



UNITED WAY
Quad Cities

2026 - 2029

COMMUNITY IMPACT AGENDA

- Youth Opportunity & Education
- Financial Security & Workforce
- Healthy Community

Published October 2024

KEY DATES

RFP/Letter of Intent Release	October 29, 2024
Letter of Intent due	November 19, 2024
Invitations to Apply notification	December 6, 2024
Applications due	January 21, 2025
Award notification	May 2025
Investment start date	July 1, 2025

PURPOSE OF DOCUMENT

This document outlines United Way Quad Cities’ (UWQC) funding process and encourages agencies to apply for grants in the impact areas of Youth Opportunity, Financial Security, and Healthy Community. It provides a comprehensive guide to the application process, including key indicators and strategies for each impact area. UWQC anticipates \$1.5 million annually for the 3-year investment cycle, with final funding amounts determined by annual campaign results and announced in May 2025.

The toolkit is structured to offer both a quick overview and detailed guidance. The summary at the beginning highlights the essential components of our grant program, while the complete agenda at the back includes required outcomes, deadlines, and step-by-step instructions. We recommend reviewing the entire toolkit to fully understand the process and expectations.



EDUCATION



FINANCIAL SECURITY



HEALTH

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

RISE UNITED 2030

United Way Quad Cities (UWQC) is working to build a future in which all Quad Citizens have the opportunity and access to thrive. We collaborated with a broad spectrum of community partners to develop our Rise United 2030 goals, a set of 10-year metrics to drive transformative change and advance opportunities in the areas of Education, Income, and Health in Scott and Rock Island counties. To drive progress in the Quad Cities by 2030, UWQC will focus on three key levers, Education, Income, and Health, and approach them as overlapping, interconnected issues. We know that children who have quality early care and education are more likely to be prepared for school, and kids who enter school ready to learn are more likely to be “reading to learn” by third grade. Students who read proficiently are more likely to graduate from high school ready for college or career and living-wage jobs, allowing them to save for the future and cover health care costs – leading to success in school and life for their own children.



the number of students reading on grade level by 3rd grade.

CURRENT: 56%

(Up from 44% in 2021)

(Quad Cities Educational Data Exchange)



the number of young adults earning living wages, adding \$116M in wages per year to the economy

CURRENT: 70%

(UP from 66% in 2021)

(United for ALICE)



the percent of Quad Citizens reporting having routine health care.

CURRENT: 74%

(Up from 72% in 2017)

(Community Health Assessment)

While the Rise United 2030 outcome goals are straightforward, we understand that addressing systemic issues requires a multifaceted approach. There are various influences and barriers that need to be addressed to drive change. In addition to developing direct measures to track progress, we have identified specific indicators that can impact progress on individual goals as well as cross-cutting indicators that affect multiple goals. These indicators are tracked at the community level using existing data resources like the U.S. Census, ALICE, MIT, and more. We also leverage United Way Quad Cities' Educational Data Exchange housed at St. Ambrose University, our primary data evaluation partner, and our UWQC Expert Data Research team who aggregates and analyzes the data and existing studies, including the common measures reported by grantees to show the results of their work. By combining these indicators, we can demonstrate the overall impact of our efforts in the community. These shared community goals are interconnected and interdependent. By strengthening Education, Income, and Health together, we can create lasting change for all Quad Citizens.

IMPACT AREA INVESTMENTS

YOUTH OPPORTUNITY & EDUCATION

The Youth Opportunity and Education impact area has a focus on closing achievement gaps among disadvantaged children and students.



INVESTMENT PRIORITY OUTCOMES

- Children have access to high-quality early learning environments that set the stage for lifelong success.
- Kids enter kindergarten ready to learn and thrive.
- Young people are reading on grade level, a critical milestone for academic success.
- Strengthened foundational math skills of middle school students to support long-term academic achievement.
- Students have improved attendance rates to ensure consistent learning opportunities.
- High school students are connected to educational and/or career paths preparing them to graduate ready to succeed in college or career.
- Seniors achieve higher graduation rates, ensuring they reach this important milestone prepared for future success.

INVESTMENT PRIORITY INDICATORS

These investment priority indicators measure our community's collective progress towards achieving our Rise United 2030 goals.

- % Kindergarten Readiness
- # Quality Rated Child Care Centers
- % 3rd grade reading proficiency
- % 8th grade math proficiency
- % 8th grade reading proficiency
- % Chronic Absenteeism
- % High School Graduation

YOUTH OPPORTUNITY & EDUCATION

KINDERGARTEN READINESS

➤ **ISSUE:** Children are unprepared for kindergarten, impacting their early learning and development.

Eighty percent of a child’s brain development happens before they turn three. For every \$1 invested in early childhood, the economy sees a return of \$4 to \$16 (Heckman).

Preschool is crucial for reducing academic and health disparities, yet less than half of Quad Cities children aged 3 to 4 are enrolled. Access to early childhood education is becoming more challenging for families in our community. Between 2018 and 2023, the cost of child care rose by more than 15%.

In the Quad Cities, there are 23,157 children under the age of 6, with over 3,000 starting kindergarten this year. Unfortunately, one in three of these children had little to no exposure to early childhood development programs or quality preschool.

The result? More than 1,000 of our 5-6-year-olds likely began school already behind.

INDICATORS

- % Kindergarten readiness
- # Quality rated child care centers

STRATEGIES

- 1.1** Increase and maintain the number of quality early child care slots with priority for children ages 0-5.
- 1.2** Invest in professional development and training for early childhood professionals.
- 1.3** Provide parents/guardians with tools and resources to increase knowledge and understanding of age-appropriate developmental milestones and/or parenting practices.
- 1.4** Provide programs that develop confidence, literacy and social-emotional support to children ages 0-5 to prepare children for kindergarten.

ROOT CAUSES

- Poverty
- Inequitable access to quality early childhood education
- Affordability of child care
- Parent education and engagement
- Language and literacy development
- High turnover of child care professionals
- Lack of community awareness on education value

Kindergarten Readiness

CURRENT	2027 GOAL
53%	55%

YOUTH OPPORTUNITY & EDUCATION

READING & MATH

➤ **ISSUE:** Students proficient in reading & math are more likely to be successful, but many students are falling behind.

In the Quad Cities:

- Only 55% of third-graders read at grade level.
- Just 30% of eighth grade students are proficient in math.
- The Quad Cities has 106 public schools serving over 44,000 students; 83 of these schools (78%) are Title I schools needing more support for at-risk youth.
- Despite receiving additional federal funding, 21,900 low-income students still lack essential educational and wraparound resources.
- In disadvantaged neighborhoods, there is only one age-appropriate book for every 300 children, compared to 13 books per child in higher-income areas.
- Students in low-income neighborhoods have less access to rigorous math content and tutoring support, which widens the achievement gap.

INDICATORS

- % Third grade reading proficiency
- % Eighth grade math proficiency

STRATEGIES

- 2.1** Provide evidence-based reading and/or math programs for children.
- 2.2** Provide programming to alleviate the summer learning slide in reading and/or math
- 2.3** Provide out-of-school time STEAM-specific events and activities.
- 2.4** Implement programs and activities that ensure a smooth and successful transition into and out of middle school, helping students build the skills and confidence needed for academic and social success.

ROOT CAUSES

- Ongoing student mobility
- Low attendance leading to missed instruction time
- Access to out of school programs
- Lack of exposure to quality early childhood programs
- Lack of parent engagement
- Poverty

Third Graders Reading on Grade Level

CURRENT	2027 GOAL
56%	63%

Eighth Grade Math Proficiency

CURRENT	2027 GOAL
61%	65%

YOUTH OPPORTUNITY & EDUCATION

CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

➤ **ISSUE:** Students who miss 10% or more of school are at serious risk of falling behind.

In the Quad Cities: 29% of middle schoolers are chronically absent.

Last year, 2,900 middle school students in the Quad Cities missed over 30,000 days of school, equating to over 180,000 hours of lost instruction.

Barriers such as poor health, limited transportation, and safety concerns—especially in disadvantaged communities—contribute to this issue.

Research shows that experiencing chronic absenteeism even once between 8th and 12th grade increases the likelihood of dropping out of high school by seven times (U.S. Department of Education).

INDICATORS

- % chronic absenteeism

STRATEGIES

- 3.1** Provide programs/activities designed to promote learning, positive social-emotional wellness and reduce absenteeism.
- 3.2** Remove barriers that prevent students from attending school on a regular basis.

ROOT CAUSES

- Excess student mobility
- Family instability
- Transportation challenges
- Poverty
- Parental involvement
- Academic struggles
- Mental health issues
- Access to out of school tutoring

YOUTH OPPORTUNITY & EDUCATION

COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS

➤ **ISSUE:** Students who are not prepared for college or the workforce are less likely to be successful.

In the Quad Cities:

- 81% of high school students graduate
- 50% of high school students enroll in post-secondary education the first year after graduating high school
- 42% of Quad Citizens have earned a post-secondary degree

Students need to be adequately prepared for post-secondary education and the workforce. When students enter college or apprenticeships unprepared, they can spend thousands of dollars on remedial, non-credit-bearing coursework just to catch up. Being prepared for postsecondary education or training results in better job opportunities, careers that provide sustainable wages and pathways to advancement, and greater social and emotional well-being (Kaiser Permanente).

INDICATORS

- % High school graduation
- % College & career ready

STRATEGIES

- 4.1** Provide opportunities and support to ensure students graduate from high school.
- 4.2** Increase opportunities for students to gain career exploration activities and awareness.
- 4.3** Provide support to students to increase their access and readiness to pursue post-secondary education.

ROOT CAUSES

- Insufficient exposure to post-secondary opportunities
- Low attendance leading to missed instruction time
- Access to prep programs, internships, extracurricular activities
- Deficiencies in early education can lead to gaps in skills like reading, math
- Poverty
- Discrimination

High School Graduation

CURRENT	2027 GOAL
81%	84%

Post-Secondary Enrollment

CURRENT	2027 GOAL
50%	59%

Post-Secondary Completion

CURRENT	2027 GOAL
43%	45%

IMPACT AREA INVESTMENTS

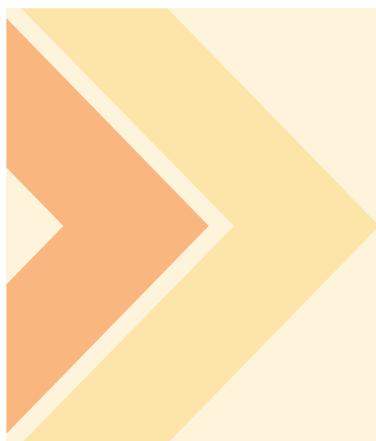
FINANCIAL SECURITY & WORKFORCE



The Financial Security & Workforce impact area is focused on helping disadvantaged individuals and families meet their basic needs, achieve economic stability, and increase the number of people earning a living wage, reducing debt, and building savings.

INVESTMENT PRIORITY OUTCOMES

- Adults and families achieve economic stability.
- Individuals and families live in safe, stable, and thriving environments.
- Underskilled and unemployed workers receive job training and education that empower them to build resilience and reach their full potential.



INVESTMENT PRIORITY INDICATORS

These investment priority indicators measure our community's collective progress towards achieving our Rise United 2030 goals.

- % Postsecondary Enrollment
- % Adults with postsecondary credentials or degrees
- Poverty Rate
- % Access to affordable housing
- % Postsecondary Completion
- % Adults earning a living wage
- ALICE

FINANCIAL SECURITY & WORKFORCE EMPLOYMENT & CAREER PATHWAYS

ISSUE: Quad Citizens work, but many struggle to make ends meet.

According to the most conservative estimate, a family of four in the Quad Cities needs to earn approximately \$67,000 to make ends meet. A family of four with two children in child care needs to earn approximately \$78,000 – nearly three times the poverty level of \$27,750.

Based on this data, we estimate about 115,000 people (1 in 3 people) in the Quad Cities are struggling to make ends meet. Of this, less than 43,000 are living in poverty – meaning the vast majority are caught in the gap between economic self-sufficiency and the federal poverty line. A majority of these individuals are working, yet can't make ends meet. Only 3% of the Quad Cities labor force is unemployed (U.S. Census Bureau).

By 2030, 72% of jobs will require postsecondary education and training. Adults with an Associate's or Bachelor's degree earn an average of \$442,000 – \$1,051,000 more over their 40-year career than someone with just a high school diploma (The Commit Partnership of Dallas County).

INDICATORS

- % Postsecondary Enrollment
- % Postsecondary Completion
- % Adults with postsecondary credentials or degrees
- % Adults earning a living wage

STRATEGIES

- 5.1 Equip people with the skills and supports needed to get and keep quality jobs.
- 5.2 Expand education and workforce development for in-demand career pathways, including stipends and/or paid work experiences.

ROOT CAUSES

- Access to quality education and job training
- Lack of career counseling, job placement services or financial literacy
- Job market prevalence of low-wage jobs
- Cost of living increases
- Lack of transportation, affordable child care
- Limited career pathways with in-demand industries
- Racial and gender bias

Living Wage Job Attainment

CURRENT	2027 GOAL
61%	69%

Post-Secondary Enrollment

CURRENT	2027 GOAL
50%	59%

Post-Secondary Completion

CURRENT	2027 GOAL
43%	45%

FINANCIAL SECURITY & WORKFORCE

FINANCIAL LITERACY

» **ISSUE:** Financial health in the QC is lagging. The average credit score in the QC is 708, which is 12 points below the national figure

In the Quad Cities, the poverty rate of 13.4% is higher than the U.S. poverty rate of 12.5%. Poverty has been on a fairly steady decline nationally over the past 10 years, but has increased in the Quad Cities during the same timeframe. 116,180 Quad Citizens are caught in the gap – living over the poverty line but unable to make ends meet.

Studies show financial literacy significantly reduces poverty. When families gain financial knowledge and access to financial resources, their behavior and attitude change, empowering them to make sustainable decisions with their money that set them up for future financial stability (Wang, Cao, & Huang, 2022).

INDICATORS

- % Adults earning a living wage
- % Poverty rate

STRATEGIES

- 6.1** Provide access to financial coaching for adults to build towards financial security.
- 6.2** Provide financial literacy programs for youth to build towards financial security.

ROOT CAUSES

- Lack of access to financial literacy programs
- High levels of debt
- Insufficient education and job skills
- Generational poverty
- Unemployment / Underemployment
- High cost of living
- Lack of credit
- Insufficient savings
- Health challenges
- Cultural differences

FINANCIAL SECURITY & WORKFORCE HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION & AFFORDABLE HOUSING

➤ **ISSUE:** Critical shortage of affordable housing options.

Over the past 5 years, housing costs in the Quad Cities have been on the rise, putting many families at risk of homelessness and financial instability. The median monthly housing costs in our region have risen by 15% in the past 5 years, with costs increasing more rapidly in recent years.

The entire nation is experiencing a shortage of affordable housing, especially amongst the lowest-income renters. Currently, no state has an adequate supply of affordable rental housing for the lowest-income renters. In the Quad Cities, there are only 4 available rental homes for every 10 extremely low-income renter households.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development defines “affordable housing” as housing on which the occupant is paying no more than 30% of their gross income for housing costs. In the Quad Cities, 67% of households spend more than 30% of their income on housing, with significant racial and ethnic disparities.

INDICATORS

- % Access to affordable housing

STRATEGIES

- 7.1** Provide emergency housing shelter.
- 7.2** Provide supports needed to keep people in safe, affordable, stable housing.

ROOT CAUSES

- Rising housing costs
- Insufficient supply of affordable housing
- Gentrification
- Economic disparities
- Lack of public investment
- Wages not kept up with cost of living
- Substance abuse
- Domestic violence
- Underemployment/Unemployment
- Inequitable housing practices like Redlining

IMPACT AREA INVESTMENTS

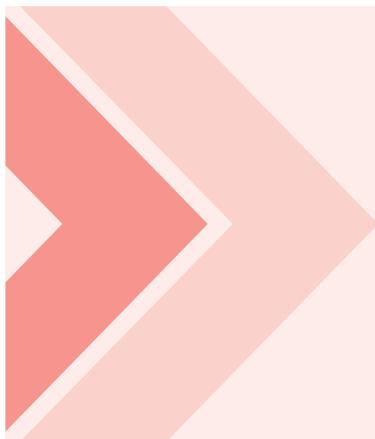
HEALTHY COMMUNITY



The Healthy Community impact area is dedicated to improving health and well-being by breaking down racial, economic and other barriers to mental health care, particularly for youth, and ensuring availability of nutritious food.

INVESTMENT PRIORITY OUTCOMES

- Children and youth develop strong mental health, providing a solid foundation for their growth, development, and future success.
- Individuals and families experience improved mental well-being and are supported in preventing substance abuse, fostering a healthier, more resilient community across all age groups.
- Residents of all ages have consistent access to nutritious food, reducing food insecurity and supporting both their physical and mental health.



INVESTMENT PRIORITY INDICATORS

These investment priority indicators measure our community's collective progress towards achieving our Rise United 2030 goals.

- % Quad Citizens reporting good, very good or excellent mental health
- % Children (age 5-17) with good, very good or excellent mental health
- % Households experiencing food insecurity

HEALTHY COMMUNITY

MENTAL HEALTH



ISSUE: Lack of affordable and accessible mental health services.

In the Quad Cities, the percentage of people with poor mental health status has been on the rise, practically doubling between 2015 and 2021 amongst both adults (12% to 23%) and children (8% to 17%).

30% of Quad Citizens have difficulty accessing mental health services. There is only about 1 mental health provider in the Quad Cities for every 1,000 residents, and 1 in 10 Quad Citizens report having difficulty accessing care when needed. Vulnerable populations have an even more difficult time obtaining mental health services, particularly lower income and Hispanic populations.

INDICATORS

- % Quad Citizens reporting good, very good or excellent mental health.
- % Children (age 5-17) with good, very good or excellent mental health.

STRATEGIES

- 8.1** Expand access to mental health, substance abuse, family violence and trauma services.
- 8.2** Provide access to out-of-school programs that address mental health support.

ROOT CAUSES

- Limited access to affordable mental health care
- Insufficient number of mental health providers
- Stigma and cultural factors
- Geographical barriers
- Shortage of trained professionals
- Insurance limitations
- Lack of awareness about mental health issues and available services
- Inequitable health policies

HEALTHY COMMUNITY

NUTRITION & FOOD SECURITY

» **ISSUE:** Limited access to nutritious and affordable food.

25.2% of Quad Citizens surveyed in the 2021 Community Health Assessment are food insecure. 15.2% of Quad Citizens are considered to live in a food desert (Food Rescue Project).

In 2022, food prices increased by 10%, faster than in any year since 1979 (USDA).

In the Quad Cities, the average meal costs \$4.05, putting healthy meals out of reach for many struggling families and leaving them to make decisions between things like food and getting needed medication.

An additional \$28,949,000 would be required to meet the food needs of just our region alone (Feeding America).

Organizations like food banks and food pantries can alleviate food insecurity, with one local food bank reporting that a donation of just \$1 covers the cost of 5 meals. However, food banks alone cannot solve food insecurity and are even at risk.

In 2022, NPR reported that food banks faced a decrease in donations and increase in demand due to high food prices and inflation. Healthy, accessible, and affordable food is needed now more than ever with 1 in 3 Quad Citizens not being able to make ends meet.

ROOT CAUSES

- Affordability of healthy food
- Food deserts
- Poverty
- Rising food costs
- Transportation
- Unemployment / Underemployment
- Inequitable policies and regulation

INDICATORS

- % Households experiencing food insecurity.

STRATEGIES

- 9.1** Increase availability and remove barriers to accessing nutritious food.

NEW COMMUNITY IMPACT GRANT INVESTMENT PROCESS

If your organization is an independent 501(c)3, grassroots organization or government agency and you serve the Scott or Rock Island county areas and your work aligns with one of the elements of our Rise United 2030 Community Goals or Youth Opportunity & Education, Financial Security & Workforce or Healthy Community impact areas, your organization may qualify to receive funding.

FUNDING PROCESS

STEP 1: Letter of Intent (LOI):

The first step in applying for United Way Community Impact funding is to submit a Letter of Intent (LOI). The LOI consists of a short series of questions within Foundant, United Way's grantmaking system, designed to help our staff and volunteer advisors determine if your program might qualify for funding. If your program appears eligible, your LOI will be approved, and you will be invited to complete a full application.

You will find an outline of the LOI on page 26. Please note that this sample is not the official LOI and is subject to change. All LOIs must be completed within Foundant, United Way's grantmaking system.

STEP 2: Funding Application (Invite-Only):

If your Letter of Intent (LOI) is approved, your organization will be invited to submit a full application for funding. You will receive detailed instructions on what is needed to apply, including financial statements, program narratives, impact data and other relevant documentation. Once your application is submitted, it will be reviewed by our Strategic Investment Volunteers – a team of community members with expertise in one or more of our priority impact areas.

STEP 3: Funding Decisions

Following the review of all funding applications, including any site visits and presentations, each Strategic Investment Team will make funding recommendations. These recommendations will be submitted to the United Way Quad Cities Community Impact Council and, subsequently, to the Board of Directors, who will review, amend or approve them. Final funding decisions will be communicated to applicants in May 2025, with grant distributions beginning on July 1, 2025.

FUNDING TIMELINE & KEY DATES

DATE	DESCRIPTION
October 29, 2024	Letter of Intent (LOI) Opens
October 29, 2024	RFP Information Meeting #1
October 30, 2024	RFP Information Meeting #2
November 19, 2024 by 5:00 P.M. CDT	Letter of Intent (LOI) submission deadline
December 6, 2024	LOI approval/denial notification Approved LOIs receive access to full-form application
January 21, 2025 by 5:00 P.M. CDT	Full-form Application submission Deadline
January - May, 2025	Proposal Review and Site Visits by Strategic Investment Volunteers
May 2025	Community Impact Council & UWQC Board of Directors Approval
May 2025	Applicant Notification
June 2025	Partnership & Outcomes Agreements
July 1, 2025	Investments Begin

FUNDING PHILOSOPHY

1. All United Way investments are required to align to the areas of Youth Opportunity, Financial Security and Healthy Community, as defined by the Community Impact Plan. Funded programs are required to demonstrate measurable results in these priority areas.
2. We are committed to providing equitable funding opportunities to all organizations working to create meaningful impact in youth opportunity, financial security and healthy community. This includes a focus on supporting grassroots and minority-led organizations as well as those serving vulnerable and marginalized populations. UWQC defines a grassroots organization as a community based organization or organized group of individuals who has identified a specific issue/problem and is working collectively toward a solution.
3. Our funding commitment is intended for a 3-year period but will be renewed annually based on performance, partnership, and the successful completion of our fundraising efforts. While we strive to meet our financial goals, actual funding amounts may vary based on campaign results. United Way Quad Cities reserves the right to adjust or modify funding allocations accordingly.
4. United Way values innovation, collaboration, measurement and evaluation to show impact. We believe:
 - a. Creativity and innovation are essential and actively encouraged.
 - b. Collaborative efforts among agencies are vital to maximizing impact, leveraging resources and sharing lessons learned, particularly through partnerships that span youth opportunity & education, financial security & workforce and healthy community impact areas.
 - c. Measurement and evaluation provide:
 - i. Feedback to learn, adjust, and optimize the achievement of outcomes.
 - ii. An objective means of assessing impact.
 - iii. A method for sharing successes and best practices with partners and the community.
5. Strategic Investment Volunteers are encouraged to consider the impact of their investment decisions, ensuring that funding amounts are sufficient and achieve measurable results.
6. Proposals under consideration are evaluated under the following criteria:
 - a. Community Impact (43%)
 - b. Cost-Efficiency and Effective Service Provision (14%)
 - c. Results (29%)
 - d. Collaboration (14%)
7. We are committed to prioritizing support for low-income, marginalized and vulnerable populations.
8. Agencies should clearly report on the results to effectively communicate the impact of our investment to donors and the community.
9. United Way encourages agencies to maintain diverse sources of resources, as our support is competitive and not guaranteed as sustained funding.
10. United Way will conduct due diligence to assess the financial stability, management capacity and organizational alignment necessary to successfully execute the submitted proposal.

PARTNER STANDARDS

Our Partner Standards embody the values shared by UWQC and all its partner agencies. These standards ensure that donor-supported organizations are efficiently managed, financially accountable, and governed effectively by a volunteer Board of Directors or Trustees.

Administrative Criteria

1. The organization must actively conduct Health and Human Service programs and services to individuals residing in Rock Island County, Illinois and/or Scott County, Iowa.
2. The stated mission of the organization must be consistent with the mission of the United Way Quad Cities – “Mobilizing people and resources to improve lives in our community.”

Organizational Criteria

1. The organization must have been incorporated and actively conducting business for at least two years at the time of application.
2. The agency must maintain in its budget and programming a demarcation between its religious programs and other programs so that United Way does not fund religious programming.
3. We aspire for our funded partners to be true collaborators in achieving our shared community goals. To foster this partnership, we ask grant-funded partners to actively participate in bi-annual meetings. These meetings will serve as a platform to assess progress, identify challenges, and collaboratively develop solutions, ensuring that we are all aligned in our efforts to create meaningful impact in the community.

Board Criteria

1. The agency shall be governed by a volunteer board of directors including a chairperson, secretary and treasurer. Or a fiscal agent must be identified who can serve this function.
2. The board shall have a policy, which provides for rotation of its members and requires regular attendance and a quorum at board meetings to conduct business.
3. Recruitment of board membership shall follow equal employment opportunity policies and general membership shall be representative of the bi-state Quad Cities community and/or representative of the organization’s target population.
4. The board shall employ a qualified administrator whose qualifications and experiences are such that they can effectively administer the total program and activities of the organization within the policies set by the board.
5. The board shall approve and oversee the development and implementation of the agency’s annual operating budget.

*If the organization is the local arm of a statewide or national organization, directed by a state or national governing board, or if it fulfills a specific mission of a local multi-mission organization directed by a governing board, the organization receiving United Way funding must have its own volunteer governing body in the form of an Advisory Board or Council.

Financial Criteria

1. The organization shall present documentation of its financial condition, which shows the total income and expenditures of the organization. The organization must be able to demonstrate evidence of ongoing financial support from the community and a balanced strategy to develop alternate sources of funding.
2. Budgets that indicate organizational income and expenses must be submitted. They shall have been prepared and approved by the agency's board of directors.
3. The organization shall maintain accounting records which are in conformity with the current Standards of Accounting and Financial Reporting for Voluntary Health and Welfare Organizations.
4. Organization audit requirements are as follows:
 - a. Agencies with annual budgets of up to \$249,999, must submit a financial review prepared by a CPA.
 - b. Agencies with annual budgets of \$250,000 and higher, must submit a CPA-prepared independent audit.

Services Not Eligible for Funding

- Programs that are primarily political or religious in nature.
- Services restricted to members of a specific religious group.
- Programs dedicated solely to presenting cultural or artistic achievements.
- Services or programs that provide long-term financial subsidies to individuals.
- Capital projects.

FUNDING ELIGIBILITY

Organizations applying for United Way Quad Cities (UWQC) funding must meet the below criteria for each level of TOTAL funding requested. Applicants are encouraged to contact United Way for support throughout the application and funding process.

If you are a 501(c)3 organization who conducts an annual audit and files your 990, you are eligible to apply for any amount.

Category 1: Requests between \$0 – \$4,999

The lead organization must be a non-profit 501(c)3 OR can demonstrate a legal relationship with an established 501(c)3 acting as your fiscal agent.

If the awarded entity is not a 501(c)3 and does not have a fiscal agent who is 501(c)3 or section 170 organization, UWQC can award funds to fund a project.

- a. UWQC will maintain the awarded funds and either:
 - i. Pay expenses associated to the project directly to the vendor or provider.
 - ii. Reimburse the entity for covered expenses of the project.
- b. UWQC will be listed as funding sponsor or partner on the awarded project.

Required Attachments:

- Board of Directors roster, with officers listed if applicable
- Patriot Act Anti-Terrorism Compliance Form (provided by UWQC)
- Full operating budget, in your own format
- Balance Sheet and Income Statement
- Applicant/Fiscal Agent Partnerships: A copy of the written and signed agreement between two organizations that confirms a partnership and delineates the responsibilities of each to the project
- Annual audited financial statements, if the agency conducts an audit

Category 2: Requests between \$5,000 – \$24,999

The applicant is a recognized 501(c)3 or section 170 organization.

IRS certification of above status must be provided.

Tax ID or EIN number must be provided to UWQC.

Annual IRS Form 990 requirements:

- a. Must be filed in a timely fashion according to IRS guidelines.
- b. Entity must complete the 990 appropriate for their annual revenue level.
- c. Provide 990 to UWQC, along with proof of filing status/date.

If the applicant is not a 501(c)3 or section 170 organization, they must have a fiscal agent secured that meets the necessary requirements as specified above.

Required Attachments:

- Board of Directors roster, with Officers listed if applicable
- Patriot Act Anti-Terrorism Compliance Form (provided by UWQC)
- Full Operating Budget, in your own format
- Balance Sheet and Income Statement
- The fiscal agent's most recently filed 990 income tax form (required for 501(c)3 fiscal agents; optional for 170 public institutions)
- Annual audited financial statements, if the agency conducts an audit

Category 3: Requests \$25,000 and above

The applicant is a recognized 501(c)3 or section 170 organization.

IRS certification of above status must be provided.

Tax ID or EIN number must be provided to UWQC.

Annual IRS Form 990 requirements:

- a. Must be filed in a timely fashion according to IRS guidelines.
- b. Entity must complete the 990 appropriate for their annual revenue level.
- c. Provide 990 to UWQC, along with proof of filing status/date.

If the applicant is not a 501(c)3 or section 170 organization, they must have a fiscal agent secured that meets the necessary requirements as specified above.

Required Attachments:

- Board of Directors roster, with Officers listed if applicable.
- Patriot Act Anti-Terrorism Compliance Form (provided by UWQC)
- Full Operating Budget, in your own format
- Balance Sheet and Income Statement
- The fiscal agent's most recently filed 990 income tax form (required for 501(c)3 fiscal agents; optional for 170 public institutions)
- Annual audited financial statements
 - a. Agencies with annual budgets of up to \$249,999, must submit a financial review prepared by a CPA
 - b. Agencies with annual budgets of \$250,000 and higher, must submit a CPA prepared independent audit. CPA firm issues an opinion on the audited financials.
- Applicant/Fiscal Agent Partnerships: A copy of the written and signed agreement between two organizations that confirms a partnership and delineates the responsibilities of each to the project.

WHAT OUR FUNDED PARTNERS CAN EXPECT FROM UNITED WAY QUAD CITIES

1. Recognition & Visibility

- **Public Acknowledgment:** Funded partners will be publicly recognized across our communication platforms, including our website, social media channels, newsletters, and annual reports.
- **Co-Branding:** Use of the United Way Quad Cities logo on your marketing materials, indicating partnership and shared commitment to community impact.

2. Financial & Strategic Support

- **Timely Disbursements:** Funds will be disbursed according to a clear, reliable schedule, ensuring that partners can plan and execute their programs effectively.
- **Multi-Year Funding Opportunities:** Where possible, we offer multi-year commitments to provide stability and enable long-term planning.
- **Strategic Guidance:** Access to our Community Impact team for advice on aligning your programs with broader community goals and maximizing impact.

3. Monitoring & Evaluation Support

- **Impact Measurement Tools:** Assistance in developing and refining impact measurement strategies to ensure clear, measurable outcomes.
- **Regular Check-ins:** Scheduled meetings with United Way staff/Impact Volunteer Council to discuss progress, troubleshoot challenges, and refine approaches as needed.
- **Data Analysis Assistance:** Support in interpreting data to understand program performance and inform decision-making.

4. Communication & Collaboration

- **Open Communication Channels:** We maintain open lines of communication for ongoing dialogue, ensuring that partners feel supported and heard.
- **Collaborative Initiatives:** Opportunities to participate in collaborative projects and initiatives that align with United Way's focus areas, fostering partnerships that can amplify impact.
- **Two Way Feedback:** Regular opportunities to provide feedback on our processes and partnership experiences, allowing us to improve and better serve our partners.

5. Advocacy & Public Policy Support

- **Policy Advocacy:** Inclusion in United Way's advocacy efforts to influence public policy in areas that impact your work, helping to create a more favorable operating environment for your programs.
- **Community Engagement:** Opportunities to participate in broader community engagement efforts led by United Way, which can increase visibility and support for your programs.

HOW TO APPLY FOR FUNDING

STAGE 1: LETTER OF INTENT

Step 1: Register in Foundant

All applicants must register in our grant portal: <https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=uwqc>. If this is your first time submitting a grant with United Way Quad Cities, you will need to Create A New Account.

Step 2: Submit a Letter of Intent (LOI)

Using Foundant, all applicants will submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) through the grant portal by November 19 at 5:00 PM CDT.

Step 3: Qualified Applicants are Invited to Stage 2

Qualifying applicants will be invited to submit a full proposal through Stage 2 of the application process by December 6. Full applications are due by 5:00 PM CDT on January 21, 2025.

STAGE 2: FULL-FORM APPLICATION (INVITE ONLY)

Note: only applicants that are invited to participate in Stage 2 will complete these steps.

Step 4: Applicant Accesses Their Application in the Grant Portal

Once invited to Stage 2, applicants will login to the grant portal and access their application. The full application will now be available to fill out. We highly recommend to first complete all questions in Word and then paste responses into the system to avoid losing data.

Step 5: Applicants Select Impact Area(s)

3 Impact Areas are available for funding. Applicants choose up to 3 Impact Areas to be addressed with proposed work.

Step 6: Select Funding Priority(ies)

9 Funding Priorities are available for funding. Applicants choose at least 1 Funding Priority under each Impact Area they have requested funding for. Applicant specifies:

- (1) The amount of funding requested for each Funding Priority
- (2) The number of individuals to be served in each Funding Priority

Step 7: Select Strategy(ies)

Applicant selects 1 strategy under each Funding Priority they're requesting funding for.

Step 8: Select Outcome(s)

Applicant chooses 1 outcome under each strategy they're requesting funding for. Applicant specifies number served and outcome target for each outcome selected.

Step 9: Narrative - Strategic Alignment, Collaboration Efforts, and Results

Applicant describes how their proposed work aligns with the community-level goal of each investment priority, how collaboration will propel this work, and how results will be measured.

Step 10: Financial Attachments

Applicants upload the required attachments. Required attachments vary depending on amount of funding requested and status of the organization, typically including, but not limited to, the agency's Budget, Board Roster, and verification of 501(c)3 or 170 status. See pages 22 - 23 for a full list of required attachments.

Step 11: Submit

Click the "Submit" button and you're done!

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

STAGE 1. LETTER OF INTENT OUTLINE

The Letter of Intent (LOI) will be available to agencies on October 29 and can be completed online at <https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=uwqc>. The LOI must be **completed by 5 p.m. CST on November 19**. Late or incomplete LOI's will not be accepted.

Organization Profile

Check all that apply to your organization

- 501(c)
- 170(b)
- Grassroots (Definition: a community-based organization or organized group of individuals who have identified a specific issue problem and is working collectively toward a solution)
- Minority-Led (Definition: the leader is Hispanic/Latino, African American, Asian, Native American, Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, or two or more races)
- Continuous Operation (organization has been in continuous operation for the past 2 years)

Populations Served

Does your organization serve residents of Scott County, Iowa or Rock Island, County, Illinois?

Marginalized Populations

Does your organization serve vulnerable and/or marginalized individuals?

Impact Areas

United Way Quad Cities invests in 3 Impact Areas that align with community needs. With which area(s) does your work most closely align? (Select up to 3 Impact Areas)

- Youth Opportunity
- Financial Security
- Healthy Community

Investment Priorities and Requested Amount

United Way Quad Cities' investments improve community-level conditions through 9 Investment Priorities. Which UWQC Investment Priorities do you plan to apply for? What is the amount of funding you are planning on requesting per Investment Priority? (July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026 only) (Select up to 9 Funding Priorities)

Youth Opportunity

- Kindergarten Readiness
- Reading & Math
- Chronic Absenteeism
- College & Career Readiness

Financial Security

- Employment & Career Pathways
- Financial Literacy
- Homelessness Prevention & Affordable Housing

Healthy Community

- Mental Health
- Nutrition and Food Security

Program Description and Alignment

For each Investment Priority selected, briefly describe the proposed services that will be provided and explain how the services align with and work to improve the Investment Priority Indicator(s). (3,500 characters per Investment Priority selected)

STAGE 2. APPLICATION OUTLINE (INVITE-ONLY)

Full Application (Invite-Only):

Organization Information

- Board President Name, Email, Employer, Phone Number
- Year Organization Established
- Continual Operation
- Mission Statement
- Organization Overview

Fiscal Information

- Fiscal Agent: Identify the Fiscal Agent for this Request
- Fiscal Agent Type: Identify Fiscal Agent Type
- Annual Revenue (currency)
- Fiscal Year: Identify Agency's Fiscal Year
- Audit & 990: Identify Month of Annual Audit or 990 Completion

Cost-Efficient and Effective Service Provision

- Amount Requested by Investment Priority
- Number Served by Investment Priority
- Cost Per Individual by Investment Priority
- Funding: Description of How Funding Will be Used

Community Impact

- Impact Area(s)
- Investment Priority(ies)
- Strategy(ies)
- Outcome(s)
- Outcome Projections: Outcome Target, Number Served
- Program Description & Alignment: How Program Aligns with Indicators
- Population Description
- % Served Low-Income
- % Served BIPOC

Collaboration

- Identify partner organizations
- Describe nature of collaboration

Results

- Measurement Tool: Tools Used to Measure Each Outcome
- Past Data: Data as Evidence of Past Success
- Outcomes Data: Using Outcomes Data to Evaluate Effectiveness

Financial & Organizational Attachments

Applicants upload the required attachments. Required attachments vary depending on amount of funding requested and status of the organization, typically including, but not limited to, the agency's Budget, Board Roster, and verification of 501(c)3 or 170 status. See pages 22 - 23 for a full list of required attachments.

FULL-FORM APPLICATION EVALUATION RUBRIC

The volunteer review team will conduct a comprehensive, fair and impartial evaluation of all proposals. Each proposal will be analyzed to determine overall responsiveness and qualifications in the application, using the scoring rubric below. Volunteer review teams may request additional information at any time prior to final approval of a selected applicant.

CRITERIA	MAX POINTS
Cost-Efficient and Effective Service Provision - 14%	
The applicant proposes to serve an appropriate number of people with cost-effective services and/or work.	5
Community Impact - 43%	
The applicant's proposed efforts promise to have a significant impact on the community need being addressed.	5
The applicant's proposed efforts align with the Funding Priority and promise to have a significant impact on moving our community towards that goal.	5
The applicant is mindful of the needs of different subpopulations and/or is addressing systemic inequity in the Quad Cities.	5
Collaboration - 14%	
The applicant has built, or plans to build, working relationships with other local organizations to improve the services being offered and/or the number of individuals reached. The applicant's collaboration efforts promise to have a significant impact on the community need being addressed.	5
Results - 29%	
The applicant's proposed outcome measurement method promises to accurately measure the outcome(s) they have chosen.	5
The applicant demonstrates an active use of outcome data or plan to begin collecting data to evaluate their service model and/or work and to adjust it when necessary.	5
TOTAL	35

APPENDIX A

FUNDING PRIORITIES/OUTCOMES

➤➤ YOUTH OPPORTUNITY & EDUCATION IMPACT AREA

1. KINDERGARTEN READINESS

Strategy

1.1 Increase and maintain the number of quality early child care slots with priority for children ages 0-5.

1.2 Invest in professional development and training for early childhood professionals.

1.3 Provide parents/guardians with tools and resources to increase knowledge and understanding of age-appropriate developmental milestones and/or parenting practices.

1.4 Provide programs that develop confidence, literacy and social-emotional support to children ages 0-5 to prepare children for kindergarten.

Outcome

Number/percent of children who gain access to quality early learning environments that ensure school readiness.

Number/percent of early childhood educators completing certifications, continued education credits, and/or professional development opportunities.

Number/percent of parents/guardians who demonstrate understanding of child development milestones and/or parenting practices.

Number/percent of children who show an improvement in social/emotional and/or literacy skills.

2. READING & MATH

Strategy

2.1: Provide evidence-based reading and/or math programs for children.

2.2: Provide programming to alleviate the summer learning slide in reading and/or math.

2.3: Provide out-of-school time STEAM-specific events and activities.

2.4: Implement programs and activities that ensure a smooth and successful transition into and out of middle school, help students build the skills and confidence needed for academic and social success

Outcome

Number/percent of students who show improvement in reading proficiency.

Number/percent of students who show improvement in math proficiency.

Number/percent of students who maintain or improve their academic skills in reading over the summer months.

Number/percent of students who maintain or improve their academic skills in math over the summer months.

Number/percent of students who increase STEAM-specific content knowledge.

Number/percent of students involved in 1 or more extracurricular activity.

3. CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

Strategy

3.1: Provide programs/activities designed to promote learning, positive social-emotional wellness and reduce absenteeism.

Outcome

Number/percent of students who were chronically absent (10% or more of school days) who improve their attendance.

Number/percent of students who participate in extra-curricular activities.

3.2: Remove barriers that prevent students from attending school on a regular basis.

Number/percent of students who were chronically absent (10% or more of school days) who improve their attendance.

4. COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS

Strategy

4.1: Provide opportunities and support to ensure students graduate from high school.

Outcome

Number/percent of high school students on track to graduate on time.

4.2: Increase opportunities for students to gain career exploration activities and awareness.

Number/percent of students demonstrating increased awareness of and/or interest in a specific career pathway.

Number/percent of students who participate in career exploration activities.

4.3: Provide support to students to increase their access and readiness to pursue post-secondary education.

Number/percent of students who graduate college-ready with postsecondary goals and a plan for pursuing those goals.

Number/percent of students that experience improved access to post-secondary opportunities.

Number/percent of students who take college-level/post-secondary courses, career or tech education.

»» FINANCIAL SECURITY & WORKFORCE IMPACT AREA

5. EMPLOYMENT & CAREER PATHWAYS

Strategy

5.1: Equip people with the skills and supports needed to get and keep quality jobs.

Outcome

Number/percent of individuals served who earn their GED or HiSET.

Number/percent of individuals served who earn a post-secondary degree, certification, or credential.

5.2: Expand education and workforce development for in-demand career pathways including stipends and/or paid work experiences.

Number/percent of unemployed and/or under-employed individuals who enroll in an accredited adult education program.

Number/percent of individuals served who have job retention of at least 6 months.

6. FINANCIAL LITERACY

Strategy

6.1: Provide access to financial coaching for adults to build towards financial security.

Outcome

Number/percent of participants who develop and regularly maintain personal or household budgets, tracking income and expenses.

Number/percent of participants who demonstrate an increase in their savings contributions, whether in emergency funds, retirement accounts, or other savings vehicles.

Number/percent of participants who show improvement in managing debt, including paying down credit card balances and loans more effectively.

6.2: Provide financial literacy programs for youth to build towards financial security.

Number/percent of youth that increase financial knowledge and skills.

7. HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION & AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Strategy

7.1: Provide emergency housing shelter.

Outcome

Number of individuals or families who use emergency housing/shelter.

7.2: Provide supports needed to keep people in safe, affordable, stable housing.

Number/percent of individuals or families who maintain stable housing for a minimum of 1 year.

HEALTHY COMMUNITY IMPACT AREA

8. MENTAL HEALTH

Strategy

8.1: Expand access to mental health, substance abuse, family violence and trauma services.

Outcome

Number/Percent of youth (0-17 years old) with improved well-being and functioning.

Number/Percent of adults (18 years old and older) with improved well-being and functioning.

Number/percent of youth and adults who are able to live in a safe environment where trauma is minimized.

8.2: Provide access to out-of-school programs that address mental health support.

Number/percent of students with reduced disciplinary/behavior referrals.

9. NUTRITION & FOOD SECURITY

Strategy

9.1: Increase availability and remove barriers to accessing nutritious food.

Outcome

Number of individuals using food pantries.

Number of meals served.

Number of pounds of healthy food distributed.

APPENDIX B

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

GENERAL TERMS

BIPOC: Black, Indigenous, People of Color

Collaboration: a relationship between two (or more) organizations that pool or jointly secure resources in an effort to achieve shared objectives and/or outcomes. Compared to cooperation and coordination, collaboration is less transactional and more transformational. (Philanthropy News Digest, 2016).

Evaluation Rubric: Tool used by the volunteer review team to evaluate all aspects of proposals and determine which programs will be recommended for funding.

Foundant: Software that gives applying agencies a web-based interface to submit proposals to UWQC while allowing UWQC volunteers to review those submissions.

Impact Area: Priority area for investing donor dollars. UWQC's impact areas are Youth Opportunity, Financial Security and Health Community.

Indicator: Measure and track various aspects of a community's well-being, health, and overall quality of life. These indicators provide data that help understand the strengths and challenges within a community and inform decisions aimed at improving the community's conditions.

Investment Priorities: 9 priorities identified in the 3 Impact Areas.

Letter of Intent (LOI): A brief application outlining an organization's interest in applying for a grant.

Low-Income: Anyone not earning a living wage is considered low-income. For more information on living wage in the Quad Cities, visit: <https://livingwage.mit.edu/metros/19340>.

Partner Standards: Core policies that reflect the values that characterize UWQC and its partner agencies; designed to assure donors that UWQC funds are administered efficiently, financially accountable, governed effectively and have diverse sources of funding. All agencies applying for UWQC funding must be in compliance with these standards prior to application review.

Preliminary Review: Staff review of proposals to ensure completeness.

Request for Proposals (RFP): Guidelines and criteria for developing a program's request for investment from UWQC.

Standards Review: Review process to determine an agency's financial solvency.

Strategic Investment Volunteer Review Team: Volunteers who review proposals and develop funding recommendations.

YOUTH OPPORTUNITY

At-Risk: refers to students who are considered to have a higher likelihood of experiencing academic failure or dropping out of school due to a range of factors that negatively impact their learning and overall well-being.

Child Care Slot: the available spaces or vacancies in a child care facility, such as a daycare center, preschool, or home-based child care, that can be filled by new children. These slots represent the capacity of the child care provider to accept additional children at a given time.

Chronically Absent: missing a significant amount of school over a given period, typically defined as missing 10% or more of school days in a year. This can include both excused and unexcused absences.

College and/or Career Ready: the level of preparation a student needs to succeed in postsecondary education (such as college, vocational training, or technical schools) and to enter the workforce with the skills and knowledge necessary to thrive in a chosen career. At UWQC, College and/or Career Readiness is measured by a combination of GPA, attendance and completion of college level or concurrent enrollment classes. It is measured each year at the end of 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grade.

Kindergarten Readiness: the set of skills, behaviors, knowledge, and attitudes that prepare a child to successfully transition into and engage with the kindergarten environment. It's not solely about academic abilities but encompasses a broad range of developmental areas. At UWQC, we use results of district literacy assessments as an indicator of kindergarten readiness. This is measured during the first quarter of the kindergarten year.

Math Proficiency: the ability to understand, apply, and perform mathematical concepts, procedures, and reasoning effectively. A universal screener is used to determine math proficiency.

Quality Early Child Care: child care environments and practices that effectively support the overall development, well-being, and learning of young children. It involves a combination of factors that contribute to creating a nurturing, safe, and stimulating setting where children can thrive.

Reading Proficiency: the ability to read text accurately, fluently, and with comprehension. A universal screener is used to determine reading proficiency.

STEM: (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) Interdisciplinary approach to learning that combines these four areas of study.

STEAM: (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics) An evolution to the traditional STEM model that add the arts to help students solve problems in more innovative ways.

Student Mobility: the frequency and movement of students transferring from one school to another during the academic year.

Summer Learning Slide: the decline in academic skills and knowledge that some students experience during the summer break when they are not engaged in educational activities.

FINANCIAL SECURITY

ALICE: (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) a term used to describe households that, despite being employed, do not earn enough to afford basic necessities such as housing, food, child care, health care, and transportation. These households are above the poverty line but still struggle to meet the cost of living in their communities.

Living Wages: Wages that are sufficient to raise a family or live as a single person. Wages that provide adequate housing, food and other necessities.

Quality Jobs: Employment that provides fair wages, stable and sufficient hours, benefits and opportunities for career advancement.

In-Demand Career Pathways: In-demand career pathways that provide family sustaining wages.

GED: GED (General Educational Development) is a series of tests designed to determine whether a person possesses the academic skills and knowledge equivalent to those of a high school graduate. Passing the GED tests provides individuals with a high school equivalency credential, which can be used to pursue higher education, secure employment, or achieve personal goals.

HiSet: HiSET (High School Equivalency Test) is a standardized test that serves as an alternative to the GED (General Educational Development) test for individuals who did not complete high school. It assesses a candidate's academic knowledge and skills, equivalent to those of a high school graduate. Successfully passing the HiSET allows individuals to earn a high school equivalency credential, which can be used to pursue higher education, employment opportunities, and other personal goals.

APPENDIX C

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What are the investment areas available through United Way Quad Cities?

Investments are based on a three-year cycle. For this RFP process, UWQC is offering investments within our Youth Opportunity, Financial Security and Healthy Community Impact Areas.

How much money is available this three-year investment cycle?

UWQC available investments are dependent on annual campaign results. Actual funding amounts will be available at a later date, but we are estimating \$1.5 million annually available.

Who decides how much money is awarded to each successful application?

Trained volunteers work to make recommendations on funding after reviewing applications from potential agency partners. UWQC's Community Impact Council vote on all funding recommendations prior to UWQC's Board of Directors approval of final funding decisions.

When will applicants be notified of funding decisions?

All applicants that complete a formal application will be notified of funding decisions after the UWQC Board of Director's meeting in May 2025.

When does the new funding cycle begin?

The FY26 funding cycle will begin July 1, 2025 and is anticipated to go through June 30, 2028.

Who is eligible for receiving funding through this process?

UWQC's investment process is an open and competitive process. Any applicant that is able to meet the qualifications and Partner Standards as well as aligns with UWQC's Community Impact focus is welcome to apply for funding through this process.

How does an applicant apply for funding?

Applicants who meet all qualifications and UWQC Partner Standards are welcome to apply for funding. Applicants will be required to submit a proposal via Foundant: <https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=uwqc>.

Click here for an Applicant Tutorial: <https://support.foundant.com/hc/en-us/articles/4479853059991-GLM-Applicant-Tutorial>.

Can an applicant apply for funding under multiple Impact Areas?

Yes, applicants are welcome to apply under multiple Impact Areas and Investment Priorities. While only one application is required, investment opportunities will be considered on a program-level basis. However, funding is not guaranteed for all Impact Areas to which they apply, and the total amount of funding awarded cannot exceed 50% of the total budget for each project or program.

Can an applicant set its own outcomes?

No. Outcomes are predefined for each strategy. These outcomes are informed by best practices and accessible data to ensure alignment with proven approaches and the highest potential for impact.

Will successful applicants be required to collect, track and report on client-level outcomes?

Yes. Successful applicants will be required to submit data, including demographics of service users, on a bi-annual basis.

Who should I contact for assistance with Foundant?

For additional questions and assistance, please contact Trisha Piekarczyk at trisha@unitedwayqc.org or 563.344.0339.

Does UWQC have a preference or provide identified instruments, tools or curricula for programming?

No. It is up to an applicant to propose the tool used to measure success and demonstrate in the narrative why it is an appropriate means of assessing progress.

If an organization has been providing services for less than two years, are they eligible to apply?

No, an organization must be in existence for at least two years to be eligible.

How many awards does UWQC intend to offer?

UWQC does not have a predetermined number of awards for applicants. Instead, our focus is on maximizing impact with the resources available, ensuring that funding is allocated where it can create the greatest positive change.

What is the range of amounts per investment?

While there is no fixed range for the amounts to be awarded in this RFP process, funding will not exceed 50% of the total project budget. The exact funding amounts will depend on the proposals received and the potential impact they can achieve with the available resources.

Will Panel Volunteers be conducting sites visits?

Yes, United Way Staff will reach out to agencies to schedule site visits beginning in January. These site visits that will occur between February - April 2025.