

## 2019 Community Impact Grant Program - Request for Proposals (RFP)

At United Way of the Mid-Willamette Valley we work to unite people and resources to build resilient communities that thrive. Dedicated to facilitating lasting social change, we work together with businesses, government, schools, faith groups, community members, and other nonprofits, because it takes the whole community to achieve the kind of results we need.

Our intent is to be nimble and adaptive in our response to community needs, providing financial and in-kind resources to partners and serving as a facilitator, convener, and catalyst for innovative and strategic projects. Our priorities include: developing housing for all; strengthening children and families; building community capacity; and, meeting basic needs.

In 2018, United Way invested \$1.3M back into our region. One key way we invest dollars back into the community is through our Community Impact Grant Program. Our redesigned grant-making program is impact-driven, equitable, transparent, and regionally focused. We are excited to share our new vision with you.

United Way will now have one grant cycle annually, with an initial Letter of Inquiry (LOI) due July 15, Full Proposals (if invited) due September 15 and funds distributed by November 15. The LOI application will be available on our website [www.UnitedWayMWV.org](http://www.UnitedWayMWV.org) from June 1 – July 15, 2019.

Grant focus areas align with the most pressing community needs and United Way priorities. We plan to distribute \$100,000 in funding for each focus area, for a total of \$200,000 this cycle. We will also distribute funding annually via an investment in the Willamette MBA course, *Philanthropic Investment for Community Impact* and their grant-making program.

### 2019 Funding Focus Areas:

- ***Homelessness and Housing Innovation*** – We seek community partners who are implementing innovative, solution-oriented responses that address our region’s homelessness and housing crises. We will invest in existing or new initiatives that provide supportive services, offer emergency, transitional or long-term shelter, or develop new affordable housing units.
- ***Building a Thriving Community*** – We seek community partners who are implementing innovative programs that help our region to be a healthy, livable place to call home. This focus area is intentionally broad, and we will invest in existing or new initiatives that address basic needs, children and families, education, vulnerable populations (especially seniors, women, and veterans), the arts, environment, and social innovation.

### Grant Program Details:

We seek proposals from 501(c)(3) organizations (or those with a 501(c)(3) fiscal sponsor) located in and serving Marion, Polk, or Yamhill counties that address one of the two focus areas above. We plan to fund



a total of \$100,000 in grants for each focus area. Dependent upon proposals received, we reserve the right to not award all available funds.

Requests can range in size from \$5,000-\$25,000. We intend to split funds evenly between Salem-Keizer (including W. Salem), Polk County, Yamhill County, and rural Marion County. Dependent upon proposals received, this would be \$25,000 per geographic area for each of the focus areas. Organizations may submit only one grant application for this cycle and must prioritize one of the two focus areas.

Community Impact Grants are designed to be one-time investments to strengthen an existing program or catalyze a new project or initiative. We are looking to fund existing programs that have significant impact and encouraging new, innovative solutions. We will invest in high performing nonprofit organizations that provide programs and services aligned with one of the two focus areas. United Way staff and board, as well as a volunteer Community Investment Task Force, will participate in grant review.

**Provision of Funding:** This is a one-time grant for up to 12-months, not a recurring source of funding.

### **Eligibility Criteria:**

We will support projects/programs directly led by not-for-profit, community-based organizations and agencies. Individuals, lobbying groups, and organizations involved in advocacy activities are not eligible for funding. Faith-based organizations are eligible to apply if the project/program does not exclude services on a religious basis. If the organization engages in explicitly religious activities, they must do so separately from the time and place of the program/project funded through the Community Impact Grant Program. Eligibility requirements include:

- Organizations that either: a) have established their 501(c)(3) status as a not-for-profit organization (not a private foundation); or b) have tax exemption as a governmental, tribal or other publicly-funded entity; or c) have a qualified, tax-exempt fiscal sponsor
- Serve Marion, Polk, and/or Yamhill counties
- Have a project/program that utilizes all funds within 12-months (November 1 or later start date)
- Have at least 25% in committed matching funds for leverage
- Have strong board involvement and organizational leadership
- Have a history of collaboration within the community
- Have a proven program or new vision for positive impact in the community

### **Activities Typically Not Eligible for Funding:**

- Annual fund appeals or contributions to endowments
- Scholarships or re-granting programs
- Individual public schools or private schools
- Purchases or activities that occur prior to grant decisions
- Deficit funding



- Lobbying to influence legislation
- Religious activities

### How to Apply:

Please go to the United Way of the Mid-Willamette Valley website at [UnitedWayMwv.org](http://UnitedWayMwv.org) and on the “What We Do” page go to “Support Provider Capacity” and then follow the link to the Community Impact Grant Program. **Submit your LOI online using the fillable PDF by 5 p.m. on July 15, 2019.** Organizations invited to submit a full proposal will be notified by August 1. Full proposals will be due by 5 p.m. on September 15, 2019. Funding decisions will be made by November 1, 2019 with checks distributed during a community event at United Way on Friday, November 15, 2019 from 10:00-11:30 a.m.

### Application Process and Timeline:

- Request for Proposal (RFP) released: June 1, 2019
- Letter of Inquiry (LOI) application window open: June 1, 2019 – July 15, 2019
- Community Grant Workshop: Monday, June 10, 2019 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. at United Way Office, 455 Bliler Ave NE, Salem, Oregon 97301. (optional)
- Letter of Inquiry (LOI) due: July 15, 2019 (5 p.m.)
- Notification re: Invitations for Full Proposals: August 1, 2019
- Full Proposal Workshop (only invitees): August 2, 2019 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. at United Way
- Full Proposals due (only invitees): September 15, 2019 (5 p.m.)
- Grant review period: September 15 – October 31, 2019
- Funding decisions: By November 1, 2019
- Community Event/Check Presentation: November 15, 2019 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. at United Way

### Letter of Intent (LOI):

The letter of intent must be submitted via the online fillable PDF. No other forms will be accepted. Staff will contact you if there are any questions or if additional information is needed about your application. By August 1, we will notify applicants if they have been invited to submit a full proposal.

### Full Proposal:

Organizations invited to submit a full proposal will be given a link to a fillable PDF by August 1. Full proposals will be due September 15, 2019 by 5 p.m. The full proposal will include an executive summary, project/program narrative and plan for use of funds, project/program budget, financial information, and attachments, including two letters of support.

*Questions? Please contact Kim Hanson, Director of Community Investment and Innovation at 503-363-1651 or email: [khanson@unitedwaymwv.org](mailto:khanson@unitedwaymwv.org)*

