

2024-2025 Classis Gr East Community Engagement Grants

1. **Together West Michigan (TWM): Annual Dues. Award: \$2,000**

Classis GRE is an institutional member of TWM, a community development and advocacy organization, which has identified through listening sessions four primary community issues. The \$2,000 recommended award is a reduction by \$1,000 from last year's award and is 33% of the total dues owed; the remaining amount is raised through individual churches.

2. **Bates Place Neighbors Project: Training and implementation of Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) principles and practices. Award: \$10,500**

Classis GRE through the Community Engagement Team is encouraging churches to engage with their neighborhoods using ABCD principles. Part of the grant is used for providing ongoing support and training for churches in the Classis that use ABCD practices including First, Sherman Street, Neland, Fuller, and Calvin. In addition to ongoing support, the 2024-25 grant will go directly to complete the work with Calvin and begin with a new, yet not named, church. We have made multiple year grants to support the two year on-boarding process for churches in the past. This grant is the first of two years totally \$14,000. The recommended award of \$10,500 is a reduction of \$7,500 from the current grant.

3. **70X7: Re-entry Networking Lunch. Award: \$4,000**

The Re-entry Lunch, held at Oakdale Park, is intended to connect returning citizens with people and organizations to make their transition back to society successful. CET grants have supported this project for many years. The recommended \$4,000 award is what was requested and \$2,000 more than distributed last year.

4. **African Resource Center: FutureNow! Youth Empowerment Project. Award: \$4,000**

This is also a project that CET has supported for several years. The project works primarily with African immigrant youth and connects with several churches in our classis. The recommended award of \$4,000 is the amount requested and the same amount awarded this past year.

5. **Alger/Garfield Neighbors: Community Collaborative. Award: \$3,000**

The collaborative works to connect neighbors, businesses, schools, churches, and organizations in the Alger Heights and Garfield Park neighborhoods. Seymour CRC and Alger Park CRC, which is in Classis GR South, benefit from these efforts. The recommended award of \$3,000 is what is requested.

6. **First CRC: Ibihe Bishimishije (Fun Times). Award \$2,500**

A new project proposed by First CRC, Ibihe Bishimishije consists of summer sports and arts activities engaging African immigrant children and youth living near the church. The grant request is for \$2,500.

7. **ICCF Community Homes: Community Connectors. Award: \$4,000**

This is a continuation request to support Community Connectors, who use ABCD practices, with residents in the ICCF housing developments. This is done in conjunction with Madison South Hill Campus, Madison North Campus, and Eastern Ave CRC and ICCF's residents. The request of \$4,000, which is the same amount currently provided, is recommended.

8. **Seymour CRC: Take Two Personal Hygiene Pantry. Award: \$1,000**

Take Two is a monthly pantry that provides necessary personal hygiene products to people in the southeast Grand Rapids area using volunteers ranging from teenagers to retired individuals that help with the pantry. The request is for \$5,000. The team believes the request does not fit well with the published criteria and there is recommending a award of \$1,000 which is the same as was received in the current grant year.

9. **West Mi Friendship Center: Afghan Refugee Ministry. Award: \$4,000**

A new request, the Friendship Center intends to partner with Church of the Servant to assist recently arrived Afghan refugees acclimate to America and to provide support services that will enable the families to thrive. The project will provide a structured opportunity for members of COS, and other congregations, to receive training and to develop mutually beneficial friendships with these Afghan refugees. \$4,000 is recommended of the \$4,000 requested.