



# Investment Approach

Financial stewardship is a fundamental part of everything we do here at the Community Foundation. Our financial policies adhere to the highest standards of excellence and transparency to protect, preserve, and grow the assets our fundholders and donors entrust to us. It is through this unwavering commitment that we can provide consistent grant dollars into the communities we serve today and long into the future.

The Investment Committee of the Board of Directors is responsible for oversight of all investment activities of the Foundation. The Fischer Group at Graystone Consulting, the institutional consulting business of Morgan Stanley, serves as our Investment Manager and works closely with our Investment Committee. As of December 31, 2023, Graystone Consulting had over \$614 billion of clients' institutional assets under management. Furthermore, the Fischer Group at Graystone Consulting was named on the Barron's Top 100 Institutional Consulting Teams in 2024. What this means for us at the Community Foundation is that they leverage the size and scale of the firm to negotiate not only asset management fees but also provide many additional services at reduced or no cost (i.e. custody, trading, etc.)

The Investment Committee, in consultation with Graystone Consulting, annually reviews and updates as needed our Investment Policy Statement (IPS). The IPS sets guidelines for our asset allocation strategy. On an annual basis, the Graystone team, utilizing firm wide research regarding the medium- and long-term performance expectations of all the various asset classes, runs an optimization analysis of our asset allocation strategy to make sure we are positioned to mitigate risk will maximizing return.

Our overall investment strategy is a delicate balance of serving the needs of our region today while growing our endowment through disciplined, long-term investment objectives to remain financially sustainable to address community needs and opportunities tomorrow.

The majority of funds held at the Community Foundation are invested in the Balanced Pool. The Balanced Pool is prudently diversified for long term capital appreciation while minimizing risk and meeting the grantmaking needs of our community. Asset allocation parameters are made up of the following Asset Classes: Equities with a target of 54.8%; Fixed Income with a target of 14.9%; and Alternative Investments with a target of 30.3%. Within each asset class, due to the size of the pool and the relationships within the Graystone and Morgan Stanley universe, the Foundation has access to expert asset managers who consistently outperform their respective benchmarks. The firm performs more than 450 onsite manager visits each year leveraging more than 45 dedicated manager analysis professionals. Our Greystone team, led by Marc Fischer, is deeply familiar with the underlying asset managers and has consistent contact with those teams.

Each month, our financial team allocates returns, net of investment management fees, proportionally to each fund in the Balanced Pool.

The Short-Term Bond Pool provides a low-risk, cash-like option for monies that will be held by the Foundation for less than 6 months. This pool consists of Fixed Income Short Duration Bonds.