



Young Community Changemakers Request for Proposals | 2026

Background

[Young Community Changemakers \(YC2\)](#) is a leadership development program designed to educate and empower local youth to become our community's next generation of philanthropists — those who give their time, talent, and treasure for the common good. Students from Nazareth Academy, Hinsdale Central, Lyons Township, and Riverside Brookfield High Schools are currently participating in the program. YC2 invites students to explore their local community and its social needs; learn about philanthropic theory; and engage in organizational evaluation and grantmaking.

YC2 is sponsored by Community Memorial Foundation (CMF); The Burjan Family; Moira and Paul Naffah; and Corlyn and Jeff Simmons. Together we share a vision that young people need opportunities to develop the skills to be the future leaders and stewards of our communities.

Grant Opportunity

YC2 students are divided into two funding cohorts that are seeking grant proposals for *general operating support* from Community Memorial Foundation grantee organizations. They will conduct site visits to evaluate grant requests and will award up to \$30,000 (\$15,000 per cohort) to further the mission and vision of Community Memorial Foundation.

Grantee organizations must select one funding cohort to whom they want to apply (Cohort A or Cohort B). Organizations cannot submit to both cohorts.

- **Funding Cohort A** has identified the following CMF funding priority for this grant opportunity: *Increase health equity by reducing the health, social and economic barriers to optimal well-being and quality of life, specifically the ability to pay.*
- **Funding Cohort B** has identified the following CMF funding priority for this grant opportunity: *Address the effect of poverty on health by providing for basic needs such as access to nutritious food and homelessness prevention, specifically programs that also promote self-sufficiency.*

Any CMF grantee organization that addresses these priorities is welcome to apply for funding.

Timeline

- Grant applications are due to the Foundation by 5:00 PM CST on Sunday, March 15, 2026.
- Applications can be accessed at cmfdn.org/yc2.
- Site visits will occur between April 20- May 2, 2026.
- Grantee(s) will be selected and notified the week of May 4, 2026.
- A YC2 celebration for students and grantees is scheduled for May 13, 2026.

Commonly Asked Questions

- Who is eligible to apply for a YC2 grant?
Any nonprofit organization that has received a grant from Community Memorial Foundation in the past five years and believes they are addressing the designated grant priority through its programs and services is welcome to apply for a YC2 grant.
- Can I apply for funding from both YC2 cohorts?
No. Grantee organizations must only select one funding cohort to whom they want to apply (Cohort A or Cohort B).
- Is this Request for Proposals for general operating grants or for a specific program?
This RFP seeks grant proposals for general operating support. Grant(s) awarded are an investment in the mission of the organization, not specifically for any one program.
- If I applied for (or received) a program or general operating grant in the past year from CMF, can I still apply for this grant opportunity?
Yes. This is a special grant opportunity. Applying for a YC2 grant will not affect eligibility to apply for other grants in CMF's spring and fall grant cycles.
- Who will review these grant requests? What will the grant process look like?
The students participating in the YC2 program will review the grant applications, conduct site visits with a select number of organizations, and then decide how to allocate up to \$30,000 in CMF funding (\$15,000 per cohort). They may allocate funding to up to six organizations (three per cohort). Site visits will be scheduled between April 20-May 3, 2026. Selected grantee(s) will be notified the week of May 4, 2026.
- Will all students attend each site visit?
No. The students will be divided into smaller groups of 5-10 people for site visits.
- How do I apply?
Applications can be accessed at cmfdn.org/yc2, and must be submitted no later than 5:00 PM on Sunday, March 15, 2026.

For more information about the YC2 program or about this grant opportunity, please contact Tom Fuechtmann (tfuechtmann@cmfdn.org) or Beth Murin (bmurin@cmfdn.org) at 630-654-4729.