

Proposed Discovery Charter

Discussion Draft — A limited process for deciding whether a pilot is warranted

Community Opportunity Initiative • September 2026

Status & Purpose

DISCUSSION DRAFT — NOT AN AGREEMENT.

The purpose of the Discovery Charter is to define a limited, low-risk process for determining whether the Brian Crawford Memorial Community Opportunity Initiative warrants a pilot. The discovery phase is designed to test the concept before fundraising, facility commitments, statewide expansion or selection of a permanent administrative structure.

Discovery Question

Can a collaborative network of philanthropic, nonprofit, education, public and community partners strengthen local opportunities for children and families without displacing local ownership or duplicating effective existing organizations?

Proposed Duration

Up to 90 days from an agreed start date. The timetable may be shortened, extended or ended by participating organizations. No party is expected to commit to a later phase merely by participating in discovery.

Proposed Participants

A small cross-sector group selected for relevant expertise. Potential functions include philanthropic/community-foundation expertise; local nonprofit/program delivery; education; recreation/youth development; disability inclusion; family/grief support; governance/finance; program evaluation; community leadership; and BCM as the originating organization. CFO participation, convening or sponsorship is not presumed and would require CFO's separate agreement.

Discovery Objectives

1. Define the problem more precisely and identify where it varies by community.
2. Map existing Oklahoma organizations and programs before proposing anything new.
3. Identify gaps in local institutional capacity, access, facilities, administration or funding.
4. Test the Community Opportunity Network concept against outside expertise.
5. Identify legal, financial, safeguarding, governance and reputational risks.
6. Determine whether one willing community offers an appropriate pilot setting.
7. Define measurable outcomes before any pilot begins.
8. Recommend proceed, modify, refer elsewhere or stop.

What Discovery Will Not Do

- No statewide rollout.
- No assumption that CFO or another organization will become fiscal sponsor.
- No facility acquisition or construction commitment.
- No public-financing commitment.
- No major fundraising campaign.
- No requirement that participants endorse Baseball Heaven research.

- No creation of a new statewide entity unless later analysis independently supports one.
- No displacement of effective existing local nonprofits.

Workstreams

RESOURCE MAP — Who is already doing relevant work in Oklahoma?

COMMUNITY NEEDS — What barriers prevent children/families from accessing existing opportunities?

GOVERNANCE — What should remain local, and what professional infrastructure can be shared?

PHILANTHROPY & FINANCE — What lawful fund, grant, sponsorship or administrative structures might fit?

PROGRAM & SAFEGUARDING — What standards are required for children, volunteers and partner organizations?

FACILITIES & ASSETS — What existing facilities/resources are underused, and what durable access is necessary?

MEASUREMENT — What outcomes would demonstrate value beyond activity counts?

Research Firewall

BCM may provide research as background, but discovery participants remain free to accept, reject or challenge it. Participation does not constitute endorsement of Baseball Heaven findings, allegations, litigation positions, tax submissions, policy recommendations or interpretations. Discovery decisions should rely on the group's own due diligence.

Local-Control Principle

The working presumption is that local communities should retain meaningful authority over local priorities and program decisions. Shared infrastructure should reduce administrative burden and improve continuity, not centralize community identity or control.

Potential Discovery Deliverables

- Oklahoma resource/partner map.
- One-community needs-and-assets map.
- Gap analysis.
- Preliminary governance options.
- Risk and safeguarding checklist.
- Potential philanthropic/administrative structures for professional review.
- Pilot outcome framework.
- Recommendation memorandum: proceed, modify, refer elsewhere or stop.

Decision Gate

At the end of discovery, participating organizations should make no automatic commitment. A written recommendation should answer: Is there a real problem that a collaborative model can improve? Are existing organizations better positioned to solve it? Is a pilot justified? Who should lead or administer it? What conditions must be satisfied before money is raised or programs begin?

Success for the Discovery Phase

Discovery succeeds even if the recommendation is not to proceed. The purpose is to replace assumptions with informed judgment, identify the right organizations, prevent duplication and determine whether a responsible pilot can add measurable value to Oklahoma children, families and communities.

WE CAN DO MORE TOGETHER