



## PRIORITY NEEDS FUND

### Application Information

**PURPOSE:** The Priority Needs Fund was created by the Governing Board of The Troy Foundation to address the needs identified by the Community Needs Assessment performed by Measurement Resources Company. The Foundation's Distribution Committee will be responsible for reviewing applications to the Priority Needs that assist the Troy community in addressing transportation, childcare, access to behavioral and mental health services, and affordable housing. Applications demonstrating collaborative methods to address the needs are encouraged and so that the Foundation can better determine that the needs of all residents of Troy are being met, information should be included within the application demonstrating how the applicant will apply a diversity, equity and inclusion lens to ensure that the needs of ALL Troy's residents are met through the use of the Foundation's grant dollars (please reference Strategic Focus #5 below).

#### **Strategic Focus #1: Public Transportation**

Availability of a public transportation system that is user-friendly, affordable, and useable for all shift workers was identified as the greatest community need. Lack of public transportation impacts all industries, private and public, including being able to access health or social services, job trainings, employment, and social events that build a sense of community. Of the surveyed community partners, 65% identified transportation as a need among Troy residents.

#### **Strategic Focus #2: Childcare**

There is limited infant through pre-K childcare facilities in Miami County that are state certified and not enough space for all children in the community even in non-certified facilities. Over half of kindergarteners are not considered ready for kindergarten upon entry. Stakeholders perceive there are higher-paying jobs available for individuals able to work second and third shifts. Yet, workers are unable to access these jobs due to the cost and limited availability of childcare for these positions. Similar to transportation, lack of childcare impacts all industries. Of the surveyed community partners, 63% identified lack of childcare as an unmet need among Troy residents.

#### **Strategic Focus #3: Behavioral and Mental Health**

Troy, like most communities across Ohio, has experienced rising levels of opioid and other substance misuse and addiction. Additionally, other behavioral health conditions have increased among all age groups. The community's youth have strong attitudes regarding the need for community leaders to prioritize behavioral health-related issues. The increased visibility into how mental health and addiction is afflicting more individuals throughout the community has increased the community's recognition of the need for more services to improve these conditions for residents. Of the surveyed community partners, 42% identified mental health care as a need among Troy residents.

**Strategic Focus #4: Housing**

Affordable housing in Troy is a concern. Many new and younger residents are looking to live and start families in the community. During the focus groups, residents vocalized that houses are either too expensive, or affordable, but dilapidated. The lack of affordable housing keeps residents in a cycle of renting. As seen in the secondary data, renting costs in Troy are higher than the state average. Additionally, Black and/or African American neighborhoods that were formed, as a result of redlining policies, threaten home values and the ability for families to build generation-al wealth through homeownership. Of the surveyed community partners, 56% identified affordable housing as a need among Troy residents.

**Strategic Focus #5: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Lens**

While focusing efforts towards the above focus areas will improve lives in Troy, intentional action will need to be taken to ensure all communities in Troy can benefit from such efforts. The diversity of Troy, such as income levels, disability levels, racial groups, education levels, age groups, and language groups, means that residents experience living, working, going to school, and raising families in Troy differently. This report identifies how different community groups also experience accessing services differently in Troy. A diversity, equity and inclusion lens applied to each strategic focus area will promote funding decisions that are intentional about reaching all residents and more culturally relevant strategies to implement effective programming for all residents of Troy.

Organizations providing services and programs addressing transportation, childcare, behavioral and mental services and affordable housing are invited to apply to the Priority Needs Fund beginning May 15, 2022. Applications to the Priority Needs Fund can be in addition to an organization's application through our normal quarterly grantmaking process.

For additional information or clarification, please contact Nathan Kleptz, Grants Manager, via email at [nkleptz@thetroyfoundation.org](mailto:nkleptz@thetroyfoundation.org) or by calling 937-339-8935.



## Priority Needs Fund

### Guidelines for Applicants

The Distribution Committee will begin reviewing applications to the Priority Needs Fund on a quarterly basis beginning in June, 2022 during their regular grants meetings.

During 2022, grants submitted to the Priority Needs Fund should address transportation, childcare, access to behavioral and mental health services, and housing.

Applications demonstrating collaborative services/programs will be given priority by the Distribution Committee. A collaborative approach will demonstrate how more than one organization will work together to address one or more of the needs identified by the assessment.

The diversity of Troy, such as income levels, disability levels, racial groups, education levels, age groups, and language groups, means that residents experience living, working, going to school, and raising families in Troy differently. The Foundation is committed to funding programs and services that help to remove barriers for our residents so that ALL residents experience living, working, going to school and raising their families in Troy equitably. Within your application to the Priority Needs Fund, please provide answers to the following:

- How does your application remove barriers that may exist for specific populations that live in Troy?
- Provide a breakdown of the number of people who will benefit from your request, including age, gender, racial group, income levels, disability levels, educational levels, etc.

As a grant recipient, you will be asked to provide a final narrative, an impact statement (how did the grant affect the population you were trying to serve), and submit photos that are of a quality that can be used on social media and/or the Foundation's annual report.