

1. **What are the benefits of partnering with the Community Foundation?**

The Community Foundation partners with other community organizations to bring people together to discuss, plan, and implement strategies that meet the needs of the entire community and that take advantage of opportunities available to members of the community. These collaborative partnerships help optimize all the financial and other resources in our community. For more information contact the Community Foundation's office for more information at 517.278.4517 or at [info@BrCoFoundation.org](mailto:info@BrCoFoundation.org)

2. **How does the Community Foundation support local economic development and entrepreneurship?**

The Community Foundation holds the Hometown Competitiveness Fund. Through the Hometown Competitiveness Fund and related initiatives we can create flexible charitable assets and retain local wealth and support entrepreneurship, including thriving farms and small businesses; engage youth in positive ways and give young people a reason to return to their hometown to work and raise their families; and strengthen local leadership capacity. We also serve on the workforce development board for Michigan Works! Southwest and are a member of the Coldwater Chamber of Commerce. For more information contact the Community Foundation's office for more information at 517.278.4517 or at [info@BrCoFoundation.org](mailto:info@BrCoFoundation.org)

3. **How does the Community Foundation work with other charities/community partners in our community?**

The Community Foundation is dedicated to community development. The Community Foundation has two different grant rounds that offer grant funding for charitable programs or projects that better our community. We also believe in working together to build strong communities. We facilitate the Branch County Community Network (BCCN), a coalition of educators, employers, service providers, and others that help coordinate health and human services for Branch County families and re-allocate state and federal block grants aimed at strengthening Branch County families. We serve on the Branch County Great Start Collaborative, a taskforce for the Branch County Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, and other local and regional groups. For more information contact the Community Foundation's office for more information at 517.278.4517 or at [info@BrCoFoundation.org](mailto:info@BrCoFoundation.org)

4. **How does the Community Foundation generate funds to operate?**

The Community Foundation understands that non-profit is a tax status, not a business model. We believe it's our responsibility to assure that we are sustainable so that we can continue to meet to administer over 130 funds and uphold our other long-term promises to our donors and our communities. At the same time, we don't want to compete with the other nonprofits we help support, so we don't hold annual fundraising events. Our Business Model Statement supports our value of working together to build strong communities and commits

us to doing all of the work we do through fees for services, sponsorships, and encouraging giving directly to the Community Foundation Annual Fund, our “operating fund”. For more information contact the Community Foundation’s office for more information at 517.278.4517 or at [info@BrCoFoundation.org](mailto:info@BrCoFoundation.org)

5. **What are the income tax benefits to charitable giving at the Foundation? Does the Foundation provide “Gift Statements” for my tax records?**

The Branch County Community Foundation qualifies as a public charity under section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi) of the Internal Revenue Service Code and section 501(c)(3) of the Code. Therefore, in most cases, your contribution qualifies for a Federal Income Tax Deduction. Always consult your tax advisor regarding the tax deductibility of this gift with regard to your particular circumstances. It is our policy to provide a gift acknowledgment no matter what size the gift. In most cases, gifts are receipted at the time of the gift. Those giving through payroll deductions or automatic payments from a checking account may request a summary statement for their periodic gifts throughout the year. For more information contact the Community Foundation’s office for more information at 517.278.4517 or at [info@BrCoFoundation.org](mailto:info@BrCoFoundation.org)

6. **How can nonprofit or other community group submit a request for funding to the Community Foundation?**

The Community Foundation has created a process for seeking funding (applying for a grant) this is streamlined and only asks for the information we need to assure the grant meets IRS guidelines, fund purposes, and meets our grantmaking priorities as the needs of the community change. Groups or individuals seeking grant funding for their charity or a community project can first visit our website ([www.BrCoFoundation.org](http://www.BrCoFoundation.org)) for an overview of the process and requirements and then can contact our office to discuss the program or project they’re interested in funding. This helps us and the grantee determine together whether or not a funding proposal is a good fit for one or more of the Community Foundation’s available grant dollars. In addition we generally hold grant writing workshops to help potential grant applicants understand the process, go over the application requirements, and even start an application!

The application consists of a cover page, a narrative that includes how any grant funding will be used, and a proposed budget. After submission, the Community Foundation may request more information on behalf of the committees that review proposals (applications).

There are two grant cycles per year with the first being our Youth Grant Cycle, which typically opens in January each year. The second grant cycle, the Community Good Grant Cycle, generally opens in August. If you are interested in learning more about the grants, contact the Community Foundation’s office for more information at 517.278.4517 or at [info@BrCoFoundation.org](mailto:info@BrCoFoundation.org)

7. **What are some of the current projects BCCF is working on?**

We continually seek ways to create positive social impact in the areas we serve! Currently the Community Foundation is involved with projects that have identified barriers within our community and seek to increase access to childcare, strengthen economic development through entrepreneurship and community improvement projects, and increase public transportation options – to name a few. For more information contact the Community Foundation's office for more information at 517.278.4517 or at [info@BrCoFoundation.org](mailto:info@BrCoFoundation.org)

8. **What could I do for my business and co-workers to all sign up for charitable giving through payroll deduction? Could someone explain/present that information to my staff?**

The Community Foundation is more than happy to present the opportunity of payroll deduction to any company interested! The Community Foundation has an opportunity for anyone who would like to get involved in philanthropy. Contact the Community Foundation's office for more information at 517.278.4517 or at [info@BrCoFoundation.org](mailto:info@BrCoFoundation.org)