

DRIVING DELCO FORWARD



The Strategic Plan for
The Foundation for Delaware County
2020-2025



THE
FOUNDATION FOR ●
DELAWARE ● Cultivating Philanthropy
COUNTY ● Transforming Community

A TIME OF POSSIBILITY

This strategic plan for The Foundation for Delaware County presents an ambitious path forward at a time of enormous possibility.

Established as an independent community foundation in 2016, the foundation has built a record of success, emerging as a strong leader in Delaware County and demonstrating the potential to have a transformational impact.

This, our first-ever strategic plan, shows *how*.

This is a plan that...

REFLECTS

an inclusive process spanning more than nine months, with perspectives from within and outside the organization.

EXPLORES

the ways we can make the greatest positive difference on the well-being of all who call our county home.

BUILDS

on an understanding of Delaware County, the needs our residents face, and how these needs have been measured and addressed to date.

The mission of
The Foundation for Delaware County
is to create a vibrant future for Delaware County by:

Promoting generosity
in and for the people of our county,

Improving the well-being
of our residents, and

Energizing participation and partnership
across our communities.



At The Foundation for Delaware County, we...

INVEST

in nonprofits that advance our aims and enrich life for the people of Delaware County.

PROVIDE

philanthropic services that allow our donors and fund holders to make a real impact.

DELIVER

vital services where there are gaps—providing high-quality, results-based public health programs to county residents in need.

SERVE

as a positive force in the community, a convener and problem-solver, drawing partners of many kinds into effective collaboration.



We have defined the unique role we will play as a leader in Delaware County and are energized by the enormous opportunity for impact.

OUR MISSION

WHAT

Create a vibrant future for Delaware County

BY

Promoting generosity in and for the people of our county

Improving the well-being of our residents

Energizing participation and partnership across our communities

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

HOW

Investing in the County Through Grantmaking

Inspiring and Facilitating Philanthropy

Advancing Public Health

Serving as a Convener and Catalyst

Ensuring Operational and Financial Sustainability

Expanding Channels of Community Engagement

OUTCOMES WITHIN REACH

SO THAT...

All of our people can lead healthy lives, thrive and fulfill their potential, contribute to their communities and our county, and make this an even better place to live.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES



Initiative 1

INVESTING IN THE COUNTY THROUGH GRANTMAKING

1

We will support nonprofits with missions that align with our own, making grants where we see the greatest unmet need and can have the greatest measurable impact.

Key Actions

ADDRESS

important unmet needs in all areas of the county.

TARGET

the root factors influencing health and well-being, treating causes, not just symptoms. These factors include economic stability, education, health care, and the built environment.

UTILIZE

data to guide grantmaking decisions and evaluate the effectiveness of grants awarded.



Initiative 2

INSPIRING AND FACILITATING PHILANTHROPY

2

We will improve life in Delaware County not only through our own programs and grants, but also by stepping forward as a champion of philanthropic investment by others.

Key Actions

PROVIDE

a suite of philanthropic services for generous Delaware County residents, allowing them to partner with the foundation to fulfill their charitable goals.

MATCH

generous residents with organizations addressing county needs.

INVITE

direct support of the foundation, which will increase our ability to invest in Delaware County and allow us to extend our reach.

OFFER

valuable insight when it comes to county needs, effective nonprofits worthy of investment, and best practices in philanthropy.

Encouraging charitable investment means more than promoting giving. It means connecting individuals with their community in transformative ways.



Initiative 3

ADVANCING PUBLIC HEALTH

We will continue to serve the community through a well-established portfolio of valued, high-impact programs focused on public health.

3

Key Actions

MAINTAIN

our commitment to the Healthy Start program, Nurse-Family Partnership, WIC nutrition program, and other programs when the foundation is best positioned to offer them at the highest level of quality and impact.

COMMIT

in our programming and grantmaking to addressing the social determinants of health, including access to health care, education, housing and community development.

INCREASE

visibility and secure additional support for internal programs so they can even more positively impact the health of our youngest citizens and their families.

Through the Center for Nonprofit Excellence, we will offer capacity building, consulting and training for nonprofit leaders, bringing best practices to the many Delaware County agencies so deserving of investment.



Initiative 4

SERVING AS A CONVENER AND CATALYST

We will step forward into a unique role of service, as a convener, connector, and catalyst, energizing participation and partnership on the part of individuals and organizations across the county.

4

Key Actions

SPEAK OUT

on issues of importance and work to promote a county-wide perspective in decision making.

ESTABLISH

a Center for Nonprofit Excellence to provide training, networking, special programming, and to promote best practices, all to support area nonprofits in their work.

COMMUNICATE

and collaborate with county government and build an understanding of the many ways public policy influences the issues we seek to address.

ENGAGE

fearlessly in opening discussions about issues of social and racial inequities that prevent Delaware County from building a brighter future for all.

EXPLORE

efforts in data collection, analysis, and communication, including a potential Center for Data Insight, and raise awareness of key issues to help guide action.



Initiative 5

ENSURING OPERATIONAL AND FINANCIAL STABILITY

We recognize that the foundation's success in the future will depend on the prudent management of our assets, efficient administration of operations, and positioning the foundation as a wealth attracter.

5

Key Actions

CONTINUE

to build the foundation's advancement program, growing both annual operating support and commitments to the foundation's endowment.

BUILD

resources in order to allow for significant growth in grantmaking and support of public health services.

ENSURE

that all funds are managed in a socially responsible manner, consistent with our mission.

MANAGE

operations and expenditures to ensure the foundation will have the resources needed to serve the county for decades to come.



Initiative 6

EXPANDING CHANNELS OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

As we develop our framework of leadership, we will create more points of connection with the community and a cadre of stakeholders that reflects the diversity of our county.

6

Key Actions

CONTINUE

developing our board with leaders representing communities across the county who are knowledgeable in areas such as education, public health, local government, and philanthropy.

DEVELOP

a leadership structure that includes advisory groups and community liaisons to reflect the broadest range of ideas for imaginative solutions.

SEEK

voices and views from across the county with an attitude of openness that will allow community input to serve as a resource in decision making.

We are relentless in our belief that Delaware County residents deserve a foundation they can trust to prudently invest their resources so that they can leave a legacy that will last for generations.

DRIVING DELCO FORWARD

At The Foundation for Delaware County, we are committed to working resourcefully for the benefit of the people of our county, promoting health equity, and, in all we do, championing collaboration because we understand the unique strength that lies in partnership.

In this spirit, we hope you will join us in
DRIVING DELCO FORWARD



www.delcofoundation.org

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Photos: Rick Davis, Andy Shelter, Zave Smith