



Ascension

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Ascension Michigan Community Benefit and Investment Program

### What is the Ascension Michigan Community Benefit and Investment Program?

Launched on July 1, 2023, the Ascension Michigan Community Benefit and Investment Program (“CBI Program”) is designed to centrally receive, review and process community investment requests submitted by external community partners.

The CBI Program seeks to ensure Ascension Michigan hospitals, Ascension Medical Group Michigan, Ascension Michigan foundations and all other Ascension Michigan entities continue to be good stewards of the resources entrusted to them by intentionally and strategically aligning external community investments with local (prioritized) community needs, as well as strategic and organizational priorities.

### What is meant by “community investments”?

Ascension Michigan has defined “community investments” as dollars invested externally to support community health and impact initiatives, and other community-based activities.

### Are community investments different from sponsorships?

Sponsorships for charity, fundraising, celebration and other community-based activities are categorized as community investments.

### Who does the CBI Program apply to?

Any external community organization seeking funding support from an Ascension Michigan hospital, Ascension Medical Group Michigan, Ascension Michigan foundation or any Ascension Michigan entity.

### What type of requests will be considered through the CBI Program?

Ascension Michigan seeks to award requests that support external community health and impact initiatives and other community-based activities that align with the organization’s strategy, Mission and goals. Requests should aim to improve access to health care services, advance medical or healthcare knowledge, or enhance the health and wellness of the communities we serve.

Preference is given to initiatives and activities that provide a safety net to groups that have been historically marginalized or made vulnerable and/or address the respective hospital’s prioritized community needs and/or a social determinant of health.

### Are there any types of requests that would automatically be excluded from consideration?

Yes. Ascension Michigan will not consider the following types of requests:

- Activities or organizations that conflict with Ascension’s Mission, Vision, and Values and/or the Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services
- Activities that will occur prior to the notification date of the current funding term
- Individuals, including persons seeking election to specific offices, political parties or political campaigns
- Golf outings
- Community walks or runs, such as 5Ks or fun runs/walks

### Is there a maximum amount that can be requested?

Yes. Ascension Michigan will not consider requests exceeding \$25,000.

### How do I submit my request?

Due to the high volume of requests that we receive, all external requests must be submitted via the Ascension Michigan Community Benefit and Investment Program [request form](#).

Requestors will receive an email confirmation upon successful submission of the [request form](#).

### How far in advance should I submit my request?

Organizations should consider submitting requests based on the notification date of the funding term that best aligns with activity planning and needs.

Term	Submission Deadline	Committee Review	Notification
Winter	By Sept. 30	Mid-Nov.	By Nov. 30
Spring	By Dec. 31	Mid-Feb.	By Feb. 28
Summer	By Mar. 31	Mid-May	By May 31
Fall	By June 30	Mid-Aug.	By Aug. 31

Funds awarded may take up to six weeks to process following notification. If the organization wishes to receive funds prior to the activity, then the request should be submitted based on the most applicable notification date.

### Who reviews funding requests?

Requests are reviewed quarterly by regional Community Benefit and Investment Committees composed of multi-departmental leaders, including Administration, Advocacy, Community Benefit and Marketing & Communications.

Note: Awarded requests should not be construed as an indication for ongoing support; past support does not guarantee future funding.

### What if I have multiple requests for different events or programs occurring throughout the year?

Effective July 1, 2023, Ascension Michigan will only fund one (1) request per year, per organization, based on available funds during Ascension’s fiscal year (July 1 – June 30).

Requesters should consider prioritizing and/or consolidating submissions if there are multiple requests so that we better understand the overall support being sought.

### What if my request is related to payment for a new, or renewal of, a due or membership?

Payment requests for new or renewal of institutional memberships and individual dues are not processed through the CBI Program, and should be submitted directly to the Ascension Michigan hospital, Ascension Medical Group Michigan, Ascension Michigan foundation or Ascension associate.

### Where can I find information about a hospital’s prioritized community needs?

Ascension Michigan hospitals’ community health needs assessments and implementation strategies can be found at <https://healthcare.ascension.org/chna>.

### What if I am requesting volunteers or help with a health fair?

If a request for assistance does not include a request for funding support, please contact the appropriate department within the respective hospital.

If a departmental contact is not known, please contact the Ascension Michigan Community Benefit and Investment team at [micbie@ascension.org](mailto:micbie@ascension.org) to be directed appropriately.

### I have a specific question. Who can I contact to discuss?

Contact the Ascension Michigan Community Benefit and Investment team at [micbie@ascension.org](mailto:micbie@ascension.org)