



### **Request for Proposals to the Community Impact Fund**

Community Impact Grants Program

Program Year: January 1, 2026 – December 31, 2026

United Way of Northern New York, Inc. (UWNNY) is an innovative and collaborative non-profit organization, mobilizing people and resources to address needs in the tri-county region. The Community Impact fund supports programs and initiatives that align with community needs, foster measurable positive change, and help create thriving communities.

UWNNY seeks to connect with, and provide funding to, community-based organizations that are outcome driven, collaborative, and committed to Equity and Inclusion. Qualifying organizations are invited to submit proposals for programming that strengthens the organization's impact.

Through the Community Impact fund, UWNNY will provide funding support to a wide range of human service organizations. Priority will be given to organizations and proposals that:

- Focus on underserved and underrepresented populations and / or unmet needs.
- Utilize a collaborative approach to service delivery.
- Serve individuals or families that are Asset Limited, Income Constrained, and Employed (ALICE) or currently living in poverty.

### **Objective of Community Impact Fund**

To support programs providing services to residents of Jefferson, Lewis and/or St. Lawrence Counties that align with at least one of the primary areas of focus:

**Social determinants of health (SDoH)** – interventions / strategies addressing SDoH, including, but not limited to, access to nutrition, housing, healthcare, literacy / language, education, and transportation.

**Child / Youth Success** – programming that provides vital supplies and support necessary to academic success, growth and development, and a healthy successful transition into adulthood.

**Economic Stability** – short- and long-term strategies to help people gain or maintain stability, such as job skills training, soft skills development, and support to those at risk of falling into poverty.

### **Eligibility**

1. Applications are open to 501(c)3 non-profit organizations providing human service programming to residents of Jefferson, Lewis, and/or St. Lawrence Counties.
2. Submitted proposal must align with one of the primary areas of focus (listed above).
3. Applicant must have been in operation for at least three years.
4. Organization must be governed by a board of directors.
5. Organization must have at least one paid employee or 1.0 FTE.

### **Application Guidelines**

- UWNNY expects to award approximately \$225,000 in Community Impact grants, contingent upon the results of the 2025 - 2026 campaign.

- The maximum amount of funding that can be requested from the Community Impact fund is \$25,000. The average grant award is \$11,000.
- At this time, UWNKY is not accepting applications to support capital projects.
- United Way funding may not be directed to lobbying, endowments, event sponsorship, proselytizing or any program that excludes participation based on race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, age, or disability.
- Any unexpended Community Impact grant funds at the end of the calendar year must be returned to the United Way.

### **Partnership Expectations**

Collaboration is at the core of the work of UWNKY, as we are better, stronger, and more effective when we work united, making even the most challenging issues surmountable. UWNKY remains committed to being excellent stewards of the funds entrusted to us and strategic partners to the non-profit community. Our partnership extends beyond the transactional, as we pledge to make every effort to support, highlight and contribute to the outstanding work of our non-profit partners.

While we recognize that capacity varies across organizations, the following are ways in which Community Impact partners are encouraged to elevate our shared work and increase community awareness. These efforts not only amplify United Way's role but also raise the visibility of your important programs:

- Submit timely reports as requested – mid and end of program year.
- Provide number(s) of unique individuals served annually through the organization and the UWNKY funded service / program.
- Update agency 211 database prior to funding being distributed.
- Share at least one testimonial from a customer whose life was changed by UWNKY funded service / program.
- Host at least one annual site visit for UWNKY staff and/or volunteers.
- Promote partnership with UWNKY by prominently posting a UWNKY decal.
- Include UWNKY logo on organization website.
- Engage / share UWNKY social media posts.
- Issue a press release announcing UWNKY grant award.
- Offer employees an opportunity to participate in the workplace campaign.

### **Application Requirements**

Organizations that meet the criteria outlined within this document may submit an application through the grant portal at: <https://unitedwaynnycommunityreview.communityforce.com/Login.aspx>

All applicants must complete the following sections of the application:

- Organization Information, including the following attachments:
  - IRS non-profit determination letter
  - Board of Directors list
  - Cover letter from Executive Director and/or Board Chair
- Funding Request summarizing the program, amount requested, and other sources of revenue to support the project.
- Organization Details including the following attachments:
  - Current FY organizational budget
- Program / Project Details including anticipated outcomes, demographics of the population the program will serve, outcome / activity metrics, sustainability plan, and the following attachment:
  - Program / project budget

In addition, applicants seeking more than \$5,000 in UWNKY support must complete the following:

- Additional Information about collaboration and the following attachments:
  - Three letters of support from organizations that collaborate with your agency
  - Most recent Audited Financial Statements, approved by the Board of Directors
  - Most recent IRS Form 990, approved by the Board of Directors
  - Previous year Profit and Loss statement
  - Previous year Balance Sheet

#### **Application Timeline / Review**

The grant portal opens on July 28, 2025; applications will be accepted until 11:59 PM on August 29, 2025. Late applications or partial submissions will not be accepted.

Community Review Panels (CRP), comprised of volunteers including those with lived experience, will thoroughly review and evaluate each completed application. CRP recommendations are submitted to the UWNKY Board of Directors for approval. Decisions made by the UWNKY Board of Directors are final.

Receipt of funding is contingent upon selected organizations submitting required contract documents.

July 28, 2025	Grant portal opens
Aug 29, 2025 (at 11:59 PM)	Deadline for applicants
Sept 2 - 5, 2025	Internal review
Sept 15 – Oct 10, 2025	CRPs convene / prepare recommendations
October 20, 2025	Board of Directors review CRP recommendations
October 21 – 24, 2025	Applicants are informed of funding decisions
November 1 – 30, 2025	UWNKY collects required financial / contract documents
January 1, 2026	Grant cycle begins

#### **Contact Information**

Please direct any questions relating to the application and/or review process to:

Dawn Cole, President and CEO for United Way of Northern New York, Inc.

[dawn.cole@unitedway-ny.org](mailto:dawn.cole@unitedway-ny.org)

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