

Our grantmaking approach

As we continue to define our refreshed philosophy and processes, we hope to provide our community with a transparent and informative overview of what we fund, how we fund, and when we fund. Our goal is to provide clear, concise, and consistent information about our current grantmaking.

Our 2035 vision

With the Kauffman Foundation's support, greater Kansas City will become a national model for equitable economic mobility, dismantling systemic barriers and setting generations of historically under-resourced communities on the path to prosperity.

Our priorities

Three strategic areas are at the heart of our mission, prioritized because of their anticipated power to create change.

COLLEGE ACCESS AND COMPLETION – equitable opportunities for all

Students and communities thrive when educational pathways are affordable, high-quality, and attainable for all. We support solutions that prepare students to start and complete college, and transition to good-paying jobs.

Colleges, universities, and community colleges play a critical role in closing economic mobility gaps for Black, Latino, and low-income communities.

WORKFORCE AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT – at every stage

Market-ready skills development is vital to individual, organizational, and community growth for those entering the workforce and advancing their careers.

When people have access to training, support, and the opportunity to achieve and progress on a career path, they can attain an equitable living wage, setting generations of people on the path to prosperity.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP – supporting and sustaining business ownership

We believe in the power of entrepreneurship. The success of businesses can strengthen every level of our economy.

When aspiring, early stage, and established business owners are connected to peer networks, training, tools, and resources, we improve conditions for both individual and community economic mobility.

We believe it

Everything we do is grounded in the generosity and love for Kansas City that Ewing Marion Kauffman infused into the heart of our mission.

We dream it

We dream of a more equitable Kansas City, where economic mobility is a reality for all. Where Black, Latino, and low-income Kansas Citians have access to education and business ownership that closes wealth gaps and builds financial futures.

We mean it

When we say that all the money in the world can't solve problems unless we work together, we mean it. We are deeply committed to partnering with community champions, bold changemakers, and innovative organizations everywhere.



Igniting potential.
Driving progress.