



United Way of 1000 Lakes



1963 - 2023

# COMMUNITY IMPACT FUND GRANT APPLICATION 2024

**RELEASE DATE:** January 16, 2024

**Focus Areas:**

Family Financial Stability  
Healthy Minds & Bodies

**Application deadline:**

*Initial proposals due: January 31, 2024*

*Full proposals due (by invitation): February 29, 2024*

*Submitted electronically at [uwlakes.org/nonprofit-resources/#funding](https://uwlakes.org/nonprofit-resources/#funding). Applications must be received by the application deadline to be eligible for funding.*

**Questions:** Contact United Way of 1000 Lakes at 218-999-7570 or email [kimberly@uwlakes.org](mailto:kimberly@uwlakes.org).

# Community Impact Fund Grant Overview

## Impact Areas Centering a Two-Generation Approach

United Way of 1000 Lakes strives to create a thriving Itasca-area community where children, individuals, and families can realize their full potential. Situated at the intersection of Itasca's nonprofit, public service, and business sectors, United Way of 1000 Lakes has a unique vantage point and role to play in ensuring that our community works for everyone. United Way's greatest strength is our ability to approach a challenge from multiple directions.

Informed by the voices of our community's residents and nonprofit organizations in our community assessment, United Way will focus investments across four impact area pillars:

1. Ready Kids, Resilient Families
2. Family Financial Stability
3. Healthy Minds & Bodies
4. Safety Net\*

The findings in our community assessment also underscored the interconnected nature of educational, economic, and health outcomes for children and the adults in their lives. In response, United Way is introducing a new two-generation approach across our community impact area pillars. A promising practice originally designed by the [Aspen Institute](#), two-generation programming acknowledges that outcomes for children and their families are inextricably linked.

To advance a two-generation approach across our community, United Way will partner with organizations addressing the multiple domains that impact individual and family success, including:

- Education spanning early childhood through secondary
- Postsecondary and employment pathways
- Family stability and economic asset-building
- Holistic health and wellness
- Social capital and connectedness

United Way will invest in organizations, programs, and collaborative coalitions providing direct services, influencing systems, and filling unmet needs within and across these domains. While many partners may specialize in one key domain, United Way encourages organizations to consider partnership strategies to provide coordinated care that strengthens whole families, accelerating outcomes for both children and the adults in their lives at the same time.

*\*United Way will not accept applications for Ready Kids, Resilient Families and Safety Net programs and services through this grant application.*

## Investment Details

United Way of 1000 Lakes seeks to award grants between \$2,500 and \$15,000 to nonprofit organizations whose services align with our framework strategies and metrics in the areas of Family Financial Stability and Healthy Minds & Bodies. 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

- Q&A Sessions: January 23rd, 9 a.m. (Zoom)
- Initial proposals due: January 31
- Full proposals due (by invitation): February 29
- Program meetings (by invitation): April 2024
- Finalists notified: May 2023
- Funding begins: July 2024

## 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.

## 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) Healthy Minds & Bodies
  - b) 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: 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.***

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| <b>Strategy 1:</b>   |  |
| <b>Access to primary health services, including mental, behavioral, vision, and dental health care services.</b> |  |
| <b>Metrics:</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># of individuals that receive transportation to medical appointments as a result of the work of the program/agency staff or a result of program</li> <li># of individuals that receive health screenings and/or preventative health services (i.e., well-child/baby exam)</li> <li># of individuals that receive care coordination</li> <li># of individuals that receive mental or behavioral health services</li> <li># of individuals that progressing with treatment or therapy plan</li> </ul> |
| <b>Strategy 2:</b>   |  |
| <b>Support individuals' resilience, social connectedness/capital, and independence.</b>                          |  |
| <b>Metrics:</b>  | # of individuals that report increased interaction with other members of the community   |

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|  | <p># of individuals that regularly attend support groups</p> <p># of individuals that volunteer with community-based organizations (excluding court-mandated community service)</p>   |
| <b>Strategy 3:</b>   |   |
| <b>Provide support services and educational resources to help individuals make healthy choices that reduce risk and harm and prevent crisis.</b> |   |
| <b>Metrics:</b>  | <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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| <b>Systems Improvement: Healthy Minds &amp; Bodies</b>  |  |
| <b>Collaboration among community organizations, government, and businesses to support two-generation solutions to achieve the metrics listed above.</b> |  |
| <b>Metrics:</b>   | <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> |

**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, which they will track and report on during the grant cycle. **If applicants are collecting other metrics, please include them in your request.***

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| <b>Strategy 1:</b>   |   |
| <b>Access to employment appropriate training, and job readiness skills and support to enter, remain, and advance in the workplace.</b> |   |
| <b>Metrics:</b>  | <p># of individuals that enroll in programs targeting sustaining wage jobs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Adult education (e.g., HSE, ABE, etc.)</li> <li>● Post-secondary degree (e.g., Associates degree, Bachelor's degree, etc.)</li> <li>● Certification, training programs or technical school</li> <li>● Military</li> </ul> |

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|  | <p># of individuals that report having defined career goals</p> <p># of individuals s 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"> <li>● Home ownership</li> <li>● Car ownership</li> <li>● Start a small business</li> <li>● Reduce debt</li> <li>● Open and contribute to a retirement account (401K, IRA)</li> </ul> <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 r 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).**

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| <b>Metrics:</b> | <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.**

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| <b>Metrics:</b> | # of families that receive service from organizations working cross- functionally support children and/or their families |
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|  |  |
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|  | <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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## Community Impact Fund 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](mailto:kimberly@uwlakes.org).