VISION STATEMENT
A just and vibrant Ohio through impactful philanthropy

MISSION STATEMENT
To lead and equip Ohio philanthropy to be effective, powerful change agents in our communities

OUR PILLARS
Advocating: Supporting policies to strengthen the charitable sector, improve local communities and lift up the ultimate beneficiaries of philanthropic resources.

Educating: Sharing the wisdom from local experts, national thought leaders and peers through programs and knowledge resources that improve philanthropic practices.

Convening: Engaging people in meaningful conversations, providing space for learning from each other, collaborating and strengthening relationships in order to amplify impact.

Advancing Diversity, Equity and Inclusion: Committing to increase diversity, equity and inclusion in Ohio’s philanthropic sector and in our organization, applying an equity lens to all our work in advocating, educating and convening as well as to our internal operations.
Philanthropy is uniquely positioned to take risks in social policy experimentation and innovation, which government and the marketplace cannot. This is because funders have a longer time horizon in which they work and because of their apolitical nature (as defined by the Johnson Amendment). As co-investors, and often partners, we hope you will continue to strengthen our collective efforts by:

- Supporting:
  - HR 651, HR 5293 and HR 1260, Universal Charitable Giving Act creating a universal deduction (lead sponsor is Smith, Turner signed on for 651, Davis for 1260)
  - S 1257, the Legacy IRA Act and S 1475 and HR 3259, the CHARITY Act, legislation that will expand the IRA charitable rollover
  - S 676 and HR 4038, Workforce Through Post-Graduation Scholarships Act of 2019, allowing recent graduates to receive tax-free student debt scholarships (lead sponsor is LaHood, Johnson signed on for 4038, Sen Peters for S 676)

We welcome opportunities to be a resource for you and strengthen the ways in which we work together. Please reach out to Claudia Y.W. Herrold or Vincent Coleman with questions or to schedule meetings with funders in your district.
Individual Ohioans donated $6.4 billion to nonprofits in 2017, up 7 percent over 2016. The ability to deduct charitable contributions from federal tax liabilities has been vital to charitable giving in Ohio, as 75 percent of all contributions to nonprofits came from individuals. This strong tradition of policy supporting individual giving was weakened by the 2017 tax law: the increase in the standard deduction means that many fewer current itemizers will itemize their deductions – including those for charitable contributions – that one study estimates could reduce charitable giving by $14.2 billion.

If, as anticipated, the tax law results in eliminating the charitable deduction except for those earning over $200,000 a year, it could have a significant negative impact on Ohio giving. With individuals filing taxes for the first time last year under the new law, we won’t know the extent of the impact until well into 2021 from IRS data although community foundations and nonprofits could see the change much sooner.

About one-quarter (26 percent) of Ohioans – at virtually every income level – reported making charitable donations on their 2017 federal tax returns, using the itemizer schedule to report and claim deductions for their gifts.

INDIVIDUAL GIVING BY INCOME LEVEL

Of the 1.15 million Ohioans reporting charitable contributions:

- Of individuals had income less than $50,000 and gave $494 million (17%)
- Of individuals had income between $50,000 – $200,000 and gave $2.85 billion (69%)
- Of individuals had income more than $200,000 and gave $2.76 billion (14%)

You can help remedy this anticipated drop and maintain the strength of the nonprofit sector by signing on to HR 1260, which would provide an above-the-line, uncapped deduction for all Americans who donate to charity. Creating this above-the-line deduction would boost charitable giving by $21.5 billion, more than offsetting the impact of the new tax law and incentivizing more giving.

If enacted, these bills will allow local philanthropic organizations to create programs to incentivize college graduates to move to the area — often “back home” — and receive funding to pay off student debt tax-free. Both bills would amend the Internal Revenue Code to define post-graduation grants as qualified scholarships to promote economic growth.

Philanthropy Ohio supports the legislation’s efforts to help young graduates achieve economic success by paying off student debt while helping communities — particularly rural ones — attract young talent and reverse the “brain drain” and out-migration.

The bills require that recipients live and work in communities that meet the following requirements:
- A low-income community (as determined under section 45D(e)), OR
- A county that has, during the 10-year period ending with the year in which the most recent census was conducted, a net out-migration of inhabitants from the county of the population of the county at the beginning of such period, AND
- Has a bachelor’s degree attainment rate for 25-34-year-olds below the national average for such population (as determined by Census data and currently 36%).

**BY THE NUMBERS**

$1.41 trillion national outstanding student debt

Ohio ranks 17th in the nation in student loan debt with 62% of students graduating with an average debt of $30,629.

Community Foundation for Crawford County’s Come Home Scholarships
- Started in 2018
- Must secure job or create their own business within 120 days of receiving the award
- Maximum award of $10K paid out quarterly
- 4 awardees since 2018

Hamilton Community Foundation’s Talent Attraction Program (TAP)
- Started in 2018
- Must live in core downtown Hamilton and work in the county
- Awardees receive up to $10K for 30 months
- 10 awardees since 2018 with a combined student loan debt of 450K