



Community Impact Fund Grant Overview

RELEASE DATE: February 8, 2023

Application deadline:

Initial proposals due: March 1

Full proposals due (by invitation): March 24

Submitted electronically at uwlakes.org/grants.

Applications must be received by the application deadline to be considered for funding.

The Grant Questions template is only to assist organizations in working on questions ahead of time outside of the online application. Please leave sufficient time to copy and paste your answers from your template into the online application before the due date.

Questions:

Contact United Way of 1000 Lakes at 218-999-7570 or email kimberly@uwlakes.org.

Investment Details

United Way of 1000 Lakes seeks to award up to \$165,000 to nonprofit organizations whose services align with our framework strategies and metrics. We anticipate awarding 11-15 grants between \$2,500 and \$15,000. Grants will provide unrestricted program-level funding intended to support general program operations in alignment with your proposal and are not restricted to any specific line item or program activity.

Timeline

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Population of Focus

United Way will direct resources where we can make the greatest impact, focusing on children, individuals, and families who are vulnerable in Greater Itasca County.

Geographic Area

United Way supports work that is vital to our communities, in Itasca County as well as parts of Aitkin and Cass counties and the Leech Lake Reservation. *See zip codes served.*

Eligibility

Eligible organizations must meet the following criteria in order to be considered for funding:

- Serve individuals, children, and/or families who may be vulnerable and/or marginalized with limited resources in Greater Itasca County, including: individuals at risk for multiple health problems and/or pre-existing conditions, children and adults facing educational and economic disparities, and individuals experiencing any form of discrimination (racial, ethnic, caste, gender, sexual orientation, disability, cultural, national, religious, etc.).
- Must be a nonprofit agency, including:
 - Nonprofit agency designated as a 501c3 of the Internal Revenue Code with an active and responsible governing board, whose members have no material conflict of interest.
 - Government agencies/units
 - Faith-based organizations, provided they can demonstrate that there will be no explicitly faith-related content included in their programming and that there are no discriminatory restrictions on service recipients
 - Community organizations without 501c3 status, provided they can document their relationship with a fiscal sponsor with 501c3 status
- Align with United Way's Impact priorities:
 - a) Ready Kids, Resilient Families
 - b) Healthy Minds & Bodies
 - c) Family Financial Stability

- Have substantial local presence and programming in the geographic area served by United Way of 1000 Lakes, which includes Itasca County and the surrounding communities of Hill City, the Leech Lake Reservation. *See zip codes served.*

Funding will not be provided for:

- Individuals
- For-profit entities
- Political campaigns, candidates, parties, or partisan activities
- Programming that includes theological functions or requires religious participation

Data Collection and Metrics

Data collection is a crucial element of United Way’s grantmaking, equally important in the application review process and the ongoing evaluation of funded partners.

Applicants will choose a strategy and metrics (outlined in greater detail below) that aligns most closely with their program outcomes to report on throughout the grant period. While reporting on specific outcomes will be required, funds will be unrestricted and may be used for general operating support.

United Way will partner with grantees, using data collected through program evaluation to measure the distinct impact of their programs for individuals served as well as the collective impact for our community as a whole. Together, we will build a shared understanding of the work underway and individuals reached in addition to the most effective approaches for improving outcomes for individuals and families. This data also represents an important measure for stakeholders invested in our work on behalf of the Itasca Region.

As part of our system improvement work, a 2Gen Peer Learning Cohort, organizations will hold conversations to gain understanding, share strategies, and identify potential gaps in our community’s human services.

Impact Area Pillar: Ready Kids, Resilient Families

Children and families are supported throughout the entire educational process.

*Each application must include one strategy and two or more metrics. Additionally, applicants will select one system improvement metric to track and report on during the grant cycle. **If applicants are collecting other metrics, please include them in your request.***

Strategy 1:	
Access to quality early education and care programs that nurture and stimulate development to support the resiliency of kids and their families.	
Metrics:	# of children that consistently attend early childhood education programs # of children that achieve appropriate developmental milestones prior to Kindergarten as demonstrated by a developmental and academic-based assessment

Strategy 2:	
Access to quality afterschool and summer experiences that foster academic outcomes, leadership development, social connections, and future ready (ages 4 – 18).	
Metrics:	<p># of students that are reading at grade level as assessed by an evidence-based assessment</p> <p># of students that demonstrate math proficiency at grade level as assessed by an evidence-based assessment</p> <p># of students that complete the school year with fewer than 18 absences (considered chronic absenteeism)</p> <p># of students with an IEP that complete annual goals</p> <p># of youth that participate in extracurricular activities</p> <p># of youth that enroll in community service or volunteer programs</p> <p># of students that demonstrate reduction or prevention of incidence in reduction in risky behaviors</p> <p># of students that demonstrate interest in careers and employment pathways by visiting, applying, enrolling or accepted to college, technical school, or military</p> <p># of students that engage in relevant skills development activities such as mentorship, internship, job shadowing, employable skills training, financial literacy programming</p>
Strategy 3:	
Provide support services and educational resources that strengthen positive parenting skills and promote a stable and nurturing home environment.	
Metrics:	<p># of parents/caregivers that utilize educational resources and activities to support learning at home</p> <p># of parents/caregivers that report involvement in children’s learning activities (ex: Parent-teacher conference, field trips, reading minutes, college visits, etc.)</p> <p># of parents/caregivers that report regular involvement with personal support networks</p> <p># of families that support their child’s post-secondary education by submitting the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)</p>
Systems Improvement: Ready Kids, Resilient Families	
Collaboration among community organizations, government, and businesses to support two-generation solutions to achieve the metrics listed above.	
Metrics:	# of families that receive service from organizations working cross-functionally support children and/or their families

	<p># of organizations that work in coordination to improve outcomes for children and/or their families</p> <p># of practices implemented that promote capacity and/or strengthen the two-generation approach</p> <p># of public policy priorities supported, promoted, or enacted that support student academic achievement and/or stable families</p> <p># of individuals that who complete an evidence-based skill building program related to the following life skills: age-appropriate discipline, child development, positive communication, relationship building, pro-social behavior, bullying prevention, self-management of anger, healthy relationships, or other social and emotional skills</p>
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Impact Area Pillar: Healthy Minds & Bodies

Increase the opportunities for healthy lifestyle choices and promote overall health and wellbeing.

*Each application must include one strategy and two or more metrics. Additionally, applicants will select one system improvement metric to track and report on during the grant cycle. **If applicants are collecting other metrics, please include them in your request.***

Strategy 1:	
Access to primary health services, including mental, behavioral, vision, and dental health care services.	
Metrics:	<p># of individuals that receive transportation to medical appointments as a result of the work of the program/agency staff or a result of program</p> <p># of individuals that receive health screenings and/or preventative health services (i.e., well-child/baby exam)</p> <p># of individuals that receive care coordination</p> <p># of individuals that receive mental or behavioral health services</p> <p># of individuals that progressing with treatment or therapy plan</p>
Strategy 2:	
Support individuals' resilience, social connectedness/capital, and independence.	
Metrics:	<p># of individuals that report increased interaction with other members of the community</p> <p># of individuals that regularly attend support groups</p> <p># of individuals that volunteer with community-based organizations (excluding court-mandated community service)</p>
Strategy 3:	

Provide support services and educational resources to help individuals make healthy choices that reduce risk and harm and prevent crisis.

Metrics:	<p># of individuals that complete an evidence-based and skill-building program relating to learning healthy coping behaviors and/or maintaining a substance abuse free lifestyle</p> <p># of individuals completing evidence-based and skill-building education related to nutrition and healthy eating</p>
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Systems Improvement: Healthy Minds & Bodies

Collaboration among community organizations, government, and businesses to support two-generation solutions to achieve the metrics listed above.

Metrics:	<p># of families that receive service from organizations working cross- functionally support children and/or their families</p> <p># of organizations that work in coordination to improve outcomes for children and/or their families</p> <p># of practices implemented that promote capacity and/or strengthen the two-generation approach</p> <p># of public policy priorities supported, promoted, or enacted that support health and wellbeing for individuals and families</p>
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Impact Area Pillar: Family Financial Stability

Families overcome barriers to opportunity, develop economic mobility, and build generational resilience.

*Each application must include one strategy and two or more metrics. Additionally, applicants will select one system improvement metric to track and report on during the grant cycle. **If applicants are collecting other metrics, please include them in your request.***

Strategy 1:

Access to employment appropriate training, and job readiness skills and support to enter, remain, and advance in the workplace.

Metrics:	<p># of individuals that enroll in programs targeting sustaining wage jobs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Adult education (e.g., HSE, ABE, etc.) ● Post-secondary degree (e.g., Associates degree, Bachelor’s degree, etc.) ● Certification, training programs or technical school ● Military
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	<p># of individuals that report having defined career goals</p> <p># of individuals that enroll in or complete job skills training</p> <p># of individuals that receive financial literacy/coaching</p> <p># of individuals that build economic assets such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home ownership • Car ownership • Start a small business • Reduce debt • Open and contribute to a retirement account (401K, IRA) <p># of individuals that participate in programming supporting them to obtain and/or maintain employment</p> <p># of individuals that enroll in an ESL (English as a Second Language) course to improve written and spoken English language proficiency, life skills, and cultural competency</p> <p># of individuals that enroll in and completed an Adult Basic Education course to improve reading proficiency, writing proficiency, math proficiency, and/or earn a GED</p> <p># of individuals that access a vocational training course to earn an industry-relevant credential, certificate, or skill to remain and advance in the workplace</p>
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Strategy 2:

Provide support services and educational resources to help eliminate barriers hindering the economic mobility of struggling households (i.e., stable housing, financial counseling, money management education, tax help).

Metrics:	<p># of households that receive supportive services to obtain and/or retain housing</p> <p># of households that receive utility assistance who remained connected to utilities for at least 3 months</p> <p># of households that receive rental assistance and avoid eviction 3 months</p> <p># of households enroll in childcare assistance</p> <p># of individuals that attend a financial education course to increase financial literacy</p> <p># of individuals that report increased savings and/or financial preparedness</p>
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Systems improvement: Family Financial Stability

Collaboration among community organizations, government, and businesses to support two-generation solutions to achieve the metrics listed above.

Metrics:	<p># of families that receive service from organizations working cross- functionally support children and/or their families</p> <p># of organizations that work in coordination to improve outcomes for children and/or their families</p> <p># of practices implemented that promote capacity and/or strengthen the two-generation approach</p> <p># of public policy priorities supported, promoted, or enacted that support health and wellbeing for individuals and families</p>
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Impact Area Pillar: Safety Net

Ensuring a safety net for our community that emphasizes basic human needs

United Way remains committed to the most vulnerable members of our community, centering investments and efforts within this impact area pillar to meet basic needs such as food, shelter, health, and safety, including community disaster response.

Examples of potential work within Safety Net include, but are not limited to:

- Administering programs like the Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP)
- Health and hygiene drives
- Culturally specific food drives
- Other emerging opportunities to meet the needs of our community’s most vulnerable members

United Way is committed to remaining agile in our response to emerging and pressing needs within our community. For this reason, United Way will not be accepting applications for Safety Net programs and services through this grant application.

Safety Net funding requests will be reviewed individually through a discretionary grant application process as needs arise. For more information, contact Kim Brink Smith at 218-999-7570 or kimberly@uwlakes.org.

Community Impact Grant Application Process

The Community Impact Fund Grant Application is divided into the following sections:

Organizational Name and EIN

Two-Generation Approach:

1. Are you able and willing to report on households receiving 2Gen services? Yes/No
2. If awarded funding, are you willing to commit to and engage in monthly 2Gen peer learnings and offer up content expertise as needed? Yes/No

Part I: Initial Proposal

- Alignment
- Funding Request
- Goals and Activities
- Best Practices
- Community Need
- Population Served
- Equity

Part II: Full Proposal Questions *(by invitation only)*

- Demographic Profile
- Evaluation
- Metrics and Goals
- System Improvement
- Operating Capacity

Attachment Uploads and Instructions

For more information, contact Kim Brink Smith at 218-999-7570 or kimberly@uwlakes.org.