



Grand Haven Schools Foundation

Grant Making

(Considerations and Criteria)

Mission: The Grand Haven Schools Foundation ("GHSF") exists to provide opportunities and programs to enhance education, for people of all ages, in the Grand Haven community.

Overview: In essence, the GHSF seeks, through the generosity of donors and the making of grants, to positively impact the lives of area residents by supporting programs and activities which are consistent with the GHSF's mission and focus, and which are not otherwise funded due to the limited resources on the part of the Grand Haven Area Public Schools and/or other area program providers.

Grants are made from the GHSF's Endowment Fund, which is maintained with and managed by the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation. As an Endowment Fund, and in order to preserve the principal of the Fund to enable the making of grants for the benefit of future generations, only a small percentage of the Fund (typically reflective of its earnings) is available for grant making on an annual basis. (The GHSF has, by resolution of its Board of Directors, limited the amount of its Endowment Fund which may be disbursed through grant making in any given year. By further resolution of its Board, these grant making limitations can only be exceeded upon a 2/3 vote of all members [whether or not present] of the GHSF Board of Directors).

Focus: In 2003, the Board of Directors voted to focus the GHSF's grant making activity in two areas: 1) grants to support programs and activities which will enhance early childhood development, particularly through increased parenting skills and early language development for children through age 7; and 2) grants to support after school activities for middle and high school students.

Criteria: In an effort to achieve the GHSF's stated mission, its general purpose, and its chosen focus, the Board of Directors shall, when dealing with grant applications or requests, consider the following guidelines or criteria:

1. Grants will only be made in support of charitable and not-for-profit purposes;
2. Grants will generally be made to groups or organizations which are charitable or not-for-profit in nature; and grants will not be made for the personal benefit of any grant applicant(s) or recipient(s);
3. The intended and actual use of the grant proceeds should be consistent with the GHSF's mission and purpose, and should generally be compatible with its focus;



4. Grants should generally serve and benefit a significant number of persons, as distinguished from an individual or small group;
5. Grants shall generally be made to support programs or activities for which funding is not readily available from other sources (e.g., programs or activities supported by a "boosters" organization will not generally be funded);
6. Grants will only be made to applicants who are committed to ensure that the grant proceeds, and the programs or activities they support, will be used and administered in a legally appropriate manner (e.g., free from unlawful discrimination, etc.);
7. Grants, when made, will be made only from the GHSF's Endowment Fund, and then only in such amounts and subject to such limitations as the Board of Directors may reasonably determine (e.g., grant awards may differ from grant requests, etc.); and
8. Grants will be awarded in the sole discretion of the GHSF's Board of Directors. When acting on any given grant application or request, the Board may consider:
 - a. The perceived need for or value of the program or activity to be supported by the grant, in relation to the GHSF's mission, purpose and focus;
 - b. The financial and/or management strength, or other character, of the group or organization which will receive, manage and administer the grant proceeds;
 - c. The potential availability of funding for the program or activity from other sources;
 - d. The repetitive nature, if any, of the grant application or request; and evidence of program sustainability; and
 - e. Such other factors as the Board of Directors, in its discretion, may deem relevant to the exercise of its grant making authority.

Applications: All grant applications or requests shall be submitted on a GHSF Grant Application form (as the same may be amended from time to time); and all such Grant Applications shall be accompanied by such supplemental information or documentation (e.g., budgets, program detail, non-discrimination commitment, etc.) as the GHSF may require.