



# LEHIGH VALLEY SYNERGY FUND

Supporting long-term, strategic alliances to build organizational sustainability and improve program and service delivery across the Lehigh Valley

In a rapidly changing environment for the region's nonprofits, long-term partnership can be an effective option to enhance performance for two or more organizations where the resulting whole can be greater than the sum of its parts. The Synergy Fund provides financial support to help sustain the long-term partnerships between and among two or more nonprofit organizations. Included in these collaborations are joint membership programs, management company models, joint ventures, federations, mergers, consolidations and acquisitions.



## MAKING THE CASE

- ▶ There are over 1,000 active nonprofits in the region that make significant contributions to the health, education, well-being and overall quality of life for Lehigh Valley residents.
- ▶ The nonprofit sector is important to our region's overall success. But, a recent study, The Financial Health of the United States Nonprofit Sector, reveals the fragility of the sector: 7% are technically insolvent and 50% have less than one month of operating reserves.
- ▶ With limited resources available, it is imperative that organizations maximize their impact and strengthen their financial position at a time of rapid change and financial turbulence.

## TYPES OF SUPPORT

### Technical Assistance Grant

Support for up to \$5,000 for an opportunity to work with a skilled and credible consultant to facilitate this first stage of partnership exploration.

### Diligence Grant

Support for up to \$10,000 for an opportunity to work with a consultant to facilitate a due diligence process. Following the due diligence process, a binding MOU is required to enter the implementation grant stage.

### Implementation Grant

Support for up to \$25,000 to be used to offset fees and additional costs to help finalize the merged organization.

## DEMONSTRATED IMPACT

The Synergy Fund has supported eight successful collaboration projects since the Fund's inception in 2015. Support from the fund has:

- Reduced duplicative administrative costs
- Increased mission impact
- Increased the quality of programs in the region
- Increased the overall long-term sustainability

The Lehigh Valley Synergy Fund is a jointly managed fund between the United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley and the Lehigh Valley Community Foundation. To support the Synergy Fund, contact Erika Riddle Petrozelli, LVCF Director of Donor Services, at [erika@lvcfoundation.org](mailto:erika@lvcfoundation.org), call 610 351-5353. For grants information, contact Megan Briggs, LVCF Director of Community Investments, at [meganb@lvcfoundation.org](mailto:meganb@lvcfoundation.org), call 610 351-5353.

