



## News Release

For Immediate Release

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### **New Advancing Macomb Study Highlights Nonprofit and Philanthropic Funding Gaps in Macomb County**

**Mount Clemens, Mich.** (May 20, 2026) – A new regional study commissioned by Advancing Macomb, a 501c3 that convenes resources to solve community challenges and enrich the lives of Macomb County residents, finds that Macomb County continues to face significant disparities in nonprofit density and philanthropic investment despite recent growth in grant funding.

The report, *Nonprofit & Grantmaking Trends in Metro Detroit*, builds on Advancing Macomb’s original 2022 *Philanthropic Investment Study* and provides a comprehensive look at nonprofit activity and grantmaking across a seven-county region that includes Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, St. Clair, Washtenaw and Wayne counties. The Dorothy A. Johnson Center for Philanthropy completed the study.

According to the study, despite being Michigan’s third-largest county by population, Macomb County ranks last in the region for nonprofit density, with approximately 33 nonprofit organizations per 10,000 residents. By comparison, Oakland County has 60 organizations per 10,000 residents, Wayne County has 54 and Washtenaw County leads the region with 70.

The report also finds that grant funding entering Macomb County nearly doubled from \$17.7 million in 2021 to \$31.2 million in 2023. However, the overall gap in philanthropic investment remains significant. According to the study, Macomb County receives approximately \$36 in grant funding per resident, compared with \$479 per resident in Oakland County, \$202 per resident in Wayne County and \$561 per resident in Washtenaw County.

“Macomb County’s nonprofit sector is not underperforming; it is under-resourced. Our nonprofit community is working hard to meet the needs of nearly 900,000 residents, but it is doing so with far fewer resources than neighboring counties,” said Phil Gilchrist, executive director of Advancing Macomb. “This is an opportunity for funders, businesses and community leaders to invest in a region that has tremendous potential for growth and impact.”

Additional findings include:

- Only 4.1% of Macomb County charities are private foundations, the lowest percentage among the region’s three major counties.



- Macomb County relies heavily on regional and out-of-state funders, with approximately 90% of grantmakers located outside the county.
- Macomb County receives between \$18 million and \$31 million annually in grant funding, compared with \$525 million to \$608 million in Oakland County, \$264 million to \$352 million in Wayne County and \$141 million to \$207 million in Washtenaw County.

“Nonprofits exist because not every need can be met by government,” said Mark Hackel, Macomb County Executive. “Advancing Macomb brings people, organizations and resources together to strengthen and improve the quality of life for those who call Macomb home. Their study highlights the incredible contributions of our existing nonprofit partners and provides strategic insights on how we can work together to grow this critical network of service organizations.”

The findings reinforce conclusions from Advancing Macomb’s 2022 study, which first identified a significant underinvestment in Macomb County’s nonprofit sector relative to its population and economic size.

“This most recent study reminds us that it’s important for communities to think about nonprofits and the supporting infrastructure. Too often, nonprofits are the ‘most common organization that no one thinks about,’ even though nonprofits provide critical assistance throughout the community,” said Jennifer Lawson, project director for the Dorothy A. Johnson Center for Philanthropy.

Building on the study’s findings, Advancing Macomb will continue working with foundations, nonprofit leaders, businesses and community stakeholders to pursue partnerships, investment opportunities and initiatives that strengthen nonprofit capacity across the county.

“The Four County Community Foundation serves as both a funder and connector in Macomb County,” said Kathy Dickens, executive director of the Four County Community Foundation. “We are committed to partnering with nonprofits, philanthropy, business and community leaders to address the significant underinvestment in Macomb County’s nonprofit sector relative to the county’s population and economic strength.”

Advancing Macomb hopes the study will serve as a catalyst for increased collaboration, investment and long-term support for Macomb County’s nonprofit sector.

### **Study Methodology**

The Advancing Macomb Nonprofit & Grantmaking Trends in Metro Detroit report was conducted by the Dorothy A. Johnson Center for Philanthropy at Grand Valley State University. The data was compiled using data from the Internal Revenue Service Business Master File and 990-PF grant data from 2021–2023, along with population estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau and SEMCOG.



**About the Dorothy A. Johnson Center for Philanthropy**

Established in 1992 with support from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and Grand Valley State University (GVSU), the Dorothy A. Johnson Center for Philanthropy is an academic center within GVSU's Center for Scholarly and Creative Excellence. Its mission is to understand, strengthen and advance effective philanthropy while building strong, inclusive communities. For more information, visit [johnsoncenter.org](http://johnsoncenter.org).

**About Advancing Macomb**

Advancing Macomb is a 501c3 that convenes resources to solve community challenges and enrich the lives of Macomb County residents. The organization provides the philanthropic model and leadership needed to cement partnerships between the nonprofit, public and private sectors, identify and attract resources to fund major projects and programs, and increase Macomb County visibility. For more information about Advancing Macomb, visit [advancingmacomb.com](http://advancingmacomb.com).

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