

Community Foundation Youth Advisory Council (YAC)

Best Practices

The YAC is a permanent advisory committee of the community foundation with the primary responsibility of making funding recommendations for grants made from the community foundation's endowed Youth Fund. This resource is intended to serve as a guide for YACs.

- 1: The YAC has a minimum of seven official meetings each year.
- 2: The YAC has a minimum of 12 members ages 12–21 who reflect the many forms of diversity found in the local youth community. For example, these may be race, gender identity, school and socioeconomic status.
- 3: The YAC has one or more YAC advisors who are knowledgeable and supportive of youth development, youth leadership and the Michigan Community Foundations Youth Project.
- 4: The YAC holds an annual orientation for all members and encourages them to participate in training opportunities that will strengthen their skills in philanthropy. The YAC utilizes resources available through the Council of Michigan Foundations in training and growing their skills including Learning to Give, Fall Training lesson plans and resource guides.
- 5: The YAC assesses issues critical to youth in their respective community at least every three years. This typically takes place through a needs assessment.
- 6: The YAC engages in a grantmaking process that is targeted towards needs presented in a needs assessment and is responsive to the timely critical issues of area youth annually.
- 7: The YAC evaluates the effectiveness of each grant annually. Examples of this include site visits, grant reviews, follow ups and maintaining a connection with nonprofit partners.
- 8: The YAC participates in a minimum of two community service projects annually. This can include a project targeted toward critical youth issues in the local community. For example, a project completed with nonprofit partners.
- 9: The YAC engages in fund development activities to assist with the continual growth of the endowed Youth Fund annually.
- 10: The YAC has at least one YAC member serving as a voting member on the community foundation Board of Trustees. Larger foundations are encouraged to have at least two.
- 11: The YAC interacts with the community foundation board, staff and donors at least twice a year on a formal and informal level.
- 12: The YAC has activities highlighted by the community foundation's annual report, website, newsletters, public presentations and other communication tools.
- 13: The YAC conducts an annual self-assessment to reflect upon its strengths, challenges, use of best practices and opportunities for improvement.
- 14: The YAC strives to participate in and attend the Youth Grantmakers Summer Leadership Conference, regional trainings and advisor trainings.
- 15: The YAC centers grantmaking, recruitment, fund development, community service and all other activities in equity, diversity and inclusion.