

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 helps communities thrive and grow by investing in what's most important to Michigan – its people, our planet and Michigan's prosperity. Foundation giving is separate from other company contributions and cannot be used to directly benefit the corporation. The Consumers Energy Foundation is funded by company donations, not included in customer rates.

The People Awards are the second of three \$500,000 grant allocations in 2025, totaling \$1.5 million. The winners of the 2025 Planet Awards were announced in April, and the 2025 Prosperity Awards will launch later this year.

The People Awards will provide as much as \$250,000 to two or more Michigan nonprofits, municipalities, or Indian Tribal Governments supporting our goal to end poverty and reduce Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed (ALICE) individuals in Michigan. The 2025 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 basic needs. We are deeply involved in addressing poverty across the State. This year, we are accepting letters of intent in support of our Basic Needs priority:

Basic Needs: We believe that all Michigan residents deserve economic security. That is 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.

Request for Letters of Intent – Deadline: 5:00 PM on April 25, 2025

The Consumers Energy Foundation invites eligible Michigan nonprofits, municipalities, and Indian Tribal Governments to submit a letter of intent to express their interest in applying for a 2025 People Award. The Consumers Energy Foundation will evaluate all letter of intent submissions and select the top projects that meet the program and eligibility criteria. Organizations that make the list through the letter of intent process will be invited to submit a full application. Full applications will be due on May 28, 2025. Preference will be made in support of projects that seek to secure permanent and quantifiable results. **The deadline for submitting a letter of intent is 5:00 PM on April 25, 2025.**

FOUNDATION

Award Requirements / Eligibility Criteria

The letter of intent is the first step in a two-step application process that will result in the award of up to \$250,000 in funding per recipient (\$500,000 total). The People Awards support innovative programs and projects. If you are seeking general operating support, or are interested in requesting less than \$100,000, or our grant would be a small component of a large capital campaign, we ask that you submit a grant request using the regular application on our [website](#).

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 OR federally recognized Indian Tribal Government described in IRC Section 7701(a)(40);
- 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 letter of intent 5:00 PM on April 25, 2025;
- Funds cannot be used to enhance or improve Consumers Energy property;
- Funds cannot be used for energy-related projects or costs;
- The Consumers Energy Foundation must be the majority contributor to the overall funding of the proposed project;
- Grantees are expected to attend any required check presentation event or grant announcement at the Consumers Energy Foundation's discretion;
- Grantees must provide data illustrating positive impact on an annual basis until completion of the project or beyond; and
- Grantees 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 for a 2025 People Award, please visit: www.consumersenergy.com/community/foundation/people.

If prompted, please sign in or create a login to begin. Select, "2025 People Awards Letter of Intent" in the dropdown menu.

For more information about the Consumers Energy Foundation, please visit: www.consumersenergy.com/foundation.