



March 20, 2017

Good afternoon, Chair Romanchuk, Ranking Member Sykes, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Michael Parks, and I serve as the President of The Dayton Foundation located in Dayton, Ohio. The Dayton Foundation is a community foundation that has been helping people help others in the Greater Dayton Region since 1921. We provide unmatched services, resources, support and counsel to help individuals achieve their charitable giving goals; we assist other nonprofits by funding important initiatives and offering our expertise to help them operate more effectively; and we're helping build a better Dayton by identifying important issues and bringing together the people and organizations that can solve them

We are also a member of the Ohio Association of Non-Profit Organizations (OANO). OANO provides a number of resources and tools for the non-profit sector, and they first introduced us to the Standards for Excellence Program. This program—often referred to as the “Standards”—is very simply a voluntary accreditation for the non-profit world. As straightforward as this may seem, the process to get fully accredited and sealed by the Standards council is nothing short of transformative. A full, thorough review of every aspect of the non-profit organization is done, ensuring that an organization is not just legally compliant, but adhering to all best practices from human resources, board governance to financial auditing. The Standards seal truly means something at the end of this lengthy and rigorous process.

We made this voluntary decision in 2005 to go through the Standards program without knowing exactly what to expect. We emerged as a stronger, more viable non-profit using the most effective and efficient practices possible. The process of reviewing all aspects of our organization ensured that we are adhering to best practices, operating transparently, and providing excellent services to our donors, constituents and all who we serve.

I feel it so important that I am asking for support for a very inexpensive investment from the state that will truly leave an impact on the non-profit sector state-wide. We are asking for \$50,000 from the General Revenue Fund-administered through ODJFS- for a Standards for Excellence Scholarship Program. This will allow 24 non-profits from six sectors of the state to become fully accredited. In the world of non-profits, the cost to attend our required clinic series is often not able to be built into the slim margins in which we work. This scholarship would be aimed at organizations that could truly benefit from this program but possibly cannot afford to include within their budget.

The benefits of this very conservative funding request are multi-fold. The Standards produce non-profits to be stronger, more viable organizations that can better serve their mission; it also safeguards the State and the many charitable

The Regional Community Foundation

40 N. Main Street
Suite 500
Dayton, Ohio 45423
Phone: (937) 222-0410
Fax: (937) 222-0636
Website: www.daytonfoundation.org
E-mail: info@daytonfoundation.org

Michael M. Parks,
President
Governing Board
J. Norman Eckstein, *chair*
Craig J. Brown, *vice chair*
Marva Cosby
William L. Gillispie
Lisa E. Hanauer
Ellen S. Ireland
Maureen A. Lynch
David T. Miller
Anita J. Moore
Richard J. Omlor
Ratna K. Palakodeti, M.D.
James R. Pancoast
Colleen M. Ryan
Charles G. Schroeder

The Dayton Foundation
Tax No. 31-6027287

Dayton Foundation
Charitable Accounts, Inc.
Tax No. 31-1330325

Dayton Foundation
Depository, Inc.
Tax No. 31-1044298

The Dayton Foundation
Plus, Inc.
Tax No. 54-2101090

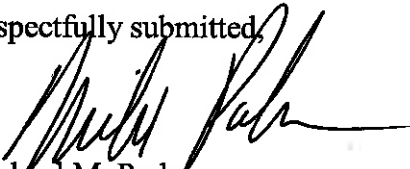


Meeting All Standards for
U.S. Community Foundations.

donors in Ohio who can have a third-party vetting system to check on the operations of a particular non-profit; and these non-profits will be more poised than ever to apply for and receive grants from other funding sources.

I urge your support for a sector that continues to give so much back to our great State and those living in it. This request is an important way to bolster our organizations with the proper tools and resources needed for optimization.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael M. Parks
President