONSIDERED FOR A GRANT, A PROPOSAL MUST:

- Mobilize strategies that will enhance, expand or create new recreational resources that encourage/support people's decision to be physically active and provide healthy physical activities; weighted preference will be given to those projects that address the need to support inclusion in proposed activities by providing equitable access for the broader community. Universal Design is the standard;
- Identify a clear path to long-term sustainability. Applicants must demonstrate how the grant activities will be sustained outside the grant period; and/or
- Be part of the overall "recreation plan" developed by the community where the project will be located.

APPLICATION EVALUATION CRITERIA:

CSCHF will evaluate each application on the following criteria:

- Does the proposal have goals/objectives that advance CSCHF's mission?
- Does the proposal identify an unmet community need/health risk?
- Does the proposal have measurable goals and objectives?
- Does the proposal have a budget that identifies and covers all necessary expenditures?
- Does the proposal identify a sustainability plan?
- Is there potential to achieve significant long-term impact by implementing effective models or supporting needed innovation;
- Does the proposal demonstrate the use of industry standards, best practices, or science-based methodologies as appropriate;
- Does the proposal demonstrate collaboration, including leveraging other resources; and
- Does the proposal have the potential to be replicated in other settings, including opportunities for learning, knowledge dissemination, and informing public policy?

The CSCHF Grants Committee and Board of Directors have sole responsibility for all grant decisions.

APPLICATIONS 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 a budget gap for current services; and;
- Individuals or families and for-profit entities

4. GRANT AMOUNT

The CSCHF expects to award up to \$100,000.00 towards successful proposals under this round of funding. There is no minimum or maximum grant amount awarded per grant under this RFP. It is the intention that these funds would be used as matching monies to leverage more substantial investments that will enhance and improve recreational opportunities. Please note that funding will not be available until 2026; however, we are accepting proposals in advance to plan for future projects.

5. APPLICATION PROCESS

Although not required, Copper Shores Community Health Foundation strongly encourages all interested applicants to submit a [Letter of Inquiry](#) (LOI) prior to submitting a grant application. An LOI helps promote a clear understanding, collaboration, and project outcomes between CSCHF and grant applicants. Please approach the LOI as an abbreviated grant proposal that CSCHF can review to determine if a project matches our funding interests and is suitable for formal grant consideration. If an applicant has questions, they are encouraged to contact the CSCHF office prior to formal submission of the application or refer to the CSCHF's FAQ section on CSCHF's web page.

All interested parties intending to apply for funding support are encouraged to visit CSCHF's website (www.coppershores.org) to download an LOI and/or application.

Applications can be mailed to:

Copper Shores Community Health Foundation
400 Quincy St. - PO Box 299
Hancock, MI 49930

Or submitted via email to:

info@coppershores.org

6. GRANTEE OBLIGATIONS

If awarded, applicants must agree to:

- Identify CSCHF (and partners if required) as the source of funding in any program communications;
- Set specific outcomes for the proposed program, monitor progress toward achieving expected outcomes, and report progress on a regular basis to the Copper Shores Community Health Foundation;
- Participate in any data collection and evaluation activities conducted by the CSCHF and/or its partners; and
- Participate in grantee gatherings and other activities that support dissemination of knowledge.

7. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank all the community organizations and municipal leaders who have provided counsel, input, and patience as we have worked to develop this funding opportunity.

The Copper Shores Community Health Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization that receives and contributes charitable donations which support the health needs of the community through enhanced philanthropy and community collaboration throughout Baraga, Houghton, Keweenaw and Ontonagon counties.