



Request for Proposals to the Community Impact Fund

Community Impact Grants Program

Program Year: January 1, 2027 – December 31, 2027

United Way of Northern New York (UWNNY) brings people, organizations, and resources together to address the region's most pressing challenges. Through the Community Impact Fund, UWNNY seeks to partner with community-based human service organizations that are collaborative, outcome-driven, and committed to improving the quality of life for residents across the tri-county region.

Priority consideration 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

The Community Impact Fund supports programs providing services to residents of Jefferson, Lewis and/or St. Lawrence Counties that align with at least one of the following priority areas:

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. Organization must have been in operation for at least three years.
4. Organization must be governed by a board of directors.
5. Organization must employ at least one paid staff member (minimum 1.0 FTE).
6. Organization must maintain a meaningful local presence within the UWNNY service area. At a minimum, the organization must employ at least one paid staff member who resides within Jefferson, Lewis, or St. Lawrence Counties and have at least one member of its governing board who resides within the tri-county region.

Application Guidelines

- UWNNY expects to award approximately \$225,000 in Community Impact grants, contingent upon the results of the 2026 - 2027 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 funding, as we pledge to make every effort to support, highlight, and contribute to the outstanding work of our nonprofit 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 end of year report in the timeframe requested.
- Provide number(s) of unduplicated households and 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 the UWNKY logo on the organization's website.
- Engage / share UWNKY social media posts.
- Issue a press release or other public announcement recognizing your Community Impact grant award.
- Offer employees an opportunity to participate in the workplace campaign.

Eligibility Screening

All applications will undergo an administrative review to verify that the organization meets the eligibility requirements outlined in this Request for Proposals.

Applications that do not meet the eligibility requirements outlined in this Request for Proposals, including the local presence requirements described above, are not eligible for Community Review Panel evaluation. Applicants whose proposals are determined to be ineligible will be notified following the administrative review.

Application Requirements

Organizations uncertain about their eligibility are encouraged to contact UWNKY before beginning an application. Eligible organizations must submit all required information and supporting documentation through the online grant portal: <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 20, 2026; applications will be accepted until 11:59 PM on September 1, 2026. Late applications or partial submissions will not be accepted.

Following an internal administrative review for completeness and eligibility, qualifying applications will be evaluated by Community Review Panels (CRPs) comprised of trained community volunteers, including individuals with lived experience, who will develop funding recommendations for the UWNKY Board of Directors.

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

July 20, 2026	Grant portal opens
Sept 1, 2026 (at 11:59 PM)	Deadline for applicants
Sept 2 - 11, 2026	Administrative review
Sept 14 – Oct 6, 2026	CRPs convene / prepare recommendations
October 19, 2026	Board of Directors review CRP recommendations
October 20 – 23, 2026	Applicants are informed of funding decisions
November 2 – 30, 2026	UWNKY collects required financial / contract documents
January 1, 2027	Grant cycle begins

Contact Information

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

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

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