



CASE STUDY:  
**Strategic Planning Retreat**

## Situation

The Community Foundation of the Northern Alleghenies is comprised of the McKean County Community Foundation and the Elk County Community Foundation. CFNA has 223 charitable funds, has given over \$4 million in Community Grants, and over \$2 million in scholarships. The common mission of ECCF and MCCF is to enhance the quality of life in the local area as they strengthen the region through development, stewardship, and grant making. CFNA engaged The Hill Group to reimagine its vision for the future, build its capacity, both from a financial standpoint and a staffing standpoint, determine a plan for storing and systemizing institutional knowledge, and manage its funds in a more concrete and sustainable way.

## Solution

To meet the organization's budget and time constraints, The Hill Group designed and deployed a single-day strategy development blitz informed by key stakeholder input gathered in advance through interviews and surveys.

## Results

- Leveraged the planning retreat as an opportunity to engage with donors, grantees, and professional advisors throughout the multi-county region
- Engaged the board in a immersive single-day retreat to gain consensus on mission, vision, values, and key priorities for the next several years
- Helped to prepare the organization for eventual succession of its long-serving Executive Director
- Helped to identify and budget for key infrastructure improvements for successful plan implementation

## Behind the Scenes

The Hill Group worked closely with CFNA staff to devise a process to balance budget constraints and desired outcomes. The three phases of strategic planning typically deployed by The Hill Group over a series of months was condensed to a single-day retreat with activities and exercises designed to quickly illicit key priorities and articulate goals critical for the future of the Foundation.

## CLIENT

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION  
OF THE NORTHERN  
ALLEGHENIES

## INDUSTRY

PHILANTHROPY AND  
FOUNDATIONS

## PROJECT

FACILITATE A STRATEGY  
DEVELOPMENT RETREAT

## About The Hill Group, Inc.

Founded in 1953, The Hill Group, Inc. is a premier provider of management counsel, specializing in strategy, execution, and measurement. Our team of consultants has deep experience across several industries, enabling our team to draw on best practices from a variety of sectors to help our clients grow, innovate, and achieve maximum potential.

**Strategy** – *Envisioning an organization’s future, capitalizing on its opportunities, identifying strategic priorities, and implementing positive change.*

- Strategy Development
- Decision Support and Analysis
- Strategic Planning and Management
- Business Planning and Feasibility Assessments
- Mergers, Acquisitions, and Strategic Alliance Planning
- Market Research and Analysis

**Execution** – *Ensuring that an organization is efficiently and effectively utilizing its resources to its full potential.*


- Process Improvement and Innovation
- Business Model Development and Resource Allocation
- Financial Assessment and Management
- Turnaround, Business Transformation, and Change Management
- Governance Assessment and Development

**Measurement** – *Increasing an organization’s performance through measurement and continuous improvement.*


- Measurement
- Business Analytics and Intelligence
- Economic Impact Assessment
- Employee Opinion, 360-Degree Feedback, and Service Quality Surveys
- Industry Benchmarking Surveys

## Contact Us Today

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