William Swanson Charitable Fund
2020 Request for Proposals (RFP) – Children First Initiative

About the William Swanson Charitable Fund
The William Swanson Charitable Fund is committed to supporting children in Mahoning and Trumbull counties who have experienced crises, including those who are/have been abused, neglected or dependent (children reliant on others and/or external systems of support, besides parents, for their care). Those experiences can limit opportunities for their gifts and talents to fully manifest throughout their lives. The Swanson Fund is the legacy of a local farmer who cared about his community and who wanted to uplift the well-being of others, especially children.

Granting Priorities
No child is the sum of the challenges and adversities they may have encountered, and all children deserve an equitable chance to pursue success. Reflecting its commitment to fostering transformative change in the lives of children, The William Swanson Charitable Fund requests proposals in 2020 for innovative projects that prevent or reduce the risk factors that can create disparities, and create opportunities for all children in Mahoning and Trumbull counties to thrive. Proposals for projects should address prevention and/or immediate needs, and priority will be given to proposals focused on programs and services in the following areas:

- **Health and Wellness** – *Initiatives, that by providing early intervention for physical, mental, emotional and/or behavioral health dependencies, can result in greater opportunities for children to excel*
  - Mental health and addiction – proposals that address anxiety, especially for low-income youth
  - Chronic Disease – proposals that reduce asthma morbidity, especially for black children under age 18; and, promote healthy weight, especially for low-income youth
  - Maternal and Infant Health – proposals that reduce infant mortality and preterm birth; and, promote prenatal care
- **Education** – *Initiatives addressing the race and income disparities in education, especially for low-income youth and black and Hispanic youth, that exist in the following areas:*
  - Kindergarten Readiness
  - 3rd Grade Reading Proficiency
  - 8th Grade Math Proficiency
  - High School Graduation/College & Career Readiness
- **Children’s Services** – *Initiatives that address the intersection of child welfare and parental substance abuse and/or parental incarceration, or initiatives that address the needs of youth involved with the juvenile justice system*

In addition, the William Swanson Charitable Fund prioritizes projects that:

- Address underlying social and economic challenges contributing to poor health outcomes in the communities served, such as poverty, lack of access to healthy foods and absence of parks/recreational centers.
- Extend past individual behavior or program-related services by modifying policies, systems and environments to help make healthy options practical and readily available.
- Demonstrate collaboration among sectors, including public health, government, education, healthcare, etc.
- Prioritize engagement of residents from the communities served.
- Adhere to existing, evidence-based best practices or promising practices.
- Leverage additional funding as well as community assets.
- Provide an established plan for evaluation including measurable outcomes.

Target Population
The William Swanson Charitable Fund is interested in transforming the lives of Mahoning Valley children confronted with challenges to equitable opportunity. Research shows that children in the below demographics have been most adversely impacted by societal neglect and community disinvestment over time, and are therefore the primary target for support from Swanson:

- Low-income
- Non-Hispanic black
- Hispanic
- Living in the cities of Youngstown and Warren, as well as a few select disinvested communities
- Children facing challenges based on their experience(s) with abuse, neglect, dependency, and/or their experience with Children’s Welfare or Juvenile Justice systems.
**Supportable Activity/Non-Supportable Activity**
Applicant organizations MUST meet the following criteria:
- Nonprofit corporation with proof of 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status;
- Demonstrated experience working with the targeted population; AND
- Interest or proven track record of collaborations with other organizations

The Fund cannot consider grants to individuals and generally will not consider grants for:
- Individual scholarships or grants, even if through an otherwise qualified organization.
- Sectarian religious activity.
- Lobbying.
- Religious purposes.
- Capital building projects.
- Endowment funds.
- Film or video production.
- Debt reduction.
- Foreign operations or expenditures.
- National fundraising campaigns or mass mailing campaigns.
- Membership in civic organizations or trade associations.
- Veterans’ organizations or fraternal societies.
- Annual support to local or national offices of organizations whose stated purpose is to combat a particular disease or family of diseases.
- Organizations that do not provide services in the Mahoning Valley (i.e. Mahoning and Trumbull Counties, Ohio).

**How to Apply**
The William Swanston Charitable Fund invites proposals, under a competitive Request for Proposal (RFP) process. Interested applicants must submit a letter of inquiry (LOI) on or before **Friday, December 13, 2019 at 4:00 PM**. (Please do NOT submit a full proposal unless invited to do so; see below.) LOIs are available at [www.cfmv.org](http://www.cfmv.org).

Please submit to [ckrell@cfmv.org](mailto:ckrell@cfmv.org). Those invited to submit a full proposal will be notified in February 2020. If the letter of inquiry (LOI) is accepted, an application form will be made available. Completed applications with supporting documents will then be submitted to the William Swanston Charitable Fund on or before Friday, March 13, 2020, at 4:00 PM. Grant awards will be announced in May 2020.

**Contact Information**
For more information concerning the William Swanston Charitable Fund or this Request for Proposal, please contact Casey Krell at the Community Foundation of the Mahoning Valley at 330.743.5555 or at [ckrell@cfmv.org](mailto:ckrell@cfmv.org).