

# Trailhead Community Health Foundation of Greater Akron

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### About the Trailhead Community Health Foundation of Greater Akron

- 1 What is the primary mission of Trailhead Community Health Foundation of Greater Akron?**

Trailhead Community Health Foundation of Greater Akron is an independent nonprofit dedicated to improving community health through strategic grants, partnerships, and collaborative initiatives. The foundation also protects the public interest through monitoring and enforcement to ensure the new, for-profit Summa Health System honors the commitments made by Health Assurance Transformation LLC (HATCo) during the transaction.
- 2 Why was the name "Trailhead" chosen?**

The name reflects both Greater Akron's natural heritage and the foundation's role as a starting point for healthier futures. Just as trailheads mark new journeys, Trailhead Community Health Foundation of Greater Akron signals a new path forward for community wellbeing in Greater Akron.
- 3 What geographic area does Trailhead Community Health Foundation of Greater Akron serve?**

Trailhead Community Health Foundation serves Greater Akron, which includes Summit, Medina, Portage, Stark, and Wayne counties.
- 4 Why do we need another foundation in Greater Akron?**

Trailhead Community Health Foundation of Greater Akron brings a distinct focus on community health. It expands the region's philanthropic landscape by dedicating resources specifically to improving health outcomes and addressing unmet needs in meaningful, measurable ways. Trailhead Community Health Foundation of Greater Akron complements the work of other local foundations.
- 5 How is Trailhead Community Health Foundation of Greater Akron being established?**

Trailhead Community Health Foundation of Greater Akron is funded with the net proceeds of the transaction between Summa Health System and Health Assurance Transformation LLC (HATCo). As a part of its review of the transaction, the Ohio Attorney General reviewed and approved the foundation and board structure.
- 6 When will Trailhead Community Health Foundation of Greater Akron be operational?**

Now that Trailhead Community Health Foundation of Greater Akron has been established, its board is currently working to hire its president and CEO and begin the work of setting up the organization, with a goal to release details about funding priorities and the grant application process in 2026.
- 7 What will be the immediate focus of the foundation?**

In this early stage, Trailhead Community Health Foundation of Greater Akron is focused on hiring leadership and staff and establishing best practices in structure, policies and operations.

**Have you hired a CEO?**

- ⑧ Trailhead Community Health Foundation of Greater Akron is conducting a national search for its founding President & CEO. While the search is still underway, we look forward to introducing the CEO to the community in the coming months.

⑨ **When do you plan to hire staff?**

After the CEO is hired, Trailhead Community Health Foundation of Greater Akron will develop a staffing plan and share updates in the future.

## Funding and Governance

① **Where is the funding for the Trailhead Community Health Foundation of Greater Akron coming from?**

Trailhead Community Health Foundation of Greater Akron's initial funding comes from the net proceeds from the sale of Summa Health System's assets to Health Assurance Transformation LLC (HATCo) combined with restricted assets held by the current Summa Foundation before the sale.

② **What is the size of Trailhead Community Health Foundation of Greater Akron?**

Trailhead Community Health Foundation of Greater Akron is one of the largest grantmaking foundations in Northeast Ohio. While the sale of Summa Health System to Health Assurance Transformation LLC (HATCo) has closed, there is still work to be done to determine the final dollar amount for the foundation. We look forward to sharing the size of the foundation in the future.

③ **Will Trailhead Community Health Foundation of Greater Akron solicit donations?**

Yes – Trailhead Community Health Foundation of Greater Akron will solicit support to advance its mission.

④ **Who served on the committee that created the mission and structure?**

The Summa Health System Board of Directors created a working group of community members to lead this effort, including Julia Rea Bianchi, Thomas Harnden, Ramona Hood, Dave Lieberth, and Allen Loomis. They were supported by a team of legal counsel, business advisors, and communications consultants.

⑤ **How was the board of directors selected for Trailhead Community Health Foundation of Greater Akron?**

Interested individuals applied and were vetted through a rigorous process. Recommended candidates were reviewed and approved by the Governance Committee of the Summa Health System Board and then the Summa Health System Board.

⑥ **Will donations be tax deductible?**

Yes. Trailhead Community Health Foundation of Greater Akron is a registered 501(c)(3) public charity and donations will be tax-deductible.

⑦ **Will Trailhead Community Health Foundation of Greater Akron support the new, for-profit Summa Health System?**

Trailhead Community Health Foundation of Greater Akron is prohibited from using the proceeds of the transaction to make direct payments to the hospital system owned and operated by Health Assurance Transformation LLC (HATCo).

## Grantmaking and Community Involvement

- 1 How will the Trailhead Community Health Foundation of Greater Akron use its endowment?**  
Funds will support strategic grants, partnerships, and initiatives that improve community health. Grantmaking guidelines will be set by the board.
- 2 How can my organization apply for funding?**  
Details about funding priorities and the grant application process will likely be released in 2026.
- 3 When will Trailhead Community Health Foundation of Greater Akron begin distributing grants?**  
We anticipate that the first grants will be distributed within 12-18 months.
- 4 What specific programs or initiatives does Trailhead Community Health Foundation of Greater Akron prioritize?**  
The Trailhead Community Health Foundation of Greater Akron focuses on initiatives and partnerships that enhance health and wellness for Greater Akron residents. Specific guidelines and programs will be developed and publicized in 2026.
- 5 How will decisions be made about which programs or initiatives Trailhead Community Health Foundation of Greater Akron funds? Will these decisions be made transparently and with community input?**  
Trailhead Community Health Foundation of Greater Akron will support programs that align with its mission. Details about the decision-making process and community engagement opportunities will be developed once the board and staff are in place.
- 6 How can community members get involved with the Trailhead Community Health Foundation of Greater Akron?**  
The board is currently working to hire the foundation's president and CEO and begin the work of setting up the foundation. As part of this process, the foundation will consider opportunities for individuals, businesses, and organizations to participate in its mission.

## Donor and Legacy Questions

- 1 What happens to those who have included Summa Health System in their estate plans?**  
Trailhead Community Health Foundation of Greater Akron's board and staff is working with legacy donors to ensure their intent is honored. Donors are receiving updates as opportunities are created to support community health through the foundation.
- 2 What happens to Summa Health System's giving societies?**  
The Trailhead Community Health Foundation of Greater Akron board and staff is working with those societies and their donors to ensure their intent and legacy are honored. Donors are being kept informed as opportunities are created to support community health through the foundation.

## Relationship with Summa Health System/ Health Assurance Transformation LLC (HATCo)

**1 What is Trailhead Community Health Foundation of Greater Akron's relationship with the new Summa Health System/Health Assurance Transformation LLC (HATCo)?**

Trailhead Community Health Foundation of Greater Akron is be fully independent from the new Summa Health System/Health Assurance Transformation LLC (HATCo). The foundation is be prohibited from using the proceeds of the transaction to make direct payments to the hospital system owned and operated by HATCo.

**2 Does Health Assurance Transformation LLC (HATCo) have a say in how Trailhead Community Health Foundation of Greater Akron is run or its grantmaking decisions?**

No. Health Assurance Transformation LLC (HATCo) has no governance or influence over Trailhead Community Health Foundation of Greater Akron.

**3 How is Trailhead Community Health Foundation of Greater Akron ensuring Summa Health System/Health Assurance Transformation LLC (HATCo) fulfills its sale commitments?**

Trailhead Community Health Foundation of Greater Akron protects the public interest through monitoring and enforcement to ensure the new, for-profit Summa Health System honors the commitments made by Health Assurance Transformation LLC (HATCo) during the transaction.

**4 How does Trailhead Community Health Foundation of Greater Akron ensure decisions about our health remain rooted in the community?**

Trailhead Community Health Foundation of Greater Akron is governed by a board comprised of individuals with deep roots in Greater Akron. The foundation improves community health in the five counties of Greater Akron (Summit, Medina, Portage, Stark, and Wayne) through strategic grants, partnerships, and initiatives.

## Transparency, Accountability, and Updates

**1 How does Trailhead Community Health Foundation of Greater Akron ensure transparency and accountability?**

Trailhead Community Health Foundation of Greater Akron and its affiliates will be tax-exempt nonprofits registered with the IRS and the Ohio Attorney General. They will file annual Form 990s and will make reports available to the public.

**2 How can we be sure funds raised by Trailhead Community Health Foundation of Greater Akron benefit the local community?**

Trailhead Community Health Foundation of Greater Akron is permanently chartered for charitable purposes. Governed by a board comprised of individuals with deep roots in Greater Akron, its assets will serve Greater Akron communities. Public reports and oversight will ensure transparency.

**3 Where will updates be posted?**

Updates will be posted on [trailheadhealthfoundation.org](http://trailheadhealthfoundation.org).