



Walters Family  
Foundation

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# Guidelines



# Our Mission

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We created the Walters Family Foundation to build a legacy of family stewardship. Our family believes in the relationship between our communities and our natural environment and we are committed to supporting projects that encourage and preserve their mutual, lasting vitality.

The Walters Family Foundation seeks to strengthen Michigan communities through:

- Conserving our natural environment
- Celebrating arts and culture
- Advancing economic vitality
- Empowering people to reach their full potential through innovative learning initiatives

# Our Values

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Our values are the ideals held common by all of our family members. We seek to partner with those who share similar beliefs and motivations. Our family foundation is guided by four key values:

## **VISIONARY THINKING**

We value risk-taking, diverse perspectives and innovative solutions to challenging problems.

## **INTEGRITY**

We value honesty, authenticity and building relationships of mutual trust and respect with all people.

## **COLLABORATION**

We believe in investing collaboratively, stewards in partnership with those who share our interests and values.

## **CONTINUOUS LEARNING**

We believe in lifelong learning through formal education and self-enrichment, embracing unique life experiences and exploring diverse ideas and cultures.

# Guiding Principles

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Our guiding principles inform our grant selection process. Projects that inspire us embody one or more of these principles with the promise of creating a sustainable impact. The Walters Family Foundation supports Michigan-based initiatives that advance our mission in the following ways:

## **EMPOWERING INDIVIDUALS**

Helping people to learn, grow and achieve their full potential.

## **INNOVATIVE APPROACHES**

Confronting complex problems in original and unexpected ways.

## **LEADERSHIP**

Supporting accountable, experienced grant stewards who have clear organizational goals and objectives.

## **PARTNERSHIP**

Investing collaboratively to initiate and complete pioneering projects.

## **LASTING IMPACT**

Championing high-impact programs that ensure sustainable results.

# Our Grantmaking Funding Priorities

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## Natural Environment

Investing in projects that improve the vitality of Michigan's lakes, rivers and waterways, as well as regional and community efforts to preserve our shared water resources.

### GRANTMAKING PRIORITIES:

- Protecting and restoring Michigan's watersheds, wetlands and shorelines.
- Preserving and restoring Michigan's rivers and streams.
- Developing green stormwater infrastructure.

## Learning Initiatives

Expanding and enriching learning opportunities for underserved children and youth that prepares them for academic achievement and career success.

### GRANTMAKING PRIORITIES:

- Broadening access and improving opportunities for high-quality infant, early care and learning.
- Creating and supporting innovative programs for students to learn more effectively and boost their overall achievement.
- Supporting creative pathways to college and career success.

## Economic Vitality

Building economically vibrant communities by funding innovative initiatives that foster entrepreneurship, advance projects of public-private partnerships and support workforce training opportunities for underserved youth and adults.

### GRANTMAKING PRIORITIES:

- Developing sustainable, market-driven models that build job opportunities and networks for aspiring entrepreneurs.
- Providing access to training, skill-building and mentorship for underserved youth and adults.
- Initiating or completing challenging projects through creative public-private alliances.

## Arts and Culture

Broadening access to arts and cultural initiatives for underserved children, youth and families that stimulates and inspires overall achievement and life success.

### GRANTMAKING PRIORITIES INCLUDE:

- Generating greater student and parent engagement in the arts to boost achievement.
- Developing critical life skills and/or improving academic performance through innovative arts programming within institutions, organizations and neighborhoods.
- Supporting collaborations between arts and cultural institutions that deepen learning.

# How to Apply

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## Eligibility

Before applying, please review our guidelines to determine whether your initiative is eligible for support.

- Michigan-based projects that align with our guiding principles and address one of our four grantmaking areas:
  - Natural Environment
  - Learning Initiatives
  - Economic Vitality
  - Arts and Culture
- A public charity recognized as tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and in good standing.
- Currently in positive financial standing (e.g. does not have consecutive years of net losses nor significant operating or cumulative deficit, etc.) and at least two years of operating history.
- A minimum grant request of \$15,000.

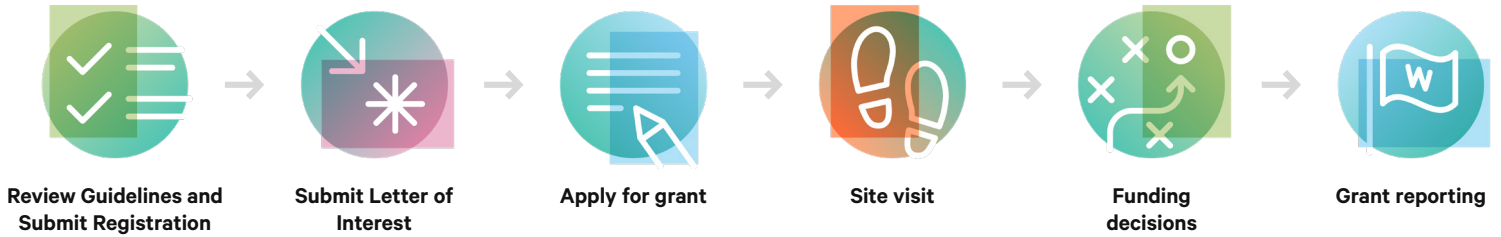
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## Limitations

The Walters Family Foundation will not consider funding individuals, government agencies, loans, religious activities, fundraising events, political campaigns, legislative lobbying efforts or conferences.

# Application Process

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## Review Guidelines and Submit Registration

Before you apply, please review our guidelines to determine if our foundation's support can help advance your organization's project. If so, submit a brief project description through the registration process.

## Submit Letter of Interest

After reviewing your registration, we may invite you to [submit a Letter of Interest](#). Letters of Interest must include the following: your organization's most recent financial statements, project budget (if applicable) and IRS Determination Letter.

Letters of Interest are accepted throughout the year. Once reviewed, you may be invited to submit an application.

## Apply for grant

Should your organization receive an invitation to apply, please [submit your application](#). Applications must include the following: audited financial statement, 990 tax form, organization chart, and list of Board of Directors.

## Site visit

While reviewing your LOI or application, we may request a site visit. We may also contact you if there are questions regarding your application.

## Funding decisions

Funding decisions are made by the Board of Trustees throughout the year.

## Grant reporting

All grantees must submit a final report detailing the impact and outcomes of their Walters Family Foundation-funded initiative. Interim reports are required for all grants over \$50,000, as well as for select projects, as determined on a case-by-case basis. For organizations awarded a multi-year grant, an interim report is required prior to receiving any subsequent payments.

Current grantees, please [submit your interim and final grant reports](#) and refer to your grant agreement letter for details about your reporting schedule.

# Contact Us

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## General Inquires

Please contact Libby Levy, Director, with any questions.

**EMAIL**

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or

[libby@waltersffmi.org](mailto:libby@waltersffmi.org)

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