

Frequently Asked Questions

2022-2023 Funding Cycle

Funding

United Way of Benton & Franklin Counties is seeking applications from 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations who provide services within the bi-county region. Awarded grants will be for January 2022 through June 2023.

WHAT TYPES OF PROGRAMS DOES UNITED WAY FUND?

Our local United Way focuses on factors affecting the life outcomes of local children and their parents/caregivers to support healthy, sustainable communities in Benton and Franklin Counties. We look at our community's areas of greatest need through four lenses: support for family systems, parent success, student success, and childhood health and wellness. We provide grants to nonprofit organizations who support the success of local children/youth (age 0 – 24), and their parents or caregivers.

WHAT ARE THE SIZES OF THE GRANTS THAT UNITED WAY AWARDS?

Grants range from \$10,000 to \$30,000 per program per year. Agencies can submit requests for up to three programs. Our funds address specific gaps in services that have other sources of support. We will not consider applications listing United Way funding as the only revenue source.

HOW WILL AVAILABLE FUNDING BE ALLOCATED?

We do not have a pre-determined amount of available funds for any specific area of need. This allows us to be responsive to the capacity of nonprofits to meet local needs. Grant reviewers will look at all applications and compare program requests against local community need.

In the application, agencies will be guided to choose at least one results indicator, from the provided Results Framework, to describe the impact of each proposed program. These , indicators tie to our community's areas of greatest need to support family systems, parent success, student success, and childhood health and wellness.

IF MY AGENCY AND PROGRAM IS FUNDED, CAN WE EXPECT TO RECEIVE THE FULL AMOUNT OF OUR FUNDING REQUEST?

If the potential exists for a funding award of less than 100% of the requested amount, we will contact the requesting agency to discuss scalability of the request. For selected programs, our goal is to award between 60% and 100% of the requested amount.

WHY IS THERE A FUNDING FOCUS ON CHILDREN/YOUTH AND THEIR FAMILIES?

Children are our bi-county's fastest growing population segment. Yet, when we analyzed data trends related to our community's areas of greatest need we found that, in nearly every data point related to children and youth, our community has lost ground or was still worse than the state average. We also held listening sessions with local nonprofits to understand the impacts of the pandemic on children and families. This work shaped our specific focus to support programs that serve children/youth and their families and, thus, help our region recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and rebuild a better future.

WHY IS UNITED WAY OFFERING ADDITIONAL SUPPORT TO ADDRESS LOCAL INEQUITIES?

United Way envisions our region as a place where everyone has an equal chance to succeed, regardless of race. We recognize that local children of color generally experience worse life outcomes than those of their white peers. To address this challenge, we will award 10-15% of our available funding to agencies whose programs serve more than 40% people of color (a demographic target represents the current composition of the population in our bi-county region). Agencies who apply for this additional funding will be asked to project demographics for who they will serve and to describe how their program helps to close racial equity gaps in our community.

Applying for these supplemental funds is optional. Our United Way will continue consideration of all programs serving children, youth, and families in Benton and Franklin Counties. Equity funding is supplemental funding; programs will first be awarded funding through our traditional process (85-90% of available funding is targeted for grants through this process). Then, our reviewers will award supplemental equity grants with the remaining 10-15% of available funding to those programs already awarded grants through the traditional process.

Agencies can choose whether they design new programs to be considered for equity funding or may submit requests for existing programs that already meet the criteria to qualify for this supplemental funding. To apply for this supplement, agencies will answer two extra questions on our regular, online funding application.

Application Process

CAN I APPLY IF MY AGENCY DOES NOT HAVE 501C3 STATUS FROM THE IRS?

No. United Way only grants to agencies with 501c3 status as designated by the IRS. However, we will consider funding programs run by agencies without 501c3 status if those agencies partner with a fiscal sponsor with 501c3 status. This fiscal sponsor will complete the application if they are willing to receive funds and accept responsibility for their proper expenditure.

HOW MANY PROGRAMS CAN I APPLY FOR?

Each agency may apply for up to three programs.

CAN I SUBMIT THE WORD DOCUMENT APPLICATION INSTEAD OF THE ONLINE APPLICATION?

No. The Word version of the application is provided for guidance and planning only. All applications must be submitted through our e-CImpact online system to be considered for funding.

DO I HAVE TO ATTEND AN INFORMATION SESSION FOR MY AGENCY TO BE CONSIDERED FOR FUNDING?

No. However, we highly recommend that you try to attend one of the information sessions, as you will learn valuable information that boosts your chances of submitting a successful funding application. Sessions will be held on October 3 and 4 on Microsoft Teams. The second session is a repeat of the first session. See "Contact Us" below to receive an invitation.

IF WE ARE COLLABORATING WITH ANOTHER AGENCY ON THIS PROGRAM, SHOULD THEY ALSO FILL OUT AN APPLICATION?

No. An application is only needed from the primary agency serving as the fiscal agent for the project, as this agency is responsible for appropriate use of funds.

IF WE ACCEPT UNITED WAY FUNDING, ARE WE REQUIRED TO SUBMIT PROOF OF AN ANNUAL AUDIT/REVIEW BY A CPA IN YEAR TWO OF THE GRANT?

No. We only ask for an annual audit or independent review during the application process from agencies with \$250,000 or more in gross annual income. For agencies with less than \$250,000 in gross annual income we require board-reviewed financial statements.

MY AGENCY WAS NOT AWARDED FUNDING IN A PREVIOUS FUNDING CYCLE. CAN I STILL APPLY IN THIS FUNDING CYCLE?

Yes! We welcome applications from any agency, with 501c3 status, serving children, youth, and their families serving Benton and/or Franklin Counties, regardless of previous funding history with United Way.

I'M NOT SURE WHAT FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS TO SUBMIT.

If your organization reports more than \$250,000 in gross annual income, you will need to submit your most recent independently audited or independently reviewed financial statements.

If your organization reports less than \$250,000 in gross annual income, you will need to submit your most recent board-reviewed financial statements. United Way will independently review these statements.

If you are still unsure about what documents to submit, please follow the [BBB Wise Giving Alliance guidelines](#) for audit reports (Standard #11).

WHAT ARE THE APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR EQUITY FUNDING?

This supplemental funding is optional. You may request it for any, all, or none of your submitted programs. If your agency wishes for a program to be considered for extra equity funding, you will have to fill out ethnicity data of clients served and answer two questions about the program's equity strategy and ability to track racial data of clients served.

All of your program support requests will be considered for funding through our regular funding process if your agency is not interested in supplemental equity funding.

Quantity Measures and Results Indicators

I'M NOT SURE WHICH QUANTITY MEASURE OR RESULTS INDICATORS I SHOULD CHOOSE FOR MY PROGRAM.

Please see the *Results Framework* document for further clarification about our quantity measures and results indicators. Quality measures describe how many people will be served. Results Indicators describe the results or impact of the services provided by the program. If you are still unsure about which indicators you should chose, please give us a call and we will be happy to help you determine best fit.

WHAT IF NONE OF THE GIVEN RESULTS INDICATORS FIT WITH MY PROGRAM?

If none of the given results indicators fit with your program, then United Way funding may not be the best fit for your organization at this time. Contact us to discuss potential fit.

WHEN SETTING GOALS FOR RESULTS INDICATORS OR CLIENT DEMOGRAPHICS, ARE INCREASING NUMBERS BETWEEN YEARS ONE AND TWO BETTER THAN DECREASING NUMBERS?

It depends entirely on your program and its intended outcomes; we use results indicators and client demographics to track the community impact of our grants. We do not expect continuous expansion from our funded programs.

DEMOGRAPHIC DATA IS DIFFICULT TO COLLECT FROM OUR CLIENTS. HOW SHOULD I FILL OUT THE DEMOGRAPHICS SECTION?

We understand that not all agencies will be able to collect detailed demographic data for each program. If this is the case for your program, please approximate to the best of your abilities. Agencies applying for equity funding will need to be able to track racial data of clients served through observation or counts.

WHAT DEMOGRAPHIC DATA DO I NEED TO COLLECT FOR SUPPLEMENTAL EQUITY FUNDING?

Agencies wishing to be considered for United Way's equity funding must submit ethnicity data for clients being served by the program in the "Client Characteristics" section and have a way to track this data throughout the granting period.

e-CImpact

WHAT IF MY CURRENT PROGRAM IS ALREADY IN E-CIMPACT? SHOULD I CREATE A NEW PROGRAM FOR THIS APPLICATION?

No. If your program is already in e-CImpact, you can associate the program to the current funding process and make changes as necessary.

IS IT MANDATORY TO SUBMIT THE FUNDING APPLICATION WITH E-CIMPACT?

Yes. All funding applications must be submitted through e-CImpact.

CAN I GO BACK AND EDIT A SECTION AFTER MARKING IT COMPLETE IN E-CIMPACT?

No. If you need to edit a section after marking it complete, you will need to call or email United Way. We can then unlock the needed section.

Contact Us

If you have additional questions, please email us at grants@uwbfc.org, or call us at (509) 581 – 3947. Our business hours are 7:30am – 4:30pm Monday through Thursday, and 7:30am – 2pm on Friday.