

UWEC Community Impact Grants Information and Instructions

United Way of Erie County is committed to allocating resources to address the most pressing needs of the communities we serve. The Community Impact Grant process allows United Way funds to be awarded to programs and services that positively impact community conditions, improve the lives of individuals and families and create a foundation for long-term change. Funds will be allocated to programs that demonstrate measurable outcomes. Just a reminder, **a completed application does not guarantee funding.**

Funding Application Due Date

Completed applications must be submitted online through the Agency Secured Portal at www.uwerieco.org no later than **June 1, 2018** in order to be considered for funding. No mailed or faxed applications will be accepted. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered for funding -No exceptions!

Funding Period

January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019 Single Year Funding

Please note that Community Impact Grants are awarded on a one-year basis. They are not automatically renewable, nor are they guaranteed from year to year. Each year the United Way of Erie County Community Impact Committee will review each application submitted, review the funding available for distribution, determine the greatest needs in our community and based on a variety of factors, will make a determination as to which organizations they will recommend to the United Way of Erie County Board for 2019 Community Impact Grant funding.

Restrictions

United Way DOES NOT make grants to support the following:

- National or statewide proposals
- Agency operating costs not directly associated with a specific program
- Annual campaigns or membership drives
- Acquisition or expansion or real estate/building

Funding Guidelines

The following basic guidelines shall apply:

- Funds shall be used solely for the granted purpose.
- United Way funds are to be used to serve participants residing in Erie County.
- Funded activities shall commence in a timely manner and expenditures shall cease within one year after receipt of the grant unless an extension is granted by the Board of Directors of the United Way of Erie County. Grant funds not expended shall be returned to United Way of Erie County.

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- All Community Impact Grants shall be approved by the Board of Directors of United Way of Erie County. The amount of any grant will depend upon individual program requests and the need as determined by Community Impact Committee.
- No Community Impact Grant will be given for any purpose that would jeopardize the tax-exempt status of United Way of Erie County or the applicant organization.
- Grant recipients shall conspicuously acknowledge United Way of Erie County in all promotional materials, activities and programs funded with United Way monies.
- Grant recipients shall submit semi-annual reports including financial information indicating actual use and the results of Community Impact grant funds.
- With the 2019 Community Impact Grant Application, organizations will submit expected outcomes for ALL programs presented for funding. **Please indicate which measurable outcome from the United Way CI Matrix that you expect participants in the program to experience.** Remember, outcomes are changes in knowledge, attitude, skills, awareness, and/or behavior. Your outcomes should be measurable, quantifiable, and tangible. As much as possible, this information should be quantified. Please note, we understand that you are small agencies with limited resources, so we are not asking you for professional program evaluations, but we will need some relevant data on how your program will make a difference.

United Way of Erie County awards grants to United Way partner agencies for programs that address any one of or combination of board approved Community Impact areas:

Education: Helping youth through age 18 achieve their **academic** potential

- *Programs must measurably demonstrate:*
Improved parental engagement to enhance academic proficiency, or
- increasing number of children that are prepared for kindergarten with a focus on reading, or
- Improving proficiency of reading at a third grade level on-time, or
- Improving the rate that students graduate high school and successfully transition to work or higher education.

Income: Promoting financial stability and reducing barriers to employment.

Programs must measurably demonstrate:

- Increase in financial literacy (i.e. budgeting skills, maintaining adequate finances, etc.), or
- Increasing the number of individuals who obtain sustainable employment by reducing barriers, such as transportation, lack of job skills, etc.

Health: Improve the health and wellness of individuals over the lifespan

Programs must measurably demonstrate:

- a reduced rate of obesity among youth and adults through programs that encourage healthy nutrition, wellness programs, physical healthcare, mental healthcare, and fitness, or

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- an increase in the percentage of those under the age of 18 who are healthy and avoid risky behaviors such as substance abuse, tobacco use, and sexual behaviors.

Safety Net Services: Quality access to timely short term assistance for food, shelter, clothing, utilities, day care, furniture, transportation and “first call for help” services (211) with an emphasis on creating self-sustaining behaviors through the availability of personal case management. Disaster relief services are included in the Safety Net impact category.

Programs must measurably demonstrate:

- Have self-sustainability programs in place
- provide case management to take those in need from “start to finish”
- provide secure shelter for vulnerable populations
- demonstrate leadership for improving communication & collaboration between groups providing services, including government & non-profits organizations.

United Way of Erie County encourages proposals that:

- Generate matching funds, thus leveraging additional support;
- Exhibit coordination and collaboration among organizations;
- Implement new approaches and innovative techniques to solve community problems; or
- Focus on proactive, preventive measures.

Financial Guidelines

United Way of Erie County’s Finance Committee is in the process of reviewing each agency’s financial information. This information will ensure that United Way of Erie County has a thorough understanding of your organization from a financial perspective and assure that the donors we rely on to support your organization/agency have the knowledge that we are doing the appropriate due diligence.

After reviewing your audit and accompanying SAS letters, or recent copy of your IRS 990 if you did not file an audit, the Finance Committee may seek additional information from you. Their review will be shared with the members of the Community Impact Committee as they prepare for each presentation.

Other than page 9 and 10 of your most recently filed IRS 990, you are not required to submit any additional financial information at this time.

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Submitting your application

For each program, you must submit the application online at www.uwerieco.org. This is done through the Agency Portal using your secure login and password provided by UWEC.

You will have the opportunity to make an appointment with John Lippus, Executive Director, to review your application for funding prior to United Way accepting it online.

Review Process

The Community Impact Committee, made up of board members and trained community volunteers, will review all funding applications. Presentations will be scheduled in Late May/June. Your agency will have 15 minutes to present information about the program/services for which your organization is requesting funds. The Community Impact Committee will have 15 minutes for Questions and Answers.

Additional information for clarification may be requested by United Way of Erie County during the review process. However, additional items may not be included with the application for funding.

The Community Impact Committee makes funding recommendations to the United Way of Erie County Board of Directors, who are responsible for all final decisions. Applicants will be advised, in writing, of the status of their grant request after the United Way of Erie County Board of Directors makes their decisions.

2019 Funding Application Timeline

June 1st	Funding applications are due by 4:00pm.
Early July	Community Impact Committee reviews funding applications and hosts agency program presentations
Mid July	Community Impact Committee finalizes funding recommendations
Late July	Allocations Committee submits funding recommendations to the Board of Directors for their approval
August 1st	Agencies notified of funding for 2019.