WE’VE
GOT
YOUR
BACK.
Battle Creek
@kindred_photo_

Saginaw
@garykoelzerphotography
Each day, you’re working to create better outcomes for the communities you serve.
CMF is here to support all you do to build vibrant communities with great opportunity for all.
COUNCIL OF MICHIGAN FOUNDATIONS

Simply put, the Council of Michigan Foundations is a community of philanthropists committed to improving outcomes for Michigan, and beyond. But who we are boils down to what we do.

We bring people and ideas together, sharing knowledge and leveraging our collective voice to increase the impact of Michigan philanthropy.

What we do is best described in verbs:

partner
invest
convene
collaborate
innovate
advocate
We believe leveraging intersections, understanding differences and growing together are powerful actions to address even the most complex issues.

The Council of Michigan Foundations is a membership association that delivers a thriving community of passionate, motivated philanthropists who are united in our commitment to increase the impact of philanthropy in Michigan, and beyond.

Consider us your confidants, your supporters, and your first stop for Michigan philanthropy. Behind every shift, obstacle or opportunity, you’ve got a community to back you up, challenge you and support you.

Diversity, equity and inclusion are woven through each facet of our work as, together with our members, we seek to achieve vibrant communities with great opportunity for all.

The problems we address might be different, but our collective voice and social impact are strong.

45

The Council of Michigan Foundations has been serving Michigan philanthropists for more than 45 years.

From workshops and networking events to advocacy and mentoring, our services exist for YOU.

There’s always a peer to find around the state, and if I can’t find one around the state, CMF can connect me to somebody in the country doing it.

Surabhi Pandit
Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan
WHAT WE DO FOR YOU

Advocate
Leveraging the collective voice of our membership, we work closely with legislators, educating them about philanthropy, the nonprofit sector and public-private partnerships.

Counsel
Through learning programs, toolkits, one-on-one assistance, and other services, we equip you with the resources you need to be as effective as possible in your role.

Provide thought leadership and action opportunities
We continuously monitor trends and activities in the sector, identifying key issues, working collaboratively to deeply understand those issues, and then mobilizing with members to address them.

Connect
Partnering is at the root of all we do. We leverage our extensive statewide, national, and global relationships so you can leverage increased impact in your work. We connect you with peers, thought leaders, think tanks, and government officials to forge collaborations and get you the resources, support, and assistance you need.

WHAT WE ARE

WHA T WE DO FOR YOU

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Advocacy
Helps cultivate government relationships and a collective voice for a legislative environment conducive to organized philanthropy.

The Governor’s Office of Foundation Liaison
Identifies and brokeres innovative public-private partnerships and strategic collaborations between Michigan’s executive leadership and grantmakers.

Events
Both in-person and virtual—offer opportunities for learning, networking, and igniting new ideas.

Affinity groups
Issue-driven and public policy-focused to help support collaborative philanthropic responses in key issue areas.

Learning communities
Provide opportunities to come together to learn, explore and test ideas around a specific topic or project. Some communities engage in collaborative funding.

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CMF committees
Involved volunteer members who represent our members’ collective voice and whose leadership brings our mission to life.

Online communities
Provide an interactive forum for members to engage with peers, crowdsourcing topics and issues important to your work in real time.

Consulting services
Provides diverse and highly skilled network of vetted independent consultants contracted through CMF to assure you get what you need from a consulting engagement.

Web services
Leverages CMF’s expertise for design and maintenance of a fully customized website reflective of your mission and brand.

Impact investing
Offers step-by-step assistance towards building an impact investing practice at your organization.

Mentoring
Develops emerging leaders and nurtures a pipeline to a career in philanthropy and provides support to increase retention of those already in the field.

Ask CMF
Gives you access to our team of experts here to answer your questions, track down research and connect you to resources.

The Weekly Download
Provides distilled, quick read news delivered to your inbox every Monday at 6 a.m.

Ways to engage and make the most of your membership

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Provides distilled, quick read news delivered to your inbox every Monday at 6 a.m.
CMF produces a robust annual calendar of events so members can easily plan professional development, as well as additionally scheduled programs that provide critical information that arises throughout the year.

Members can learn while networking with others—in person or through our convenient virtual environment—to tap into the sector’s latest knowledge, resources and best practices. Through CMF’s programming and extensive partnerships, our learning calendar pulls in national and local voices, covering issues from the basics to the provocative, all centered around driving discussion and learning of important philanthropic topics.

**WAYS TO ENGAGE**

**Events**

Tap into the sector’s latest knowledge, resources and best practices. Through CMF’s programming and extensive partnerships, our learning calendar pulls in national and local voices, covering issues from the basics to the provocative, all centered around driving discussion and learning of important philanthropic topics.

**What we offer**

- **In-person and virtual learning opportunities.**
- **Regularly scheduled monthly learning series events organized around various topics.**
- **Specialized retreats connecting members with a community of peers to network, learn and share ideas.**
- **CMF’s Annual Conference, connecting members to national thought leaders and innovative programming on issues relevant to your work.**

*CMF Annual Conference attendees at The Big House in 2016*

*Midland Area Community Foundation staff Ben Tierney, Dave Kil, Melissa Keaterson, and Emily Schafer*
CMF’s issue-driven, public policy-focused affinity groups help to lead and support collaborative philanthropic responses to Michigan’s most critical needs in key issue areas, as they strive to grow vibrant communities with great opportunity for all.

WAYS TO ENGAGE

Affinity Groups

CMF’s issue-driven, public policy-focused affinity groups help to lead and support collaborative philanthropic responses to Michigan’s most critical needs in key issue areas, as they strive to grow vibrant communities with great opportunity for all.

CMF Affinity Groups

- Convene members for learning, networking and knowledge exchange.
- Catalyze change on critical needs in their respective issue areas.
- Are represented on the CMF Public Policy Committee.
- Collaborate on funding and action to maximize collective voice.
- Each has its own online community for continued conversation with colleagues.

Arts & Culture Affinity Group
Michigan Grantmakers in Aging
Michigan Forum for African Americans in Philanthropy
Michigan Grantmakers for Women & Girls
Michigan Land Use Funders
P-20 Education Affinity Group
Rural Philanthropy Affinity Group
Health Funders Affinity Group
Talent & Human Resources Affinity Group

What I really enjoy about being a part of the Rural Philanthropy Affinity Group is that we are able to talk about, and tackle, the big issues that combine us versus what separates us, when you think about the rich diversity of the state of Michigan.

Regina Bell
W.K. Kellogg Foundation
Learning Communities

Creating opportunities for members to come together to learn, explore or test ideas around a specific topic or activity is a primary goal of our Learning Communities. Learning Communities can be short-term or long-term, depending on the needs of the members or duration of the activity, and new ones are added as the need and interest arises.

WAYS TO ENGAGE

Learning Communities

Brings CMF members together to learn from experts and each other about leading environmental issues and how to make more effective and intentional environmental grants, impact environmental policy and leverage grant dollars.

The Green and Blue Network (GBN)

The Scholarship Learning Community

Brings together CMF members who grant academic scholarships to individuals. Together, these organizations learn effective strategies for scholarship grantmaking, with topics spanning legal issues, ways to improve the application process, and how to increase the impact scholarships make on their communities.

Green & Blue Action Fund

A pooled funding vehicle called the Green & Blue Action Fund is also provided through the GBN for foundations interested in Michigan land and water issues.

The idea for the fund came out of the group’s field trip meetings, where topics are explored with the assistance of local experts at the site of the environmental issue.

As members got to know one another and develop the trust that is essential for collaboration, they became more interested in coming together to fund grants that support issues of interest to the Network.

By pooling funds to be able to make jointly funded grants, the Fund serves to:

- Allow participants to make larger and more impactful grants than many can make on their own
- Demonstrate support for projects that need evidence of private and/or community support to leverage government grant funding, when appropriate
We believe in the importance of public-private partnerships, a hallmark of our society for over 100 years, as critical to a thriving social sector with great opportunity for all.

By connecting, educating, exchanging, exploring and acting, CMF has demonstrated decades of development of successful public-private partnerships. These activities are directed by the member-led CMF Public Policy and Government Relations Committees.

Advocacy

Through member education and policy briefings, site visits and other unique learning opportunities, CMF advocates for a legislative and regulatory environment conducive to organized philanthropy, as well as issue areas that are deliberated by our members and directed by our Board of Trustees.

CMF works hard so we can do really good philanthropy. They spend a lot of time in Washington. They spend a lot of time in Lansing to make sure that philanthropy has a future.

Ellie Frey
The Frey Foundation

Foundations on the Hill:

- Informs and educates Congress about philanthropy
- Creates visibility for foundations and philanthropy on Capitol Hill
- Educates on issues affecting foundations and the nonprofit sector
- Encourages Congress to view foundations as resources for data and education issues

For more than 30 years, Foundations on the Hill (FOTH) has served as an annual two-day event organized by CMF and its partner philanthropic organizations for foundation leaders and grantmakers throughout the country to meet with your members of Congress and agency representatives in Washington, D.C. to personally discuss your work.
Individually, we’re just one voice, but together with all of the members of CMF, we’re a collective voice for impact in Michigan.

Neal Hegarty
C.S. Mott Foundation

The Michigan OFL is the first cabinet-level position in the nation designed to help identify and broker innovative funding partnerships and strategic collaborations between the state and foundations.

The OFL was initiated and is funded by members of the Council of Michigan Foundations.

The OFL organizes briefings with state government, provides counsel to CMF members, as appropriate, and works deeply in the Governor’s identified priority areas.

Since its inception in 2003, the OFL has brokered more than $100 million in foundation investments in initiatives to increase Michigan’s economic competitiveness through reforms in K-12 education, economic and workforce development, health, early childhood and land use.
Members who serve on our volunteer committees provide counsel and direction to bring our mission to life and represent the collective voice of our members, ultimately guiding everything we do.

WAYS TO ENGAGE

Governance

Audit Committee
Supports CMF’s fiscal sustainability.

Executive Committee
Comprised of the officers of the Board of Trustees, this body is authorized to make decisions in between trustee meetings.

Governance Committee
Guides board development and nomination process, CEO assessment process and Board of Trustees succession planning.

Program

InFocus Program Committee
Shapes the development of our InFocus lunch-and-learn programs, analyzing key issue areas and experts.

Family Philanthropy Committee
Guides family foundation member opportunities.

Community Foundation Committee
Guides community foundation member opportunities.

Corporate Committee
Guides corporate foundation and giving program member opportunities.

Annual Conference Committee
Leads the design and development of the CMF Annual Conference.

Operations

Investment Committee
Due to the wisdom of CMF members, CMF has an endowment from which earnings support both general operations as well as specified activities. This committee directs the investment portfolio.

Impact Investing Committee
Counsels CMF on the impact investing field in education, policy, services and infrastructure to support its continued development and use.

Public Policy Committee
Is comprised of issue area affinity group representatives and members at large and provides guidance to the Board of Trustees on member priorities in relation to social sector issue policy positions.

Government Relations Committee
Is responsible for making recommendations to the Board of Trustees regarding the CMF government relations agenda that is focused on educating policymakers on issues affecting the field of philanthropy (tax reform, federal excise tax, etc.).

Membership Committee
Guides membership strategy, recruitment and member engagement.
Online Communities

Engage with peers on topics and issues important to your work through our Online Communities. Members can join the conversation through ongoing group emails and online forums.

You can curate your content by using the daily digest function that delivers all of the day’s messages in one easy-to-read e-mail, track conversations as they are archived on our website and stay connected with your online community’s activity through an easy-to-use dashboard.

WAYS TO ENGAGE

Use our communities to

- Pose a question to the group.
- Discuss and brainstorm issues.
- Request assistance on a specific topic, problem or issue.
- Alert members about time-sensitive or other helpful information.
- Share documents or other resources.

My best source of what’s coming down the pipelines that we should be thinking about is from constant conversation with other Council of Michigan Foundations members, and frankly, it’s always nice just to know that we’re not alone in this work.

Neel Hajra
Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation
Consulting Services

Our diverse and highly skilled network of vetted Michigan-based independent consultants has extensive experience providing counsel to all types of foundations. Their credentials may be viewed on the CMF website.

From board training, strategic planning and growing impact to succession planning, impact investing, leadership development, evaluation, strategic partnership facilitation and much more, consultants’ diverse expertise and our network’s flexible structure allows us to create customized solutions that can respond to even the most complex member needs.

CMF serves as the contracting agent, to assist members every step of the way as you select a consultant from the expert network and support contract development.

Members may fund their engagements through a grant award as CMF is a 501(c)(3) organization.

Web Services

Launch your online presence without spending a fortune, with the help of our Web Services team. Our staff will work closely with foundation leadership to identify your organization’s needs and goals and create a fully customized website reflective of your mission and brand.

Why Engage CMF Vetted Consultants?

Tailored Expertise
Given the unique characteristics of varying foundation business models and legal requirements, CMF has thoroughly vetted and selected consultants who have deep and direct expertise working with foundations.

Affordable
World-class expertise is accessible and affordable for our members due to the partnerships and standardized rate structure we’ve established with our consultants as part of their shared commitment to grow the impact of Michigan philanthropy.

Flexible
With our network approach, it is possible to change or add consultants if different expertise is needed as the engagement evolves (or to have CMF provide support from its core member services if appropriate to bridge gaps and manage costs).

Why partner with CMF?

CMF is a trusted source that understands foundations and philanthropy.

CMF Web Services creates a website fully customizable to foundation needs.

We offer low package pricing.

After your website is launched, we continue to support you through maintenance and regular updates.
Impact Investing

The Council of Michigan Foundations has been at the forefront of the emerging field of impact investing, working together with Mission Investors Exchange and other colleagues to ensure the development of best practices, policy, education and support to facilitate its use when appropriate. Impact investing directly supports our mission to grow the impact of Michigan philanthropy, and CMF is proud to support members every step of the way towards building an impact investing practice at your organization.

Conceptually, appropriate use of impact investing makes good sense for many in the philanthropic sector; practically, however, the field of impact investing still has real barriers to entry. CMF works with individual foundations and our Impact Investing Committee to address these barriers and ease the entry into impact investing for foundations of all sizes.

Melanie Audette
Mission Investors Exchange

Supporting growth of the practice
CMF convenes an impact investing committee comprising experienced leaders in the field that guide the impact investing programming and opportunities for members.

Addressing tension points
CMF works with all those involved across the spectrum of impact investing to surface pain points and issues, and together find solutions.

Field building & learning
We are committed to sharing what works and what doesn’t, and to helping others on the journey to launching successful impact investing portfolios. From landscape scans, to webinars, institutes, and story sharing, we provide a holistic approach.

Forging dynamic relationships
We develop strategic partnerships with thought leaders and institutions who share our mission and embrace a spirit of bold thinking and urgent action.
We’re making major strides in Detroit, and we’re doing so with such young talent. With that young talent, we want to make sure we have mentors to continue to succeed and to get that real life conversation of ‘this is what we’ve done before, this is where we’ve failed and this is where we can help you out.’ CMF really gives us that network of relationships to continue to expand our work.

Angela Melendez
Quicken Loans

WAYS TO ENGAGE

Mentoring Program

Our mentoring program is designed to grow the capacity of emerging leaders in the field and to build a pipeline to careers in philanthropy for a diverse talent pool. The overarching goal is to develop leaders who better reflect the demographics of our state and who develop deeper expertise in the relationship of diversity, equity and inclusion to their work. Those in the CMF Mentoring Program:

Connect
Through monthly engagements, foster long-lasting business relationships and share your knowledge.

Develop
Through webinars and personalized sessions with an executive coach, develop your leadership style.

Learn
Through in-person meetings, webinars and 1:1 interaction, learn from those who have deep expertise in philanthropy.

Grow
Through intentional engagement, expand your leadership skills and broaden your professional network.
Our team of experts is here to answer your questions, track down research and get you where you need to go. We leverage our extensive internal knowledge and external partners to find answers and provide counsel—as a free benefit for our members!

WAYS TO ENGAGE

What kinds of questions does CMF answer?

From legal education to specific data requests, CMF responds to hundreds of “Ask CMF” questions each year, ranging in scope and size. Sample topical areas have included:

- Potential conflict of interest scenarios
- Board succession planning
- Evaluating sunsetting a fund or foundation
- Giving and volunteering in Michigan data requests
- Dollars given to specific funding areas
- Legal requirements of foundations of all types
- Intervention outcomes for specific issue areas

A distilled, quick-read news vehicle delivered to your inbox every Monday at 6 a.m., The Weekly Download is news you can use. We continually scan the news in the sector and state to bring you what you need to know in Michigan philanthropy to start your week, every week.

We always look forward to getting the CMF Weekly Download email every Monday morning in our inboxes, chock full of good information, succinct, to the point, timely, about what we need to know based on what’s going on in Michigan philanthropy that week.

Caroline Altman Smith
The Kresge Foundation
CMF brings together a diverse community of philanthropists of all sizes and practices, from zero to hundreds of staff and everywhere in between who, through individual and collective efforts, are growing the impact of Michigan philanthropy. It’s your stories and successes that motivate and drive what we do. We’re honored to participate in your important work.

85%

CMF members collectively represent approximately 85 percent of Michigan’s organized philanthropic assets.

When I’m struggling, it’s good to know other folks are struggling too, sometimes with the same things, and that there’s a community of folks that I can connect with that may have overcome some of those struggles and can help me.

Jason Paulateer
PNC

Being a part of CMF is like being with my family. When I attend CMF seminars or events I get to spend time with my sisters and brothers in philanthropy.

Sara Morley LaCroix
The Morley Family Foundation

What I value most about CMF is the access to an exceptional staff, and what I especially love about that staff is how responsive they are to the needs that I have. You can make a phone call, jot a quick email and you can always count on a quick, accurate, and informative response.

Chip Hansen
Charlevoix Area Community Foundation
CMF brings together a diverse population of philanthropists across the state. Without CMF, I wouldn’t have the opportunity to network with other people who understand the state of work and understand that we all need to come together to work to better our communities.

Alex Dawson
The Community Foundation of Greater Flint

Our CMF membership helps DENSO because it gives us a venue to check our ideas, verify what we’re doing, talk to others who are in that same situation. We can discuss the ins and outs of corporate foundation work, corporate giving, especially how these issues affect our companies, and the creative solutions we’re utilizing.

Melissa Smith
DENSO

I value the global perspective that CMF brings to our philanthropic community.

Ellen Crane
Harvey Randall Wickes Foundation

At CMF, there’s a great energy and enthusiasm and a real ethic of work and dedication and commitment to doing what’s right, and doing what’s right for Michigan.

Carolyn Bloodworth
Consumers Energy Foundation
**LET’S DO GREAT WORK, TOGETHER**

Our team is eager to help you get the resources, connections and support you need to increase the impact of philanthropy in Michigan, and beyond.

To request a time to connect with our staff, please contact 616-842-7080.

*Prefer this information via web? Visit us online at www.michiganfoundations.org. While you’re there, hear directly from our members by watching our member video highlights.*

*Prefer social media? Connect with us on Twitter, Facebook or LinkedIn @michfoundations.*
Vision
To achieve vibrant communities with great opportunity for all.

Mission
To grow the impact of Michigan philanthropy.

Values
Leadership
Collaboration
Inclusion
Integrity
Knowledge
Effectiveness
Continual Improvement
Importance of People