Build Stronger Communities Application
2022-2025 UWSM Funding Cycle
This type of investment includes projects that make change to systems, policies, environments, or capacity.

If you need any accommodations to complete the application process, please contact Sara Barlow via email at sara.barlow@uwsm.org or by phone at 269-982-4029.

SECTION 1 – AGENCY PROFILE AND PROJECT INFORMATION

Agency Profile Information
Organization Name:
FEIN:
Website:
Street Address (main office):
Mailing Address (if different from above):
Does your organization have more than one location?
If yes, please list additional locations:
Phone Number:
Mission Statement of Organization:

Name of Executive Director/President/CEO:
Phone Number:
Email:

Name of Board Chair/President:
Phone Number:
Email:

In what month does your fiscal year begin?
In what month do you normally complete your annual audit/review?
In what month do you normally file your 990?
In what month do you renew your Solicitation Registration?

Board and Administrative Information
Organization should be able to produce supporting documentation for any "yes" responses, upon request.

Does your organization:

Maintain directors and officer's insurance?	Yes	No
Maintain written general board policies and procedures?	Yes	No
Have written personnel policies and procedures?	Yes	No
Have written bylaws?	Yes	No
If "no" for any of these, please explain why.		
Are you willing to create/actively implement an equity statement?	Yes	No

Does your Board of Directors:

Maintain the responsibility of ensuring that sufficient funds are available for the organization to meet its objectives?	Yes	No
Meet at least four times per year?	Yes	No
Have an evaluation process for the Executive Director?	Yes	No
Evaluate itself on an annual basis?	Yes	No

If "no" for any of these, please explain why.

SECTION 2 – AGENCY ITEMS FOR SUBMISSION

Listed below are items that need to be submitted with your funding request.

- 501(c)3 determination letter or proof of tax-exempt status
- Audited financial statement prepared by an independent CPA (for organizations with a budget of $500,000 or greater) or financial statement that is either reviewed or audited by an independent CPA (for organizations with a budget less than $500,000)
- 990 (the 990 your organization submits to the IRS)
- Annual operating budget (for the entire organization)
- Annual project budget (for each project seeking funding)
- Solicitation Registration (current or letter of exemption)
- Strategic Plan
- Non-discrimination policy
- Equity statement (if available)
- Roster of current board members with phone numbers, emails and business or affiliation in Excel format
- Agency logo

SECTION 3 – PROJECT INFORMATION
Project Name:
Name of Primary Contact Person for Project:
Title of Primary Contact Person for Project:
Phone Number:
Email Address:
Secondary Contact:
Annual Funding Amount Requested: $
Are you applying for one-, two-, three-year funding?
Approximate number of people you expect to serve in one year:
Geographic area(s) that this request will cover by zip code:
Cost per unit of service and a description of how you define your cost per unit of service (examples: $5.00/meal; $25/home visit; $75 per child per year, etc.):

Project Narrative
Please tell us about your project. Remember that this is your opportunity to help us understand how your program fits into United Way's Impact Agenda for Change. When writing the narrative, you must address the following things:

Description
- Brief description of the project.
- Does your organization/project have any outside accreditations/affiliations? Please list.

Alignment
- How does your project align with the issues, strategies and data listed in the Impact Agenda for Change?
- What is the long-term problem(s) being addressed by your project?

Delivery
- Please describe how your project will reach the areas of most need in Berrien, Cass, and/or Van Buren counties.
- Who is your target audience? (include age, ethnicity, zip code, income level, and school district, if applicable).
- When, where and how is it delivered?
- Please describe how your project utilizes evidence-based or best-practice strategies for project design and execution.
- How is this effort currently funded?
- Does your program utilize volunteers? If so, how?

Measurement
- What measurement tool will you use and how will you use it?
- How often will you implement the tool?
- How does your tool align with the outcomes selected?

Collaboration
- What other organization offers a similar service and how are you avoiding duplication?
- What collaborative efforts are you involved in? Please list the organizations you collaborate with and describe the nature of the collaboration. Please remember, collaboration is more than a referral source, it is a partnership between organizations that produces something greater than what they could accomplish alone.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
- In what ways does your organization value diversity, equity, and inclusion?
- Tell us about the demographic composition of your board and staff (examples may include, but are not limited to gender identity, race and/or ethnicity, age).
- Briefly describe your plans to actively address and ensure diversity, equity, and inclusion in your proposed project.
- How many staff and/or volunteers of your organization/program have participated in a diversity, equity and/or inclusion trainings? (examples: 21-day equity challenge, Brave Spaces, etc.)
- How does or how will your program:
    - Increase diversity and inclusion?
    - Reduce inequities?

Turning Outward/Connected & Inclusive Communities
- How has or how will your organization use the community's aspirations to guide your work?
- How does or how will your program address at least one of the following:
    - Better access and improvements to community resources & infrastructure?
    - Increase community cohesion?
    - Increase community involvement and participation?
    - Enhance safety?
    - Improve communication and networking between leaders and organizations?
    - Increase access to activities and recreational opportunities?

Additional Information
- Is there anything else that we should know about your project?

SECTION 4 – ISSUES, STRATEGIES AND OUTCOMES/OUTPUTS

Education

Issue: Early Education & Literacy

Goal: Decrease the number of students not reading proficiently by the end of 3rd grade and reduce racial and economic disparities

Strategies:

- Home Visiting Programs
- Quality Childcare and/or Preschool
- Parenting Education
- Access to Books
- Out of School/In School Programming/Supports

Change Lives

Outputs:

- # of children participating in home visiting programs
- # of children participating in quality childcare and/or preschool programs
- # of parents and/or caregivers receiving parenting education
- # of children who have access to books
- # of children participating in out-of-school/in-school programming and/or supports

Outcomes:

- % of children who show progress toward or achieve developmental milestones
- % of parents and/or caregivers who increase knowledge of children's development
- % of children who increase their reading level

Build Stronger Communities

Indicators:

- # of policies or practices created, changed, or promoted
- # of people trained
- # of organizations impacted
- # or value of equipment purchased
- # of ways or value of additional capacity created

Education

Issue: Post-Secondary Success

> *Goal:* Decrease the number of adults who do not have a post-secondary credential and reduce racial and economic disparities

Strategies:

- Mentoring/Tutoring
- Career & Technical Education
- Overcoming Obstacles

Change Lives

Outputs:

- # of students participating in mentoring/tutoring programs
- # of students participating in career & technical education
- # of students served to overcome obstacles

Outcomes:

- % of students who graduate high school on time
- % of students who develop soft skills
- % of students who are working toward post-secondary education or credentials
- % of students who gain post-secondary education or credentials

Build Stronger Communities

Indicators:

- # of policies or practices created, changed, or promoted
- # of people trained
- # of organizations impacted
- # or value of equipment purchased
- # of ways or value of additional capacity created

Financial Stability

Issue: Financial Security

> *Goal:* Decrease the number of households who have incomes below the ALICE threshold and reduce racial and economic disparities

Strategies:

- Financial Education
- Financial Coaching

Change Lives

Outputs:

- # of people participating in financial education
- # of people participating in financial coaching

Outcomes:

- % of people who increase their financial health
- % of people who increase their financial knowledge

Build Stronger Communities

Indicators:

- # of policies or practices created, changed, or promoted
- # of people trained
- # of organizations impacted
- # or value of equipment purchased
- # of ways or value of additional capacity created

Financial Stability

Issue: Employment

     Goal: Decrease the unemployment rate and reduce racial and economic disparities

Strategies:
- Overcoming Obstacles
- Job Skills Training

Change Lives

Outputs:
- # of people participating in job skills training
- # of people served to overcome obstacles

Outcomes:
- % of people who gain, maintain, or improve employment status
- % of people who earn job-relevant credentials
- % of people who increase their skills

Build Stronger Communities

Indicators:
- # of policies or practices created, changed, or promoted
- # of people trained
- # of organizations impacted
- # or value of equipment purchased
- # of ways or value of additional capacity created

Health

Issue: Healthy Bodies

Goal: Decrease the number of people who report poor physical health

Strategies:
- Physical Activity
- Health Education
- Access to Healthy, Affordable & Available Food
- Access to Health services

Change Lives

Outputs:
- # of people participating in physical activity programs
- # of people participating in health education
- # of people who have access to healthy, affordable, and available food
- # of people who have access to health services

Outcomes:
- % of people who adopt healthy behaviors
- % of people who increase their knowledge of healthy behaviors

Build Stronger Communities
- # of policies or practices created, changed, or promoted
- # of people trained
- # of organizations impacted
- # or value of equipment purchased
- # of ways or value of additional capacity created

Health

Issue: Healthy Minds

    Goal: Decrease the number of people who report poor mental health

Strategies:
- Counseling & Support
- Resiliency Building
- Rehabilitation & Recovery
- Respite & Companionship

Change Lives

Outputs:
- # of people participating in counseling and support
- # of people served to build their resilience
- # of people participating in rehabilitation and recovery programs
- # of people who receive respite and/or companionship

Outcomes:
- % of people who increase their mental and/or emotional health
- % of people who avoid or reduce risky behaviors

Build Stronger Communities

Indicators:
- # of policies or practices created, changed, or promoted
- # of people trained
- # of organizations impacted
- # or value of equipment purchased
- # of ways or value of additional capacity created

Basic Needs

Issue: Food Security

      Goal: Decrease the number of individuals who are food insecure

Strategies:

- Access to Food

Change Lives

Outputs:

- # of people provided with food
- # of meals provided

Build Stronger Communities

Indicators:

- # of policies or practices created, changed, or promoted
- # of people trained
- # of organizations impacted
- # or value of equipment purchased
- # of ways or value of additional capacity created

Basic Needs

Issue: Safe Environment
Strategies:
- Emergency Assistance
- Housing Support
- Case Management

Change Lives

Outputs:
- # of people provided shelter
- # of people provided with case management
- # of people provided emergency financial assistance
- # of bills paid for emergency financial assistance
- Value of bills paid for emergency financial assistance

Build Stronger Communities

Indicators:
- # of policies or practices created, changed, or promoted
- # of people trained
- # of organizations impacted
- # or value of equipment purchased
- # of ways or value of additional capacity created

SECTION 5 – BUDGET NARRATIVE

- Will you use your United Way funding as a local match to leverage funds from other sources? Please list the funding sources and amount you will receive because of a local match.
- If you project a surplus or deficit in your budget, you MUST explain how you will use the surplus or cover the deficit.
- What is the dollar value of your in-kind support?
- Please give any additional information on your budget you feel would be useful for the volunteers.
- Please itemize your state, federal, local government, and foundation funding sources. Also, please list if that funding is "secured" or "pending".

SECTION 6 – SUBMISSION
Board Chair Signature:

Executive Director Signature:

By clicking, SUBMIT, you attest that you are authorized to submit this application on behalf of your organization and its board of directors. You also attest that the information contained in this application is true, complete, and accurate to the best of your knowledge. Should a misrepresentation be reported or otherwise identified, United Way of Southwest Michigan reserves the right to withhold, suspend, or terminate an application or investment and/or the ability to apply for future funding.