

Submit a Letter of Intent

Mission & Purpose

The Consumers Energy Foundation is the charitable arm of Consumers Energy, Michigan's largest energy provider. The Consumers Energy Foundation enables communities to thrive and grow by investing in what's most important to Michigan – its people, our planet and Michigan's prosperity.

The People Awards are the third of three \$500,000 grant allocations in 2021, totaling \$1.5 million. [Planet Awards winners were announced in early May](#) and [Prosperity Awards winners were announced earlier this month](#).

The People Awards will provide as much as \$250,000 to two or more Michigan nonprofits or municipalities supporting our priority to end poverty and reduce Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed (ALICE) individuals in Michigan. The People Awards are currently open for Letters of Intent. Let's make a positive impact in Michigan together.

Working to End Poverty in Michigan

The Consumers Energy Foundation is dedicated to ensuring all Michigan residents thrive economically and have access to world-class educational resources. We're deeply involved in addressing poverty across the state. This year, we are accepting Letters of Intent in support of our Basic Needs and Workforce Readiness priorities:

Basic Needs: We believe all Michigan residents deserve an opportunity for economic security. That's why we support nonprofits that care for Michigan's most vulnerable populations by providing basic needs including shelter, food, clothing and household goods, as well as job skills to enable future security and self-sufficiency.

Workforce Readiness: We are committed to ensuring that Michigan has a skilled talent pool available now and for many years to come. We are working to increase the number of qualified applicants for STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) and skilled labor jobs in Michigan. We support programs encouraging students to pursue STEM careers and higher education programs specific to STEM/skilled trade careers in Michigan.

Request for Letters of Intent – Deadline: December 1, 2021

The Consumers Energy Foundation invites nonprofits and municipalities to submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) to express interest in applying for a 2021 People Award.

FOUNDATION

The LOI is the first step in a two-step application process, which will facilitate the allocation of up to \$250,000 in funding per awardee – \$500,000 total – for projects. The Consumers Energy Foundation will evaluate all LOI submittals and select the top projects that meet the program and eligibility criteria. Organizations that make the list through the LOI process will be invited to submit a full application by December 15, 2021. Preference will be made in support of projects that seek to secure permanent and quantifiable results. **The deadline for submitting an LOI is 5 p.m. on Wednesday, December 1.**

Award Requirements / Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible, all applicants for the People Awards must meet the following criteria:

- Candidates must be a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization or municipality
- Candidates must operate in Michigan, or have a project that benefits Michigan
- The project must impact a territory that is [served by Consumers Energy](#)
- Candidates must submit an LOI by 5 p.m., Wednesday, December 1, 2021
- Funds cannot be used to enhance or improve Consumers Energy property
- Funds cannot be used for energy-related projects or costs
- Preference will be given to projects where the Consumers Energy Foundation will be a majority contributor to the overall funding
- Award recipients are expected to attend any required check presentation event or grant announcement at the Consumers Energy Foundation's discretion (may be virtual) in early 2022
- Grantees must provide data illustrating positive impact on an annual basis until completion of the project or beyond
- Candidates must provide information on any ongoing maintenance requirements necessary to maintain project benefits and how those needs will be met

Letter of Intent Process

To submit a Letter of Intent (LOI), please submit it through the [Consumers Energy Foundation's online application system](#).

If prompted, please sign in or create a login to begin. Select, "\$500,000 People Awards Letter of Intent" in the dropdown.

The Consumers Energy Foundation uses shareholder funds, along with contributions from employees and retirees to support nonprofit organizations across Michigan.