

UNITED FOR IMPACT FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

My organization does not yet have a 501(c)(3) ruling from the IRS, but has applied for one.

Can we apply for a grant?

Unfortunately, no. United Way of Greater Rochester can only accept applications from organizations that have already received tax exemption status from the IRS. However, if your organization has a fiscal sponsor, you are eligible to apply (see below).

Our organization operates under a fiscal sponsor. May we apply for a grant?

If the fiscal sponsor meets all eligibility criteria, the fiscal sponsor may submit a grant on behalf of the organization. The roles of both the fiscal sponsor and the organization operating the program should be clearly described in your application in the section of the **Program Information** form addressing major collaborations.

Are there geographic restrictions for funding eligibility?

Yes. The program must provide services within Monroe County to Monroe County residents.

Does the *program* or the *organization* need to have been in existence for at least two years?

Both. United Way seeks applications from established organizations and programs that have been operating for at least two years and have program outcome data available. As such, organizations and the program(s) for which funds are being requested must have operated since May 1, 2017 to be considered eligible for funding.

IMPACT GRANT APPLICATION PROCESS

How do I apply for an Impact Grant?

Our entire application process is online in our e-CImpact grants portal at uwrochester.org/impactgrantapplication along with resources to help you build your application.

Do I have to use the online application system?

Yes. All applications and reports must be submitted through our online grants management system, e-CImpact.

Can I submit an application via regular mail?

No. All grant requests must be submitted online through e-Cimpact by Monday, July 15, 2019 at Noon.

Do I have to create an account to access the online application in e-CImpact?

Yes. An account is required in order to access and submit an online application. The last date to request an account is July 3, 2019. The account also allows you to save and return later to an application. If your organization is awarded a grant, you will also submit reports via the online account.

How do I sign up for an e-CImpact account?

Visit uwrochester.org/accountregistration to provide the information needed to determine initial eligibility for funding and for initial account setup. Please note that only organizations that have had 501(c)(3) status since May 1, 2017, are governed by a volunteer Board of Directors, and who provide services within Monroe County for its residents are eligible for funding and for access to e-CImpact at this time.

Is there a deadline for requesting an e-CImpact account?

Yes. All requests for accounts must be received by July 3, 2019 by 5:00 pm.

I've forgotten my password. What should I do?

If you have forgotten your password, go to uwrochester.org/impactgrantapplication and click on "Forgot your password?". You will be prompted to enter your username and a temporary password will be sent to your email. Log in with the temporary password. e-CImpact will then require you to set a new password before proceeding further.

I've forgotten my username. Can you help?

In most cases, your username is the same as the email address you used to create your online account. The exception is if you have more than one account because you work for more than one organization. In that case, email ecimpact@uwrochester.org to request your username.

Can I save and continue my application at a later time?

Yes, you can save your work on any application form by clicking "Save My Work" at the bottom of the page. Remember to come back to finish all forms and submit before the deadline! Please see the e-CImpact manual; available in the e-CImpact Resource Center, for more helpful tips on navigating the system and completing your application.

Will I receive an email confirmation that my application was submitted and received successfully?

Yes. Once all of your forms are completed and ready to submit, the "Submit This Application Now" option will appear at the top of the page. Enter your email in the box next to "Send Submission Confirmation Email To:", then click on "Submit This Application Now".

Is my organization's information kept private when I apply online?

United Way takes your privacy seriously. We do not sell or share personal information about you or your grant application with other people, companies or organizations.

Can I submit an application prior to the deadline?

Yes, grant applications will be accepted prior to the deadline of July 15, 2019 at Noon.

Will I have an advantage by submitting a request sooner than the deadline date?

No. Submitting a request before the deadline will not guarantee approval nor garner additional points.

Can I apply for grant funds for more than one program?

Yes. You will need to create a program profile within e-Cimpact for each program for which you are requesting funding. You will also need to complete the mandatory forms and attachments for each program before submitting the application.

Can a United Way Community Impact team member speak to me about my application prior to submission?

United Way of Greater Rochester staff will be able to discuss *only the most appropriate impact area for the program for which you are seeking funding*. In order to remain impartial and fair to all applicants, United Way is unable to review the applications of anyone seeking funding or provide any guidance or advice around the details to include within your narrative.

Can our organization apply for funds in more than one impact area?

Absolutely, but not for the same program. An organization that is applying for more than one program may apply for funding in more than one impact area. For each program, the application requires selection of one Impact Area that the program most closely aligns with.

Would you be able to review our proposal for input before final submission?

No, in order to remain impartial and fair to all applicants, United Way is unable to provide any input on proposals other than helping to select the appropriate impact area.

Are there programs United Way will not consider for Impact Grant funding?

While important services for our community, United Way is unable to provide grants for the following services:

- Stand-alone food pantries
- Schools
- Before-school care
- Homeless shelters (aside from those with a focus on vulnerable youth or victims of interpersonal violence)
- Medical care
- Mental health treatment
- Substance abuse treatment
- Pilot, demonstration or start-up programs
- Capital expenditures

Will United Way consider funding health care services in the Health impact area?

We are not able to fund medical health care services. We are interested in funding programs that directly address key social determinants of health.

Do programs need to have a multi-generational approach to be considered for funding?

While this is not a requirement, a program that incorporates a multi-generational approach, (looking at the needs of the whole family) will receive a higher score and be more likely to receive funding. Please see the scoring rubric at uwrochester.org/impactgrants for details.

Do currently funded programs receive an advantage in the application process?

United Way has a long history with many of its program partners. Just as we will evaluate data and reports collected during the application process, we will also evaluate data and reports previously collected from our currently funded programs.

If a proposed program also has funding from non-United Way sources, will it be considered for funding?

Yes, we welcome and encourage applications for programs with additional funding sources that leverage United Way investments.

What is the minimum or maximum amount I can apply for?

There is no minimum or maximum amounts applicants can request per budget year. Our average grant size ranges between \$30,000 and \$200,000 depending on numbers served, type of service and scope of impact.

Does United Way recommend a specific percent for overhead?

No.

Will United Way consider funding programs that are operated by multiple agencies?

Yes. We are highly encouraging of collaborative programs that include a diverse set of partners with a clearly defined decision-making structure. Funding partners must have a designated lead agency that is an eligible 501 (c)(3) and acts as the fiscal sponsor for the collaborative.

Is the budget for one year or the three year funding cycle?

The budget is for one year only.

If my agency is a United Way donor option agency and submits an application, will my organization still receive these funds?

Yes, however donor option dollars are the first dollars towards an allocation. Community Impact Fund programs do not receive their donor designations *in addition* to their program grant. Should your donor option designations exceed your program grant amount, you will receive all dollars above the grant total.

APPLYING FOR INNOVATION GRANTS

How do I apply for a Strategic Partnership Grant?

Strategic Partnership Grants support community initiatives, collective impact efforts and community collaborations. These funds will provide the necessary resources for United Way and key stakeholders to work together on complex social issues that cannot be solved by one sector or organization alone. Strategic Partnership Grants will be smaller, nimble and responsive in nature, and are intended to have a large impact. Sign up to receive information at uwrochester.org/strategicpartnershipgrants.

How do I apply for a Synergy Grant?

United Way's Synergy Fund encourages Monroe County not-for-profit agencies to explore affiliations and mergers as a means of increasing operational efficiencies and improving program services to best serve the community. United Way supports a formal exploration with resources that include both technical assistance and implementation grants to help with one-time costs related to the work of creating an affiliation. Please visit uwrochester.org/syngery or contact Jennifer Cathy, Chief Impact Officer, at 585-242-6472 or Jennifer.Cathy@uwrochester.org for more information.

How do I apply for a Social Innovation Grant?

United Way is not accepting applications for Social Innovation Grants at this time. We anticipate applications for these grants will be accepted in 2022. Information about these grants and the application process will be available on our website in the future.

How do I apply for a Neighborhood Grant?

United Way is not accepting applications for Neighborhood Grants at this time. We anticipate applications for these grants will be accepted in 2022. Information about these grants and the application process will be available on our website in the future.

APPLICATION REVIEW AND NOTIFICATION PROCESS

Whom can we contact to discuss our grant application after we submit it?

United Way staff will not be able to discuss your application. You are welcome to attend our Bidder's Conferences to ask questions, or submit them at uwrochester.org/impactquestions by the deadline of June 14, 2019.

How are applications reviewed and what can I expect in terms of feedback?

United Way employs a rigorous review process. Applications will be scored by a team of five reviewers, including United Way Community Impact Staff, United Way Community Impact Cabinet Members, United Way Board of Directors, RMAPI Staff, and other volunteer subject matter experts. We will contact you if there are any questions about your submission. Because of the large volume of applications that we will likely receive, we are unable to provide individual feedback on every application.



When is the award/start date?

United Way will notify successful candidates by October 30, 2019. Program funding will begin August 1, 2020. The grant award amount is dependent upon the amount available through United Way corporate and individual donors specifying a donation to the Community Impact Fund.

