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

**A TIME OF POSSIBILITY**

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.

**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.
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**
Create a vibrant future for Delaware County

**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**

- 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**
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

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

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.

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.

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.
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.

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.

**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.

**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.
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