

## Council of Michigan Foundations

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: May 26, 1988

### Grants Will Strengthen Michigan Community Foundations

The Council of Michigan Foundations (CMF) has received grants of \$2 million from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation of Battle Creek and \$150,000 from the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation of Flint to strengthen the work of Michigan community foundations.

The grants will help involve youth in activities that encourage philanthropy and volunteerism, and provide technical assistance for community foundations to better serve their communities.

Mott's Michigan Technical Assistance program for community foundations will address joint and individual needs. A program associate will be hired for the three-year effort to coordinate and deliver service.

"Through the years, community foundations in Michigan have been a vital force in helping meet local needs by supporting projects in education, health, and a variety of other human welfare concerns," said John E. Marshall III, president of the Kresge Foundation and chairman of the Council of Michigan Foundations.

With cutbacks in federal and state social programs, most voluntary human service organizations are faced with more needs than they can adequately meet, according to Marshall. "This puts even more pressure on community foundations," he said.

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As a result, such foundations must increase community awareness and fiscal support if they are to continue to grow and provide funds for their communities, according to Suzanne L. Feurt, a Mott Foundation officer.

"Young people can help fill this void," said Peter R. Ellis, Kellogg Foundation program director. "They represent a valuable local resource. It is important that they be exposed to volunteer and leadership opportunities and become educated about the rewards of giving."

The grants will support a Challenge Grant Program administered by CMF. The program will encourage youth development through the creation of special youth fund projects. It also is expected to strengthen community foundation board leadership and increase grant making capacities.

"The effort is unique. It will involve young people both in the raising of matching funds for the grant and in evaluating youth-oriented projects for recommendation to local community foundation boards," said Marshall.

"It is hoped this involvement of youth in the experience of philanthropy and volunteerism will enhance continued growth in these areas for the next generation of community leaders."

Participating community foundations will receive assistance only after raising matching funds. The program will provide one dollar for every two dollars raised locally, up to a prescribed amount each foundation can receive.

Each participating community foundation will have a youth fund advisory committee. Fifty percent of its committee membership must be 21 years of age or younger. It is expected that the youth will use their experiences on the committee to increase their community service and also share information about community foundations with their peers.

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"This is a timely opportunity to positively influence the lives of thousands of Michigan youth and adults, and the localities in which they live," Ellis said.

CMF was established in 1973. It is a nonprofit association of Michigan private and community foundations and corporations making grants for charitable purposes.

The W.K. Kellogg Foundation, established in 1930 to "help people help themselves," has distributed more than \$1 billion in support of programs in agriculture, education, and health. The Foundation is today among the largest private philanthropic organizations in the world. It assists programs in the United States, Latin America, the Caribbean, and southern African countries. Projects in opportunities for youth are concentrated mainly in Michigan.

The Charles Stewart Mott Foundation is a private foundation with assets of more than \$800 million and annual grants of about \$30 million for programs fostering community self-improvement through education, citizen involvement, community leadership and development processes.

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## COUNCIL ON FOUNDATIONS

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### National Agenda for Community Foundations

#### On-Site Consulting Research Project

#### "Small Communities - Great Community Foundations"

The Charles Stewart Mott Foundation has awarded the Council on Foundation's On-Site Consulting Program \$50,000 for 1988 to conduct a collaborative research project with the Council of Michigan Foundations. The project seeks to identify the factors affecting the establishment and growth of community foundations serving communities with less than 250,000 in population. Community foundations are now the most rapidly growing segment of the philanthropic community and this project will be valuable in expanding our knowledge of how to help them as they are formed outside of major metropolitan centers.

The primary data collection will focus on Michigan, Indiana, and Ohio, three states with a large number of community foundations serving smaller communities.

Eugene Struckhoff will act as Senior Consultant to the project, working in coordination with Dan Joslyn and Martin Lehfeldt of Lehfeldt Associates. The Council of Michigan Foundations will oversee the data collection process. Julie Wernick will be the National Agenda's liaison to the project.

The Council hopes to expand the research to other regions in 1989. A major publication and a conference for representatives of community foundations in smaller communities are planned for later 1989.

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