The Community Foundation of the Mahoning Valley makes investments in programs that enhance the quality of life for all members of our community. We are charged with being good stewards of community assets to address the challenges facing our region and to realize our vision for a healthy, thriving, and vibrant Valley.

We believe the most effective way to carry out this vision is to support an equitable community in which organizations strive for programmatic and management excellence, focus on lifting up and building on the strengths and assets of the Valley, and engage and encourage residents to work collectively towards continuous improvement of the physical, social and cultural conditions for all Valley residents.

The Community Foundation seeks grant proposals that will support our vision of the community and focus on creating and sustaining programs and services where:

- Strong city centers are surrounded by vibrant neighborhoods that are safe and secure;
- Individuals and families are fully-equipped to meet their basic needs, including access to meaningful employment and stable, affordable housing;
- All children have equitable access to schools with effective and nurturing environments and an equal opportunity to learn, grow and develop;
- All residents have the opportunity to be engaged in the process of defining and achieving the type of community they choose to live in;

Preference is given to proposals that:

- Demonstrate measurable outcomes;
- Expand meaningful civic engagement and build social capital;
- Build on existing assets;
- Address prevention as well as remediation;
- Acknowledge and respect diversity, equity and inclusion, and help bridge differences among individuals, organizations and communities;
- Facilitate collaboration among relevant groups;
- Use or expand upon demonstrated and documented best practices;

Currently, grants made through the General Grant application reflect both the above focus areas/preferences as well as our fund holders’ personal philanthropic interests. While preference is given to proposals that possess the above qualities, support is provided to a variety of initiatives that include, but are not limited to, arts, culture, humanities, education, environment and/or animal-related, health, human service, public/society benefit and religious/charitable purposes.