

# William Swanston Charitable Fund

2026-2028 Grant Focus Areas

## **About the William Swanston Charitable Fund**

The William Swanston 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 Swanston 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 on its commitment to fostering transformative change in the lives of children, **The William Swanston Charitable Fund will prioritize their grant making in 2026 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 in the following areas:**

- **Health and Wellness** – *The following priorities were identified through the 2025 Akron Children’s Hospital Community Health Needs Assessment. Initiatives that can result in greater opportunities for children to excel by increasing access to convenient, quality care, early intervention efforts, and trusted health information to improve health outcomes:*
  - Mental and Behavioral Health: Focusing on strengthening care coordination, ensuring safe environments and expanding early intervention efforts
  - Access to Care: Focusing on increasing access to providers, affordable insurance options, and health services that are easy to navigate
  - Health Information: Focusing on empowering families with reliable health information to support informed decisions and improve pediatric well-being
- **Education** – *Initiatives addressing disparities in educational outcomes that exist in the following areas:*
  - Kindergarten Readiness
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Reading Proficiency
  - 8<sup>th</sup> 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**, we consider *how* an organization works and *who* leads the work. Strong proposals will incorporate the following:

- Individuals with personal knowledge or direct experience have key roles in planning & implementation.
- Success is clearly defined, as are plans to achieve it and evaluate results toward it.
- Qualitative and quantitative data is used to inform approach and measure impact.
- Underlying social and economic challenges contributing to poor health are addressed, such as racial inequity, poverty, as well as barriers to healthy food, quality housing and safe parks/recreational spaces.
- Projected outcomes include change in policies, systems and environments to help make healthy options practical and readily available in an equitable manner to all residents.
- Requested funds will leverage other public and private funding sources.
- Partners from different sectors, including public health, government, education, healthcare, etc., have been engaged to develop shared priorities and strategies.

***We recognize that numerous terms and phrases are used in our language that you may not be familiar with or have a different interpretation of than we do. In order to provide clarity to our words, please visit the “Glossary of Commonly Used Terms” section of our website: [www.cfmv.org/glossary](http://www.cfmv.org/glossary)***