



HAMILTON COUNTY
**COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**



STRATEGIC PLAN



INTRODUCTION

HAMILTON COUNTY'S RAPID GROWTH PRESENTS AN EXCITING OPPORTUNITY TO CREATE A COMMUNITY WHERE EVERYONE CAN THRIVE AND FEEL A SENSE OF BELONGING.

The Hamilton County Community Foundation (HCCF) is committed to fostering an inclusive environment that ensures all residents have access to the opportunities that come with this growth. By strengthening connections and collaborating with community partners, HCCF is helping to build a vibrant and welcoming local ecosystem.

In early 2024, a comprehensive needs assessment identified key areas for focused effort. Through extensive community conversations and analysis of over 2,000 data points, housing emerged as a top priority, highlighting the importance of accessible and affordable options for all. With a shared commitment to collaboration, HCCF and its partners are well-positioned to address this need and ensure that Hamilton County continues to grow as a place where everyone belongs.



THIS STRATEGIC PLAN CENTERS ON FOUR INTERCONNECTED GOALS, EACH DESIGNED TO ENHANCE HCCF'S IMPACT AND FOSTER A THRIVING, INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY:



LEADING + CONVENING

HCCF will position itself as a leading convener, bringing together diverse voices to develop collaborative solutions. By broadening engagement, leading discussions on critical issues, and clearly communicating nonprofit needs and impact, we aim to strengthen connections across the community.



NONPROFIT ECOSYSTEM DEVELOPMENT & HEALTH

To ensure a sustainable and effective nonprofit ecosystem, we will support capacity-building efforts, foster collaboration, and create a centralized data resource hub. This approach will enhance transparency, drive informed decision-making, and amplify the collective impact of the nonprofit sector.



GRANTMAKING

Our grantmaking strategy will focus on priority areas to drive meaningful impact. By aligning donors and partners, streamlining processes, and making targeted investments, we aim to create lasting change that reflects the identified needs of Hamilton County residents.



DONOR RELATIONSHIPS

HCCF is committed to increasing donor impact through deeper engagement and exceptional donor experiences. By expanding co-investment opportunities, raising awareness of HCCF's role in local philanthropy, and implementing a donor-centric approach, we aim to strengthen connections between donors and the causes that matter most in Hamilton County.



THIS STRATEGIC PLAN REPRESENTS OUR COMMITMENT TO ADDRESSING THE COUNTY'S MOST URGENT NEEDS WHILE MAXIMIZING IMPACT THROUGH STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP, INTENTIONAL INVESTMENTS, AND MEANINGFUL PARTNERSHIPS.

By aligning resources and fostering collaboration, HCCF is dedicated to creating a Hamilton County where growth is inclusive, opportunities are accessible, and all residents can thrive.



MISSION

To mobilize people, ideas and investment to make this a community where every individual has an equitable opportunity to reach their full potential—no matter their place, race or identity.





VALUES

▶ HOLISTIC WELL-BEING

Belonging begins with a healthy mind, body, and spirit, and we are committed to supporting initiatives that promote overall well-being.

▶ SAFETY AND ACCESSIBILITY

Belonging requires safe housing and access to transportation. We are committed to ensuring that everyone in our community can live in secure, accessible, and supportive spaces.

▶ INCLUSIVITY

In an inclusive community, everyone feels welcomed, respected, and connected. We are committed to fostering environments where belonging thrives for all.



GOAL 1

LEADING + CONVENING



GOAL 1

LEADING + CONVENING

OBJECTIVE

Position ourselves as a leader in addressing the needs of Hamilton County through strategic leadership and convening efforts.





GOAL 1

LEADING + CONVENING

STRATEGY 1

Broaden non-profit & community leaders engagement with the foundation to foster collaboration.

To ensure broad and meaningful engagement, we will begin by identifying and reaching out to key stakeholders and underrepresented groups who are currently not at the table. By developing a comprehensive stakeholder map, we can track and understand who is doing what across the community, allowing us to better align efforts and foster collaboration.

Additionally, our leadership will maintain a visible presence in the community, regularly attending events and forums to stay in tune with local needs and emerging opportunities. This on-the-ground engagement will help ensure that the foundation always has its finger on the pulse of the community.





GOAL 1

LEADING + CONVENING

STRATEGY 2

Lead conversations in the community around key issues and areas of need.

We will actively lead by convening community leaders and nonprofits in meaningful conversations about the most pressing issues facing Hamilton County. Through quarterly roundtables and community forums, we can bring together diverse voices to share insights, brainstorm solutions, and identify opportunities for collective action. The foundation can create a safe and accessible space—both virtually and in-person—where nonprofit organizations can approach us for collaboration, problem-solving, and support.

These conversations will not be purely exploratory; we can implement a process to capture the insights and outcomes from each convening, using them to guide future community investments and actions that move the needle on important issues.





GOAL 1

LEADING + CONVENING

STRATEGY 3

Clearly communicate our understanding of what our non-profit partners require and the impact they make within Hamilton County.

Effective communication will be at the core of our efforts to support and uplift the nonprofit community. We will develop an annual impact report to highlight the foundation's contributions and showcase the measurable outcomes of our nonprofit partners' work. To ensure we stay in tune with the needs of these partners, we will establish a regular feedback loop, utilizing surveys and interviews to gather insights into the challenges they face and the resources they require.

Additionally, we will offer capacity-building workshops, providing nonprofits with the tools and support necessary to thrive and ensure their long-term sustainability. Through these actions, we aim to reinforce our role as both a thought leader and a reliable partner in fostering a thriving nonprofit ecosystem in Hamilton County.



GOAL 2

GRANTMAKING



GOAL 2

GRANTMAKING

OBJECTIVE

Focus our grantmaking on areas of highest priority to maximize impact.





GOAL 2

GRANTMAKING

STRATEGY 1

Align community partners and donors around the primary issues identified to enhance measurable impact.

To create a more focused impact, we will work towards aligning our community partners and donors around a single, hyper-focused priority area. By selecting a specific issue and dedicating our grantmaking efforts to it for three years, we will drive deeper, more measurable change. This approach will involve setting a clear outcome that we aim to achieve within that timeframe, allowing us to direct resources and efforts toward a common goal.



GOAL 2

GRANTMAKING

STRATEGY 2

Implement a more streamlined approach to granting while delivering more meaningful investments.

We will refine our grantmaking process by prioritizing within our existing funding pool, concentrating resources towards larger grants that promise greater impact. Communication with potential grantees will be adjusted to clarify what types of support they can request, encouraging more strategic applications. Additionally, we will explore co-investment opportunities with other funders, amplifying our impact through collaborative, large-scale grantmaking.

To ensure this approach is effective, we will streamline our grantmaking processes and clearly communicate these updates to grantees, establishing a model that facilitates larger, more impactful investments.



GOAL 2

GRANTMAKING

STRATEGY 3

Align our grantmaking with our non-profit partners' impact in Hamilton County.

We will increase our outreach efforts to connect with a broader range of diverse nonprofits that are not currently engaged with us, ensuring they are aware of our funding opportunities and priorities. By uplifting insights from our community needs assessment, we will align our grantmaking decisions with newly established priorities that reflect the most pressing needs. This targeted approach will ensure that our resources are supporting initiatives that create the highest impact in Hamilton County.

GOAL 3

DONOR RELATIONSHIPS



GOAL 3

DONOR RELATIONSHIPS

OBJECTIVE

Increase donor impact in our community and provide an exceptional donor experience.





GOAL 3

DONOR RELATIONSHIPS

STRATEGY 1

Expand our reach to attract donors committed to ambitious goals through co-investment opportunities.

We will explore innovative co-investment opportunities that bring donors together with external stakeholders, creating a unique approach to philanthropy. By engaging partners like chambers of commerce, civic groups, and corporations, we will work collaboratively to connect community priorities with donor interests.

To support this effort, we will build a robust pipeline of strategic opportunities that align with a diverse pipeline of donors, ultimately fostering greater investment in the community.





GOAL 3

DONOR RELATIONSHIPS

STRATEGY 2

Increase awareness of HCCF as the premier catalyst for local philanthropy, keeping funds within the community.

To position HCCF as a central driver of local philanthropy, we will develop a compelling case for support and a clear value statement that resonates with funders. We will also focus on educating Hamilton County residents about the importance of keeping their charitable contributions within the community, positioning HCCF as a trusted resource for local giving.

Additionally, we will connect potential donors to unmet needs and unrealized impact in Hamilton County, partnering with nonprofits to define the outcomes that matter most and craft meaningful donor experiences that reflect the community's evolving needs.





GOAL 3

DONOR RELATIONSHIPS

STRATEGY 3

Implement a donor-centric model that delivers a premier donor experience.

We will adopt a donor-centric model that emphasizes forming deep, enriching, and trusting relationships with our donors. By better understanding what each donor values and prioritizes, we will tailor our engagement strategies to meet their expectations and enhance their giving experience. This approach will ensure that donors feel genuinely connected to the impact of their contributions and see HCCF as their philanthropic partner of choice.



GOAL 4

**NONPROFIT ECOSYSTEM
DEVELOPMENT & HEALTH**



GOAL 4

NONPROFIT ECOSYSTEM DEVELOPMENT & HEALTH

OBJECTIVE

Strengthen the Hamilton County nonprofit community by fostering a healthy ecosystem.





GOAL 4

NONPROFIT ECOSYSTEM DEVELOPMENT & HEALTH

STRATEGY 1

Support capacity building and organizational development for Hamilton County nonprofits.

To bolster the capacity and effectiveness of nonprofits in Hamilton County, we will create cohorts of organizations engaged in similar types of work. These cohorts will provide a platform for exchanging ideas, solutions, and resources, enabling organizations to learn from one another and find collaborative opportunities. Our support will also include targeted training around common challenges such as cultivating a healthy staff culture, effective volunteer recruitment and management, and building sustainable organizational practices.

Additionally, we will invite experts to lead workshops in key areas such as diversity, equity, inclusion, and access (DEIA), grant writing and management, and board recruitment and governance. By encouraging nonprofits to work collaboratively—especially on larger, multi-organization grant opportunities—we will strengthen the sector as a whole and help these organizations thrive.



GOAL 4

NONPROFIT ECOSYSTEM DEVELOPMENT & HEALTH

STRATEGY 2

Be a data resource hub in coordination with our collaborative partners.

In partnership with the Central Indiana Community Foundation (CICF) and their innovation team, we will work to establish a centralized data hub that consolidates and organizes the various studies and data sets conducted across Hamilton County and central Indiana. This hub will serve as a vital resource for nonprofits and community stakeholders alike, ensuring that data is easily accessible and can be used to inform decision-making.

By establishing shared metrics for the county, we will measure county-wide impact in a more comprehensive and unified way. Our aim will be to collect, analyze, and interpret data that truly reflects the needs and progress of our community, creating a common understanding of what success looks like and how it can be achieved.



GOAL 4

NONPROFIT ECOSYSTEM DEVELOPMENT & HEALTH

STRATEGY 3

Be a physical space and curator for meetings, networking, gatherings, events and other non-profit activities and initiatives.

As part of our commitment to fostering a vibrant nonprofit ecosystem, the foundation will offer its physical space as a hub for networking, collaboration, and events. We will host quarterly networking events designed to bring nonprofit leaders together for knowledge sharing and relationship building, and we will also organize volunteer appreciation events to recognize the vital contributions of community volunteers. In addition to these activities, we will offer open Hub hours, allowing nonprofits to use our space for board meetings, staff trainings, and organizational events. This space will also serve as a meeting ground for county-wide collaboratives, hosting their monthly or quarterly gatherings.

Additionally, we will consider organizing a nonprofit showcase, designed to connect local businesses and donors with the organizations doing impactful work in Hamilton County, further strengthening the ties between nonprofits and potential supporters in the community.



METRICS



LEADING + CONVENING

- ▶ Number of county-wide collaborative solutions developed through quarterly roundtables and community forums
- ▶ Percentage increase in nonprofit partner satisfaction as measured by annual surveys



GRANTMAKING

- ▶ Percentage of HCCF endowment funds allocated to key priority areas
- ▶ Percentage of grant funds awarded to 1st-time grantees or within the last 5 years



DONOR RELATIONSHIPS

- ▶ Percentage of total dollars granted to Hamilton County nonprofits through DAFs annually
- ▶ Percentage increase in funding of Donor Advised Funds



NONPROFIT ECOSYSTEM DEVELOPMENT & HEALTH

- ▶ Number of capacity-building workshops or training sessions provided to nonprofits (all-held)
- ▶ Number of Hamilton County partners utilizing space

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— STRATEGIES