



IMPACT INVESTING

Our community faces urgent challenges of poverty, inequality and health. Neither government nor philanthropy—alone or together—are equipped to solve these problems. The pandemic’s devastating effects have laid bare how health and economic crises disproportionately affect families living in poverty.

As the Topeka Community Foundation works to create a community that is resilient, prosperous and equitable for generations to come, we are expanding our thinking and our tools. Impact Investing is a tool that the Foundation is now using to create sustainable and transformational change.

Impact Investing provides a loan, equity investment or guarantee to nonprofits, for-profits, and intermediary partners, with the central purpose of social good that also provides a financial return.

Impact Investing puts people and community ahead of financial returns. This does not mean we don’t care about returns – it means that the returns are measured not solely in financial gain, but in lives changed. It allows the Topeka Community Foundation to have greater flexibility to focus on mission fulfillment and long-lasting change as we unlock additional assets for investments.

WHAT IS IMPACT INVESTING?

An Impact Investment can be a loan, equity investment or guarantee that advances the mission of the Topeka Community Foundation, generates measurable community impact and achieves some sort of financial return. Many local Impact Investments are made at rates of return that prioritize community impact.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Impact Investing funds come from a small percentage of assets in our growth portfolio. Investments can be made to nonprofits, for-profits and intermediary partners.

Investment opportunities are identified by members of the community, embraced by the Foundation and become a reality through collaborative efforts of the Foundation and its partners.

WHY IS THE TOPEKA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION DOING THIS WORK?

Community challenges are complex and often require resources beyond the reach of grantmaking. There is a gap between the need for capital and what the private market will provide.

Impact Investments will target programs that would not happen without the Foundation’s capital. Local banks and other financial intermediaries are considered partners, not competitors.

Impact Investing has the potential to create long lasting and systemic changes that will benefit the most vulnerable populations in our community for years to come.

WHAT KIND OF LOCAL IMPACT IS EXPECTED?

The Topeka Community Foundation will focus on specific impact areas, founded on data around the social determinants of health, including access to healthcare, safety, and education.

In alignment with our mission, neighborhoods with a health composite score in the “at risk” or “intensive care” range will be prioritized.

WHO WILL BE MAKING INVESTMENT DECISIONS?

Impact Investing embraces the Community Foundation’s value of collaboration. Community Foundation staff will be responsible for initial investment solicitations as well as conducting preliminary due diligence. Local banks, credit unions and other lenders, housing organizations and GoTopeka might help identify important investment opportunities in our community.

The Local Impact Investment Committee will follow Foundation Board-approved guidelines and policies. Committee members are local leaders with expertise relevant to the practice of local investing.

Due diligence and underwriting on investments will help the committee mitigate risk. External support partners will be contracted to assist in risk mitigation.

Ultimately, the Topeka Community Foundation Board of Directors will approve all investment decisions.

HOW IS THIS DIFFERENT THAN GRANTMAKING?

With Impact Investing, money circles back to the Foundation with a return, so dollars can be recycled back into the community.

We will ensure that this new tool aligns with and complements our continuing work in grantmaking. The careful, gradual allocation of these resources will have little to no impact on our grantmaking budget.

HOW MUCH MONEY WILL BE INVESTED THIS WAY?

Up to 5% of investable assets may be allocated from the growth portfolio.

LOCAL IMPACT INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

Jennifer Sourk – Chair
General Counsel, Midwest Health, Inc.

Tara Dimick
Chief Business Development Officer, Envista Credit Union

Beth Easter
Market President, INTRUST Bank

Leslie Fleuranges
Founder, TLC Pet Nursing Hotel

Dr. Rick LeJuerne
President, Flow Capital

Lalo Munoz
Executive Director, El Centro of Topeka

Mike Padilla
Mayor, City of Topeka

Dr. Shane Van Dalsem
Associate Professor of Finance, Washburn University

Keith Warta
President, Bartlett & West



“It is our goal, through Impact Investing, to find and finance more social good than we ever have before.”

For more information, contact Foundation President, Marsha Pope
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