

# Frequently Asked Questions

## 2023-2025 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 July 2023 – June 2025.

#### WHAT TYPES OF PROGRAMS DOES UNITED WAY FUND?

Our local United Way focuses on factors affecting the life outcomes of local children from birth through middle school to support healthy, sustainable communities in Benton and Franklin Counties. We look at our community's areas of greatest need through three lenses: basic needs, student success, and childhood health and wellness.

#### 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 basic needs, 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 FROM BIRTH THROUGH MIDDLE SCHOOL?

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. This data shaped our specific focus to support programs that serve children from birth through middle school, help our region build a better future.

**WHY IS UNITED WAY CONSIDERING RACIAL EQUITY AS A FUNDING CRITERIA?**

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. For this reason, United Way will ask about each applicant agency’s racial equity strategy and ability to serve at least 55% children of color (a demographic target that represents the current composition of the school-age population in our bi-county region). Agencies that don’t meet this target may still apply; racial equity will be one of many factors incorporated into United Way’s funding rubric available on the e-CImpact web portal.

**SHOULD MY ORGANIZATION STILL APPLY IF WE DON’T CONSIDER RACIAL EQUITY, DON’T COLLECT RACIAL DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION, OR DON’T SERVE AT LEAST 60% YOUTH OF COLOR?**

Yes. All agencies that meet minimum eligibility requirements and serve children from birth – middle school are welcome to apply. United Way uses a multi-faceted decision-making rubric that considers many factors; racial equity is just one of them.

**MY ORGANIZATION IS VERY SMALL. SHOULD WE APPLY FOR FUNDING?**

Yes. United Way encourages small nonprofit organizations that meet minimum eligibility requirements to apply, and we anticipate making awards to a broad range of organizations.

## 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 May 1 and 2 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 from birth through middle school in 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).

## 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. Quantity 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.

#### WHAT DEMOGRAPHIC DATA DO I NEED TO COLLECT TO DEMONSTRATE A FOCUS ON RACIAL EQUITY?

To demonstrate a focus on racial equity, number reported in the 'Client Characteristics' section should reflect a client base that is 60% or more children/youth of color.

United Way understands that not all agencies collect detailed demographic data, and that collecting such data may at times be a barrier to service. Because of this, we accept estimates of demographic data.

## 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](mailto: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.