

2020
HOME REGION
STRATEGIC PLAN



The Walton Family Foundation has a special and ongoing commitment to support the region that helped launch one of the best-known American business success stories.

**WALTON FAMILY
FOUNDATION**



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The Home Region Program was established in 2009 to underscore the family's special and ongoing commitment to invest in the region that helped launch one of the best-known American business successes, by creating and sustaining long-term economic development for residents and businesses in the region.

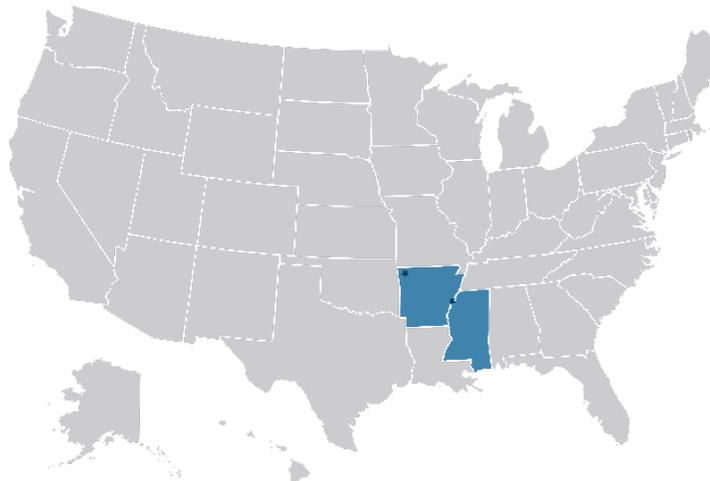
The Home Region geography is more strategically defined as: 1) Northwest Arkansas, home of Sam and Helen Walton and headquarters of the Walton Family Foundation; and 2) the Delta Region of Arkansas and Mississippi, one of the nation's most impoverished areas.

With its 2020 Home Region Strategic Plan, the Walton Family Foundation plans to invest more than \$300 million in strategies that enhance the quality of life and produce world-class results.

This work will span two initiatives:

Northwest Arkansas: Attract and retain top talent at all levels and ensure long-term viability of the region.

Arkansas and Mississippi Delta: Address Pre-K-12 educational improvement in the broader region, while addressing other key basic needs in targeted counties to establish a base on which future economic development can occur.



NORTHWEST ARKANSAS INITIATIVE

The Northwest Arkansas initiative is designed to help the area attract and retain top talent at all levels and to ensure the long-term viability of the region, primarily Benton and Washington counties.



CREATE WORLD-CLASS PRE-K-12 OPTIONS

We are supporting the creation of world-class schools that provide high-quality educational options. This strategy will allow all students to maximize their potential and also help attract and retain talent in the region. We will invest in:

- providing funding assistance for best-in-class private or public charter schools, and improving existing charter and traditional district schools
- closing the achievement gap between students of differing race & socioeconomic status
- increasing advanced placement academic program choice and innovation

Key grantees include:

- Arkansas AIMS
- Arkansas Arts Academy
- Bentonville Public Schools
- Rogers Public Schools
- Haas Hall Academy
- Helen Walton Children's Enrichment Center
- Thaden School



STRENGTHEN COORDINATED REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

We envision a region that supports a diverse economy that continues to grow and attract living-wage jobs. In order to increase long-term economic vitality, we will invest in:

- increased regional coordination on economic development policy and projects
- developing a culture of entrepreneurship

Key grantees include:

- NorthWest Arkansas Community College
- Northwest Arkansas Council
- Winrock International – Northwest Arkansas Venture Team



ESTABLISH THE REGION AS A LEADER IN ARTS AND CULTURAL AMENITIES

We are investing in efforts that strengthen and expand arts and cultural programming to provide all residents access to nationally recognized world-class visual and performing arts amenities.

Goals for this strategy include:

- ensuring continued operations of regional anchor arts and culture organizations
- increasing attendance and exposure to supported amenities
- supporting a greater breadth of performing and visual arts opportunities
- increasing national recognition of the region's arts and cultural offerings

Key grantees include:

- Scott Family Amazeum
- Community Creative Center
- Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art
- Symphony of Northwest Arkansas
- TheatreSquared
- Walton Arts Center



PRESERVE A SENSE OF PLACE

We will support efforts that make Northwest Arkansas a place where people want to live and businesses want to relocate because of attractive, and distinctive natural and built environments. The foundation will provide assistance for programs that:

- increase natural-surface trails and usage of natural amenities
- increase preserved and maintained public green space
- increase regional coordination of downtown revitalization and well-planned growth policies
- increase regional coordination of infrastructure and transportation networks
- increase the knowledge base of local leaders in urban planning approaches that preserve quality of life
- improve and protect Northwest Arkansas water quality

Key grantees include:

- Beaver Watershed Alliance
- Downtown Bentonville, Inc.
- Illinois River Watershed Partnership
- Main Street Siloam Springs
- Northwest Arkansas Land Trust
- Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission
- Bentonville Bella Vista Trailblazers
- Various municipalities

ARKANSAS AND MISSISSIPPI DELTA REGION INITIATIVE

The Delta initiative addresses basic needs in targeted counties to establish a base environment where economic development can occur.

Programs will primarily benefit residents of Phillips County, Arkansas, and Coahoma County, Mississippi, although education goals serve a broader geographic region in the Delta.



SUPPORT PRE-K-12 EDUCATIONAL IMPROVEMENT

We will support educational improvement efforts that enable students in this impoverished, under-resourced area reach their full potential. Our long-term vision is to create a system of schools that provides high-quality education options where all students can maximize their potential.

We will invest in programs that focus on low-income and underserved students by:

- supporting new high-quality options
- improving existing charter and district options

Key grantees include:

- Clarksdale School District
- The College Initiative
- KIPP Delta
- Teach For America – Arkansas
- Teach For America – Mississippi



IMPROVE PUBLIC SAFETY

We believe lowering overall rates of crime and helping all community residents feel safe will have a direct impact on the basic quality-of-life necessities in target counties. We will support programs that:

- improve public safety through identification, study and application of effective crime-reduction programs
- improve public perception of community safety through citizen engagement and enhance citizen/law enforcement relationships

Key grantees include:

- City of Clarksdale
- City of Helena
- Coahoma County Sheriff's Office



ENGAGE AND DEVELOP YOUTH

We want to provide all school-aged children access to quality outside-the-classroom programming. We will invest in initiatives that:

- support evidence-based youth programming and projects to increase access to safe places
- address youth idleness
- encourage positive behaviors

Key grantees include:

- Boys and Girls Club of Phillips County
- Coahoma County Youth Outreach
- Griot Arts, Inc.
- The Spring Initiative



INVEST IN TARGETED JOB CREATION

The foundation is interested in helping Phillips and Coahoma counties become areas with thriving economies, growing populations and diverse industries with living-wage jobs. We will fund:

- initiatives that increase job creation through a focus on tourism
- capstone support for community-backed business expansions or relocations

Key grantees include:

- Southern Bancorp Community Partners
- Various municipalities

Learn more at waltonfamilyfoundation.org

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