

FY 2025-2026 COMMUNITY INVESTMENTS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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Overview

Beginning in Spring 2025, United Way for Southeastern Michigan's (United Way) investment strategy is moving away from multiple program-specific funds to a set of three grant opportunities intended to complement each other and give organizations the ability to choose where they best align and can most effectively engage around our shared priorities. The three funds are:

Community Access & Response Fund – Provides flexible funding for organizations meeting immediate, more acute needs of individuals and families. For 2025/2026, this opportunity will be an open, competitive application.

Wraparound Services & Stability Fund – Provides flexible funding for organizations or established collaboratives providing wraparound services to stabilize individuals and families. For 2025/2056, this opportunity will be an open, competitive application.

Connect4Care & Systems Change Fund – Funding for regionally recognized institutions or collaboratives to address the systemic issues that are driving up the number of ALICE households and connect individuals to more integrated, seamless and dignified systems of care that support lasting, long-term stability for individuals and families at scale. For 2025/2026, this opportunity will be a closed, sole-source process.

Application Window: March 3 - March 28 at 5:00PM

Funding Framework

Q: Why are you redesigning the grant strategy in this way?

A: Given the limited resources available now and the incredible need across the four-county region we serve, we have updated our annual investment strategy, funding priorities, and application process. Our goal is to maximize the impact of every dollar to better and more sustainably support the needs of ALICE households and the organizations that serve them.

Our new funding framework is designed to resource and engage a coordinated network of partners providing complementary services under a shared vision to help households living below the ALICE threshold move from crisis to stability and from stability to prosperity in Macomb, Oakland, Washtenaw, and Wayne counties.

Under this framework, we will continue to invest in a variety of programs/services across education, basic needs, and advocacy with the understanding that each of these areas is critical to our mission and vision for community.

United Way staff will work diligently with partners to provide a clear understanding of these shifts and opportunities for partnership.

This is also an opportunity for us to make changes to our application process to reduce administrative burden and center the experiences of agencies, clarify mutual expectations, and support equitable decision-making. Instead of submitting multiple applications across different domains of service, agencies will submit one application for the breadth of work they intend to do in the funding stream best aligned with that work.

Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed (ALICE)

Q: What is ALICE?

A: ALICE is an acronym for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed, and represents the growing number of families who are unable to afford the basics of housing, childcare, food, transportation, health care, and technology. In southeastern Michigan, more than 40 percent of households struggle to afford their basic needs.

The 2024 <u>ALICE Report</u>, produced by the <u>Michigan Association of United Ways</u> in association with <u>United for ALICE</u>, reveals the magnitude of financial hardship in Michigan.

The report measures how families are faring by comparing household earnings to the true cost of living in our region. It's a more accurate measurement of household finances than the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), which is based on food prices established in the 1970s and indexed to inflation, meaning it doesn't capture the reality of essential household expenses like health care, food and childcare.

While 14% of households in our region are reported to live at or below the poverty level, an additional 28% of households have incomes below the ALICE survival budget. Combined, these two numbers make up the percentage of total Macomb, Oakland, Washtenaw and Wayne County households that fell below the ALICE Threshold.

Q: Why is United Way focused on ALICE families?

A: At United Way, we mobilize a network of hundreds of partners and thousands of donors, advocates and volunteers to advance equitable communities where households are stable, and children thrive.

The ALICE Report serves as our guidepost for making informed decisions about how and where we invest limited resources to maximize community impact. It highlights areas of focus where we can target not only financial and

technical support resources, but where we can advocate for policies that have the greatest potential for impact on ALICE households. It also provides evidence of what many already know to be true – that too many working households in our state and in our region are just one missed paycheck or unexpected doctor's bill away from financial crisis.

They are the reason United Way for Southeastern Michigan is working alongside our partners and community to close the gap between what people are earning and the cost of living so that every family, in every ZIP code, has an equal opportunity to thrive.

Q: Are households living at 30% of the area's median income and requiring deeply affordable housing included within your target group? ALICE often refers to low to moderate households.

A: Yes. We want to understand how effective we are at reaching those below the ALICE Survival Budget Threshold, including those below the federal poverty level and those who do not have incomes high enough to cover their basic needs. Within the application you will be asked to identify if you are serving target groups that disproportionately fall below the ALICE threshold and to what extent services are offered in municipalities that have large concentrations of ALICE.

Q: Who should we reach out to if we have specific questions about whether the communities in which we work have ALICE families?

A: While we know that ALICE households are present in every community, there are 48 municipalities across our region where the percentage of households that fall below the ALICE threshold is 40% or greater. We are interested in funding organizations whose services are targeting these communities, understanding the disproportionate impact that concentrated poverty has on a household's well-being and access to resources. The list of these municipalities will be included in the application materials.

To learn more about ALICE, please visit the <u>Michigan Association of United Ways</u> and <u>United for ALICE</u>. All other questions can be directed to partnernetworks@unitedwaysem.org.

Q: Where can I learn more about ALICE?

A: For more information about ALICE please visit the links below.

- https://unitedwaysem.org/our-work/alice-report/
- https://www.uwmich.org/alice-report
- https://www.unitedforalice.org/state-overview/Michigan

Q: How do I learn more about Connect4Care and how to engage there?

A: Across funds, United Way staff will offer stewardship and engagement opportunities to partners, including strategic introductions, trainings, and free tools to improve organizations' readiness to participate in a transformed, more connected ecosystem of support for ALICE households.

Each fund will have different expectations for partners aligned to the opportunity's intent. Details about expectations (ex: reporting, training, etc.) will be shared as the funds are rolled out.

General Application

Q: Where on United Way's website are the RFPs published?

A: All information related to United Way's investment process is located: https://unitedwaysem.org/our-partners/grants-hub/proposal-opportunities/

Q: Will applications be in SurveyMonkey?

A: Yes. All applications must be submitted through our grant management portal, SurveyMonkey Apply (SMA). To access United Way's SMA platform please visit: https://apply.unitedwaysem.org/.

Q: What is the spending period of this grant?

A: July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026

Q: Is there a dollar amount that will be invested in Washtenaw County through these grants?

A: Of the total that will be available, a minimum of \$1M will be invested to support efforts in Washtenaw County as a commitment of the merger between United Way of Washtenaw County and United Way for Southeastern Michigan.

Q: Do you have an anticipated number of awards you will make for each fund?

A: There is not a specific number of anticipated awards. The number of partners in a cohort is largely based on the number of competitive applications and available funding.

Q: You've talked about the Spring 2025 funding round. Will there be a Summer, Fall or Winter funding round?

A: No. Currently, we do not anticipate releasing other opportunities through these Funds in 2025. We continue to work diligently every day to bring in more resources to support the important work our partners are doing and encourage organizations to check our website regularly for other funding opportunities.

Q: Will Fund 1 and 2 have the same application period?

A: Yes. The application window for all Funds is March 3-28. All applications must be completed in our grant management portal <u>SurveyMonkey Apply</u>.

Q: Will scoring rubrics be shared with applicants?

A: Yes. The scoring rubrics along with other grant resources will be available on our website.

Eligibility

Q: Does an organization need to be a nonprofit to receive funding?

A: Yes, these funds are meant to be dispersed as awards to nonprofit organizations. An organization must be in good standing with the State of Michigan and the Internal Revenue Service and will be required to upload a copy of their IRS designation letter, 990 form, W-9, financial statements and current Michigan Solicitation License. Organizations may apply via a fiduciary, if applicable.

Q: If we have a grant that is closing with United Way, will we still be eligible?

A: Yes. This is an open call for applications from both potential and current funded partners who meet the eligibility criteria and funding priorities laid out in the applications.

Q: If selected for the closed-invitation category (Fund 3), can we also submit for one or both other funding streams?

A: Organizations supported through the Connect4Care & Systems Change Fund are also eligible to apply for funding in the Community Access & Response Fund OR the Wraparound Services & Stability Fund only if they are applying to support different programs and costs from the activities funded through the Connect4Care & Systems Change grant. We will consider the merits of these applications against the full spectrum of competitive applications.

Q: Can an organization use a fiduciary to apply?

A: Yes. Organizations may apply via a fiduciary, if applicable. All applicant organizations must be 501c3s in good standing with the State of Michigan and the Internal Revenue Service and will be required to upload a copy of their IRS designation letter, 990 form, W-9, financial statements, and Michigan Solicitation License.

If your organization is utilizing a fiduciary to receive funds, the fiduciary must be the organization that creates the organizational account within <u>SurveyMonkey Apply</u>. They also must complete the Organization and Financial Information profile. If the fiduciary organization is unsure if their organization has a SurveyMonkey account, please have them contact the United Way team at <u>sma@unitedwaysem.org</u>.

United Way suggests having the fiduciary invite a representative of the sponsored/implementing organization to be a member of the account so that the sponsored/implementing organization can complete the application and subsequent reporting requirements.

Q: Can both the fiduciary and sponsored organization apply for a grant?

A: Yes. Both a fiduciary and the sponsored organization may submit individual applications for this grant. However, the programming and services that each is applying for should be different and specific to their organization.

Organizations who are acting as a fiduciary AND applying on their own should first contact the United Way team before they begin the application process by emailing sma@unitedwaysem.org.

Q: I am the AOR for multiple organizations. Will I be able to apply on behalf of more than one organization? None of them are my own organization.

A: Yes. A fiduciary organization may sponsor more than one organization. However, the programming and services for each application should be different and specific to each sponsored organization. Fiduciary organizations applying on behalf of more than one organization should first contact the United Way team before they begin the application process by emailing sma@unitedwaysem.org.

Q: Can you apply for different funds if you are applying once as a standalone organization and once as part of a collaborative?

A: Yes. This is permissible as long as you are not the lead applicant for the collaborative entity.

Q: Are programs that have their administrative home at a university eligible to apply?

A: Yes. We welcome submissions from applicants using a fiscal agent, including from higher education institutions such as colleges and universities. All applicant organizations must be 501c3s in good standing with the State of Michigan and the Internal Revenue Service.

If your organization is utilizing a fiduciary to receive funds, the fiduciary must be the organization that creates the organizational account within SurveyMonkey Apply and the Organization and Financial Information profile. If the fiduciary organization is unsure if their organization has a SurveyMonkey account, please have them contact the United Way team at sma@unitedwaysem.org.

Note the following difference when it comes to required documentation for applicants using a higher education fiscal agent:

Budget, financials, and balance sheet/audits: Submit your program/project OVERALL current and previous
year annual budgets. We do not need the budgets, nor audit of the higher education institution.

Organization and Financial Information

Q: Does an organization need to have an audit, or will a financial review and 990 form be sufficient?

A: Depending on your annual operating budget total amount, organizations may be required to have an audit with the information uploaded to your Organization and Financial Information profile in Survey Monkey Apply. For more information on the specific documents required for your organization to fulfill this requirement, please refer to the Financial and Audit Requirement resource available in SMA under the Financial Information task: <a href="https://www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uwsen.com/www.uws

If there are barriers to your organization providing this information, please contact us to discuss the specific circumstances for your organization at PartnerNetwork@unitedwaysem.org.

Q: If our 2024 audit is still in progress, can we upload 2023 information?

A: Yes, we are looking for the most recent audit information and understand that based on an organization's fiscal year and associated lags in financial review, this may be the case for some organizations. Please provide the most current information available at the time you apply.

Q: Could the operating budget include "in kind" donation value?

A: We are requesting program expenses but not program revenues as part of the application.

Budget

Q: Is there an award ceiling (max) or floor (min) for each fund?

A: Yes. Funding ranges for each competitive opportunity are as follows:

- Community Access & Response Fund \$15,000-50,000
- Wraparound Services & Stability Fund \$50,000-150,000

Q: What are the general overall budget guidelines?

A: The requested amount should not exceed 15% of the prior year's revenue or current operating budget. When reviewing budgets, we do flag line items for overhead/indirect that are above 15%. We also look for benefits to be no more than 30% of your salary line item. If you have extenuating circumstances that make either of these difficult for your organization, please explain that in your application.

Q: Can organizations apply for general operating or a specific project?

A: We are committed to providing organizations with flexible, operational funding to amplify impact. We are asking for organizations to fill out a budget and are leaving the use of funds description up to each organization. We ask that organizations stay within a 15% allowance for overhead/indirect expenditures in alignment with the <u>current Federal</u> <u>de minimis rate</u>, and approximately a 30% benefit rate. Aside from these stipulations, budgets can be very flexible to meet the organization's needs.

Q: Will the grants allow for indirect costs?

A: Yes. We ask that organizations stay within a 15% allowance for overhead/indirect expenditures in alignment with the current Federal de minimis rate.

Q: For budgeting, what is the cap percentage for staff/team support for the projects/initiatives?

A: United Way is committed to providing organizations with flexible, operational funding. We will not put restrictions on how much can go towards staffing. We ask that organizations stay within a 15% allowance for overhead/indirect expenditures and approximately a 30% benefit rate.

Q: Could United Way review the 30% fringe benefits rate limit? Increasing costs and organizations supporting employees might justify increasing the limit?

A: Typically, United Way looks for organizations to stay within that 30% fringe benefits rate. However, please explain in your application if there are extenuating circumstances for your organization. These will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Q: Any matching requirements or extra credit given for leveraging resources?

A: There are no specific matching requirements. We are evaluating budgets and while leveraging resources is appreciated, extra credit is not being awarded for doing so.

Q: Will United Way allow costs for hardware, software and other program-supporting items in applicant budgets to support data tracking and outcome measurement?

A: Grants are designed as flexible operating support to better enable your organization to help ALICE families move from crisis to stability and stability to prosperity. For this reason, we welcome program budgets that capture the full scope of inputs needed to achieve impact, including hardware, software, and evaluation.

Q: Would United Way fund 50% of the program costs as long as it is 15% of the full organization's operating budget?

A: Generally, budgets can be flexible to meet an organization's need. If applying, for the Wraparound Services and Stability Fund we do want to see that there are other funders and resources supporting the proposed program beyond United Way support. As part of your application, please explain why your organization is requesting 50% of the program costs.

Fund Selection

Q: Can an organization submit one application in each fund?

A: No. For the 2025/26 grant cycle, the Community Access & Response Fund and the Wraparound Services & Stability Fund will be highly competitive processes. Each organization must select the fund where it believes it will have the most competitive application aligned to grant intent, resources available, expectations for funding, and can most effectively engage around our shared priorities.

This year, the Connect4Care & Systems Change Fund will operate through a closed, invitation-only process for organizations engaged in advocacy efforts and organizations resourced to support activities around the Connect4Care Community Information Exchange. Organizations supported through the Connect4Care & Systems Change Fund are also eligible to apply for funding in the Community Access & Response Fund OR the Wraparound Services & Stability Fund only if they are applying to support different program costs from the activities funded through the Connect4Care & Systems Change grant. We will consider the merits of these applications against the full spectrum of competitive applications.

Q: If our organization has a funding request that is urgent AND that addresses household wellbeing, would we apply for the Community Access & Response Fund or the Wraparound Services & Stability Fund?

A: Organizations will have the ability to choose where they best align and can most effectively engage around our shared priorities. We strongly encourage organizations to carefully review the grant resources, including application and rubric ahead of deciding which fund best aligns with their service delivery model and the kinds of support they want to use United Way funding for.

Q: We know to apply in one category, but do we combine separate organization programs and associated budgets being applied for that we previously applied for separately into one combined application when they serve two different constituencies and have 2 different budgets and outcomes, etc.?

A: Agencies will submit one application for the breadth of work they intend to do in the funding stream best aligned with that work.

Q: Could organizations set up a one-on-one session with United Way to talk about our programs and see where we would best fit?

A: Yes. Please reach out to partnernetworks@unitedwaysem.org to schedule a time to chat with our team.

Q: Can organizations support more than one county in their grant proposal?

A: Yes. We welcome proposals from organizations serving multiple counties.

Q: For organizations supporting more than one county, can the organization apply for a grant for each county or apply for one grant to benefit all communities served?

A: We are only accepting one application per organization. Please submit an application that reflects the totality of the services/geographic area for which you are seeking funding.

Q: Because you're trying to fund requests at the full requested amount, and each fund has a range, are there specific criteria (i.e., serve X # of individuals) to qualify for the maximum amount of funding?

A: Decisions will be made based on the strength of the application, proposed services, geographic spread, service population, proposed budget relative to number served among other considerations to ensure that the portfolio of funded partners is reflective and responsive to the diverse needs of our community. Scoring rubrics are <u>available on</u> our website.

Q: Are organizations able to apply to support pilots that move families who fall within Federal Poverty levels to ALICE threshold income levels?

A: Applicants may apply to support existing and/or new services, but for both funds we are looking for demonstrated expertise/history of providing the proposed services to a community. The nature of the pilot and type(s) or programming/services should inform which fund an organization applies for. Applicants should carefully review the grant materials, including application and scoring rubric ahead of submitting an application.

Community Access & Response Fund

Q: We've received a Basic Needs grant. Will the Community Access and Respond Fund priorities be similar?

A: While our new investment strategy moves away from multiple program-specific funds to a set of three grant opportunities intended to complement each other, we will continue to invest in a variety of programs/services across education, basic needs, advocacy, etc. with the understanding that each of these areas is critical to our mission and community vision.

Current Basic Needs grantees will see similarity between some aspects of their current funded work and the priorities of the Community Access and Response Fund and the coordinated care approach of the Wraparound Services and Stability Fund. We hope that many of our current partners can see where their services align with the new framework and that prospective organizations see the framework as an opportunity to explore how they might engage with United Way in new ways.

Q: Does 'single time-limited interventions' exclude applications for ongoing programming or general operating expenses?

A: The proposed services/programming should be aligned to at least one of the identified priority areas. Generally, budgets can be flexible to meet your organization's needs.

Wraparound Services & Stability Fund

Collaboratives

Q: What do you mean by "established collaboratives"?

A: Under the Wraparound Services & Stability Fund, applicants have the option to submit an application under a collaborative model to request funding. Collaboratives that can demonstrate they have been working together in some formal capacity for at least one year are eligible to apply as a collaborative entity. Collaboratives will submit a single application that includes the lead organization and a list of each additional partner. Under this model, partners will have the discretion and flexibility to choose how they distribute funding among each other to maximize the impact of their work together. Collaboratives may span geographies, services areas and other distinguishing factors.

Q: Is there a maximum or minimum number of organizations that can be part of a collaborative application?

A: No. Collaboratives will submit a single application that includes the lead organization and a list of each additional partner. Under this model, partners will have the discretion and flexibility to choose how they distribute funding among each other to maximize the impact of their work together.

Q: If we want to expand those pre-existing collaboratives, how will that be considered?

A: Collaboratives that can demonstrate they have been working together in some formal capacity for at least one year are eligible to apply as a collaborative entity under the Wraparound Services and Stability Fund. Collaborative applicants will have the opportunity to share the nature of their relationship and proposed future work together in response as part of the application. We are not weighing collaboratives who intend to expand more heavily than those who propose to continue their partnerships as they are today.

Q: How will organizations document the work of the collaborative?

A: We are providing collaborative applicants with the opportunity to upload supporting documents (i.e. MOUs, contracts, etc.) that illustrate how your group operates and works together.

Q: Does the wraparound service have to include multiple areas of service, or can it be one service but addressing it in multiple ways with collaborating organizations? For example, the focus area is homelessness, but 3 organizations help the family.

A: Through the Wraparound Services and Stability Fund we are seeking organizations and collaboratives that can demonstrate their services go beyond addressing individual, immediate needs, and also offer programs that address multiple conditions that impact a household's well-being and quality of life and lead to a household's overall stability.

Examples of conditions may include: safe housing, equitable education access, income, access to nutritious food, integrated student supports aimed at eliminating family barriers, etc.

Offering a variety of interventions, whether within one service domain or multiple domains, that are more holistic in their approach and work with participants may be considered.

Q: Are collaborative applications for the Wraparound Services Fund scored higher (extra points) because they are collaborative as opposed to an agency applying independently?

A: No.

Focus & Outcomes

Q: Is Fund 2 focused primarily on ALICE threshold families or those whose annual incomes fall under ALICE income levels (e.g. those experiencing poverty)?

A: Our primary focus is on households that fall below the ALICE Survival Budget Threshold. This includes both households below the poverty level and households that earn above the FPL but cannot afford the basic cost of living in their county.

Q: Will there be outcomes, defined by United Way, that organizations will be expected to meet? Or will agencies propose their own outcomes?

A: For the Wraparound Services & Stability Fund, applicants will select from a list of United Way-defined outcomes and will also be able to provide their own.

Q: Is it more critical to work comprehensively with a smaller number of families, or to scale to much larger numbers with a few chosen assistance supports?

A: In general, we value quality over quantity and want to understand the scope and scale of services relative to the grant intent, type of service(s), and requested budget. We recognize that organizations delivering more intensive programming and/or a variety of services and supports to more holistically address the needs of individuals and families may require more staff capacity and a longer service engagement, so fewer individuals may be supported. We anticipate this could be relevant for organizations submitting applications under the Wraparound Services and Stability Fund.

Q: Is an organization's ability to provide "continuous, ongoing case management to mitigate barriers" an eligibility criteria or a funding priority?

A: Through the Wraparound Services and Stability Fund we are seeking organizations that can demonstrate their services go beyond addressing individual, immediate needs, but instead offer programs that address multiple conditions that impact a household's well-being and quality of life. As part of the Eligibility Screening task organizations will be asked to confirm that their services meet this criteria.

Evaluation and Scoring

Q: How does United Way arrive at funding decisions?

A: United Way is committed to investing in organizations and groups aligned with our impact focus areas, and ensuring that emerging and smaller-sized organizations advancing community solutions for ALICE families also have access to funding.

United Way remains thoughtful about how we invest and distribute resources into community for shared impact. Applications will be scored using a rubric (provided in the application materials) and consider annual budget size, current financial position as well as compliance to state and Federal regulations.

Decisions will be made based on the strength of the application, proposed services, geographic spread, service population, among other considerations to ensure that the portfolio of funded partners is reflective and is responsive to the diverse needs of our community.

Additionally, our review process will include feedback from community representatives, including governance committees, the local human services sector, businesses, higher education, subject-matter experts, community groups, and people with lived experience. This group of volunteers will serve as a thought partner to ensure the cohort reflects the diverse makeup of organizations in our sector and needs of our community members.

Q: Is past performance a funding award consideration?

A: United Way is excited to work with values-aligned community partners in our region. As we look to the future, we take a variety of factors into consideration, including past performance, communication, and timeliness of report submissions.

Q: If applying for a certain amount, and if United Way chooses not fund the entire amount, would United Way consider funding at a lower amount (in the \$50,000-\$150,000 range)?

A: Generally, we are looking to fund organizations at their full request. However, we do reserve the right to make adjustments to the funding amount.

Q: Does the fact that an organization does or does not participate in employee United Way donations impact chance for funding?

A: No that is not a factor in the decision-making process.

Post-Award

Q: Will you accept joint posts on social media?

A: Yes, in general, we will consider joint posts to highlight the awarding of grants. However, any social media posts that specifically reference United Way for Southeastern Michigan must be submitted to us for review and approval prior to being posted. This ensures consistency with our brand messaging and alignment with our communications standards. We appreciate your cooperation in this process and look forward to collaborating on impactful content. Please contact lerome.Espy@LiveUnitesdSEM.org with any questions related to social media.

Q: What are your expectations for United Way grantee organizations?

A: Below is a non-exhaustive list of expectations for all United Way partner organizations.

- Bi-annual grant reporting
- Mandatory attendance at a virtual grantee kick-off
- Register as a member United Way's Partner Network and attend at least half of the quarterly meetings
- List information about programs/services in the 2-1-1 Resource Directory and participate in annual updates
- Attend a 2-1-1 Resource Directory training during the grant term
- Participate in an annual check-in with United Way program staff
- Engage in efforts to support storytelling and amplify the impact of our work together

Organizations awarded Wraparound Services & Supports grants are also expected to participate in quarterly Connect4Care Community Information Exchange education and engagement opportunities.

If awarded, these responsibilities will be outlined in the Statement of Work and discussed in more detail at the grantee kick-off.

Q: Do you foresee opportunities for grantees to collaborate and learn from each other on best practices?

A: Yes, as part of the United Way for Southeastern Michigan's Partner Network, organizations will have access to a plethora of resources. These resources include partner network meetings uplifting community resources, volunteer engagement support services, toolkits and support guides on storytelling, advocacy, nonprofit best practices, and more.

Points of Contact for Further Questions

- For more information on these grant opportunities, please visit our grants partner hub website at: UnitedWaySEM.org/Grants.
- For questions or support related to the investment strategy and funding cycle, please contact the Agency Relations team at: PartnerNetworks@UnitedWaySEM.org
- For questions or support related to accessing our grant management platform, SurveyMonkey Apply (SMA),
 please contact the Community Investments team at: SMA@UnitedWaySEM.org