



United Way of  
Benton & Franklin Counties

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: LoAnn Ayers, 509-581-3943 or [layers@uwbfco.org](mailto:layers@uwbfco.org)

October 2, 2020

**United Way awards nearly \$438,000 to local agencies**

*Community impact grants will support areas of greatest need in the bi-county region.*

KENNEWICK, Wash—United Way of Benton & Franklin Counties announced that 15 local nonprofit agencies will receive \$437,692 in grants to support crucial local services from November 1, 2020 through December 31, 2021.

Services provided by the agencies receiving funding range from providing food to families in need to health care for low-income people to service dogs for local veterans.

United Way adapted its biennial grant process in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Agencies submitted applications in February, but it quickly became apparent that local nonprofits were facing new challenges and would need more time to assess the totality of the changing demands.

“We re-opened the application process so agencies could revise their grant requests to address changing organizational and community needs,” said Dr. LoAnn Ayers, President and CEO of United Way.

The United Way Board of Directors evaluated the revised proposals, interviewed finalists, and recommended grant placements for the 14-month cycle.

“With more than \$2 million in requests, we were faced with tough decisions,” Board Chair Rick Holmes said. “Now, we are even more motivated to tell the story of local need to encourage more donors to support our community’s areas of greatest need.”

“With the tax benefits provided to donors by the CARES Act and the opportunity to have donations matched, now is the time for donors to dig deep to support so many in our community who are struggling,” continued Ayers.

Agencies receiving grants will report accomplishments to the Board at the halfway point and at the end of the funding cycle.

###

**About [United Way of Benton & Franklin Counties](#)**

United Way of Benton & Franklin Counties improves lives and strengthens communities. We build collaborations with individuals, businesses, and nonprofits to address challenges that no one agency can solve alone to provide the building blocks of opportunity—education, income, and health—that every person needs to thrive. Together, we’re solving our region’s biggest problems and creating lasting change.

<b>Program Name</b>	<b>Program Descriptions</b>	<b>Grant Recipient</b>
New Start Service Center	Basic day services for homeless population, including showers and laundry.	<i>ANSIL (A New Start in Life)</i>
School Readiness Program	Math, literacy, and science materials to increase children's Kindergarten preparedness.	<i>Benton Franklin Head Start</i>
Social Emotional Learning Program	Training through social-emotional impacts of COVID-19 on children and families.	<i>Benton Franklin Head Start</i>
Mentoring for Youth At-Risk	Mentoring, case management, and support for at-risk youth.	<i>Boys &amp; Girls Club of Benton and Franklin Counties</i>
Kaleidoscope Play & Learn	Support for at-risk parents/caregivers and their young children in child development and early learning.	<i>Catholic Charities Serving Central Washington</i>
Foster Teen Program	One-on-one support for youth aging out of foster care.	<i>Catholic Charities Serving Central Washington</i>
Early Intervention	Early intervention services for children with developmental delays and their families.	<i>Children's Developmental Center</i>
CI Employment Services	Assistance for adults and students with intellectual / developmental disabilities to gain and maintain employment.	<i>Columbia Industries</i>
Housing Assistance	Basic housing assistance to survivors of domestic violence.	<i>Domestic Violence Services</i>
Girls' Circle	Structured support group for girls ages 9-18.	<i>Domestic Violence Services</i>
Boys' Council	Support, education, and activities for teenage boys.	<i>Domestic Violence Services</i>
Transition to Success	Supportive housing for low-income families.	<i>Elijah Family Homes</i>
Health Access for Uninsured Workers	Access to healthcare for low-income uninsured individuals.	<i>Grace Clinic</i>
Mental Health Access for Uninsured	Access to mental health services for low-income, uninsured individuals.	<i>Grace Clinic</i>
Preventing Complications in Uninsured Diabetics	Comprehensive diabetic care for patients with Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes.	<i>Grace Clinic</i>
Healthy Generations Meal Program	Meal assistance for non-traditional caregivers and the children that they care for.	<i>Senior Life Resources NW</i>
Service Dogs for Veterans	Provision of service dogs to veterans in Benton and Franklin Counties.	<i>Service Peace Warriors</i>
Crisis Program	Crisis intervention, support, information, and referrals for survivors of sexual violence.	<i>Support, Advocacy &amp; Resource Center</i>

Advocacy: Information and Referral	Advocacy for individuals with intellectual / developmental disabilities.	<i>The ARC of Tri-Cities</i>
Buddy Club	Structured development of friendships between teens with disabilities and their peers.	<i>The ARC of Tri-Cities</i>
Therapeutic/ Adaptive Riding	Classes teaching horse riding skills to individuals with developmental delays.	<i>Therapeutic Riding of Tri-Cities</i>
Keeping Families Working	Financial assistance for families who cannot afford childcare services.	<i>YMCA of the Greater Tri-Cities</i>