foundation
michigan municipal league

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26-27 Bridge Builders Community Microgrants Application

Grant Amount: Up to $1,500 | Eligible Project Period: January 1, 2027 – September 30, 2027

Scan QR Code to the right to apply. Applications must be completed online by November 13, 2026.

All of the following questions are required *unless* otherwise specified.

Overview & Program Information

Bridge Builders Community Microgrants offer small, one-time grants of up to $1,500 for collaborative, creative projects or events in Michigan Municipal League member communities.

Each project should build bridges across the community by bringing people together. Projects may take many forms, from public art and performances to community events, storytelling projects, temporary installations, cultural activities, and other creative ideas that encourage people to connect with one another and their community.

Application Requirements

1. A creative project or event in a neighborhood or community.
2. Details about how the project brings people together, welcomes participation, and creates opportunities for community members of different backgrounds, ages, experiences, and abilities to connect and engage.
3. A start date of January 1, 2027 or later. Projects must be completed by September 30, 2027.

Eligibility

Eligible Applicants:

- Schools and student clubs and organizations
- Nonprofit organizations with a specific community focus
- Churches and faith-based organizations
- Local government entities (townships, villages, cities, fire departments, etc.)
- Libraries and other public institutions
- Community organizations (service clubs, scout troops, veteran's organizations, neighborhood associations, etc.)
- Informal groups of neighbors or community members working together on a community project

Ineligible Applicants:

- Businesses/for-profit entities (**please see Main Street Microgrants**)
- Organizations without a specific neighborhood focus
- Past recipients of Bridge Builders funding

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Section 1: Screening & Eligibility

Screening Criteria

If you answer "no" to any of the following questions, your project will not be eligible:

1. Will your project take place in a Michigan Municipal League member community?
2. Is the applicant one of the eligible entity types listed above?
3. Is the applicant prepared to receive and track any awarded funds?
4. Is the applicant a trusted member of the community?
5. Would the applicant be a first-time recipient of Bridge Builders funding?
6. Will your project start no earlier than January 1, 2027 and conclude by September 30, 2027?
7. If awarded a Bridge Builders Microgrant, are you willing to participate in a virtual Zoom meeting with the MML Foundation prior to receiving grant funds?

Questions

1. I have read the above eligibility requirements, and:

- I answered "yes" to all of the above questions.
- I answered "no" to one or more of the above questions. (**Note**: Selecting "no" renders the project ineligible for this microgrant).

Section 2: About the Applicant

Note: The category selected here will determine where grant funds are sent, if awarded.

2. I'm applying as a: (Single Select)

- Schools and student clubs and organizations
- Nonprofit organizations with a specific community focus
- Churches and faith-based organizations
- Local government entities (townships, villages, cities, fire departments, etc.)
- Libraries and other public institutions
- Community organizations (service clubs, scout troops, veteran's organizations, neighborhood associations, etc.)
- Informal groups of neighbors or community members working together on a community project

3. Lead Project Entity Name

Please give the name of the organization or entity that will be leading the project and receiving the grant.

4. Primary Contact Name and Title

Please include first and last name and title (such as Executive Director, Program Manager, etc.).

5. Primary Contact Email Address

Please provide an email address for the primary point of contact on this project.

6. Primary Contact Phone Number

Please provide a phone number for the primary point of contact on this project.

7. Lead Entity Website (Optional)

8. Lead Entity Social Media (Optional)

X, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, etc. handles *(Tip: list the account where project updates will be posted!)*

9. Primary Contact Mailing Address

10. Brief Description of Your Organization

Note: If you are an informal group of neighbors or community members, please include details of how you came together as a group.

Section 3: About the Project & Community Needs

11. City, Village, or Township where your project will take place

Note: If your project takes place in Lapeer County, please apply through the Lapeer County Community Foundation.

12. What is the project's name?

Tip: Make this catchy for promotional purposes!

13. Anticipated Project Launch Date

Note: Project launch dates must be between January 1, 2027 and must conclude by September 30, 2027.

14. Brief Description of Proposed Project

Please describe your project idea including: a) Is it a project or event? b) What will you do? c) Where will you do it? d) Who, if any, are your project partners?

15. How will you engage your community in this project?

16. How will the project bring people together, welcome participation, and create opportunities for community members of different backgrounds, ages, experiences, and abilities to connect and engage?

17. Does your project require any permits? (Single Select)

For example, street closures or installing permanent art pieces likely require special permits from your local governing body or zoning board. All applicants must obtain any necessary permits if selected.

- Single select: Yes, No, or Other

18. If "Other", please briefly explain how permits will potentially be involved:

19. Why does your community need this project?

20. What do you hope to achieve through this project?

21. What resources do you already have to make this project successful?

(Resource examples: time, partners, funding, expertise/experience, donated goods/materials/space, etc.)

22. Additional Social Media Links (Optional)

Please provide links to any additional social media accounts that will be promoting your project, if applicable.

23. Additional Partner Groups / Organizations (Optional)

Please list additional groups/organizations partnering on this project and how they will be involved (e.g. non-profits, community groups, associations, etc.).

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Section 4: Budget & Supporting Attachments

24. Upload up to five photos/images that highlight your project

Note: At least two "before" photos of the project location are required for placemaking projects. (Cell phone photos acceptable; max 5 files).

25. Letter of Support from Property Owner

Upload a letter of support from the owner of the property where the project or event will occur.

26. Nonprofit Documentation (Conditional)

If applying as a nonprofit organization, attach your IRS Nonprofit Determination Letter and annual budget.

27. Spending Plan for the $1,500 Microgrant

List and explain items, services, fees, expertise, materials, supplies, or payments to artists that you plan to purchase or spend money on.

28. Projected Project Budget

Upload a copy of the projected budget for this project detailing expenses and costs.

29. Additional Information (Optional)

Any additional information that you wish to share that is not otherwise required.

Section 5: Certification and Acknowledgements

Terms & Agreements

- I certify that the above information is true to the best of my knowledge.
- I agree that we will obtain any necessary permits or permissions from our city/village/township to execute our project.
- I agree that the specified point of contact will be responsible for communicating status updates and messages from the MML Foundation to all project partners.
- I agree to provide a letter of support from the owner of the property where the project or event will occur, if requested/required.
- I have read all requirements for this grant.
- Upon submission, application materials become property of the MML Foundation and may be reviewed with community planning agencies or funding sources. If approved, a final report is required by November 13, 2027.

30. Signature (Required | E-Signature)

- **Signature:** _____

31. Date of Application Submission (Required | Date)

- **Date:** _____