



2026-27 Community Access & Response Fund

Emergency Food Assistance

Applicant Webinar

February 25, 2026



**We will start on our agenda at 11:05AM,
please use this time to make sure you
are muted, sign in, and take a moment
to yourself.**

Agenda

Welcome and Housekeeping

Fund Overview

Structure of Application

Evaluation Process & Scoring Rubric

Grant Timeline

Questions and Answers

SurveyMonkey Apply Overview

Questions and Answers

Housekeeping

- Please keep yourself on mute.
- Type questions into the chat box.
- You may also email your questions to partnernetworks@unitedwaysem.org
- Questions about accessing or navigating SurveyMonkey Apply should be sent to SMA@unitedwaysem.org.
- Stay informed visit: <https://unitedwaysem.org/our-partners/grants-hub/proposal-opportunities/>
- Grant Management Portal: <https://apply.unitedwaysem.org/>

Sign In

- Type your full name & organization into the chat box.
- Include your email address.



Emily Mueller

Director, Community Investments



Daisha Allen

Specialist, Grants Management



Alyssa Alonte

Manager, Community Investments



Overview: Community Access and Response Fund

Emergency Food Assistance

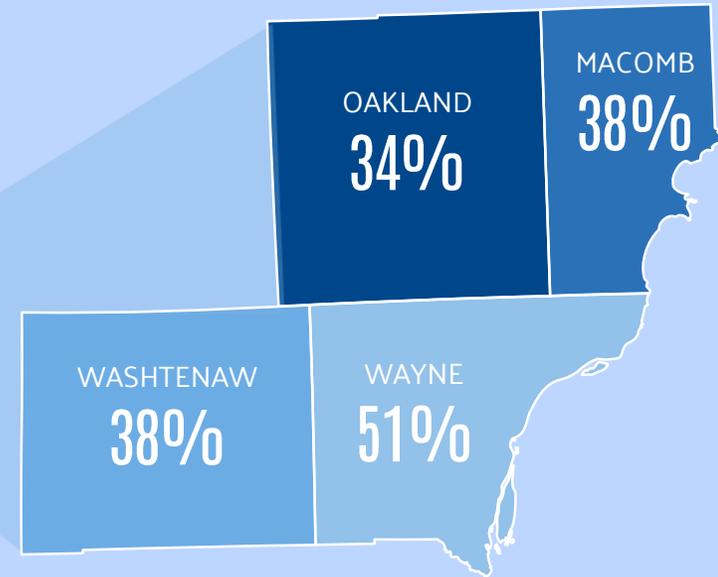


ALICE families live in every city in our region.

- LIVONIA: 28% of households fall below the ALICE threshold (BAT)
- BIRMINGHAM: 23% of households BAT
- SHELBY TOWNSHIP: 30% of households BAT
- ANN ARBOR: 43% of households BAT

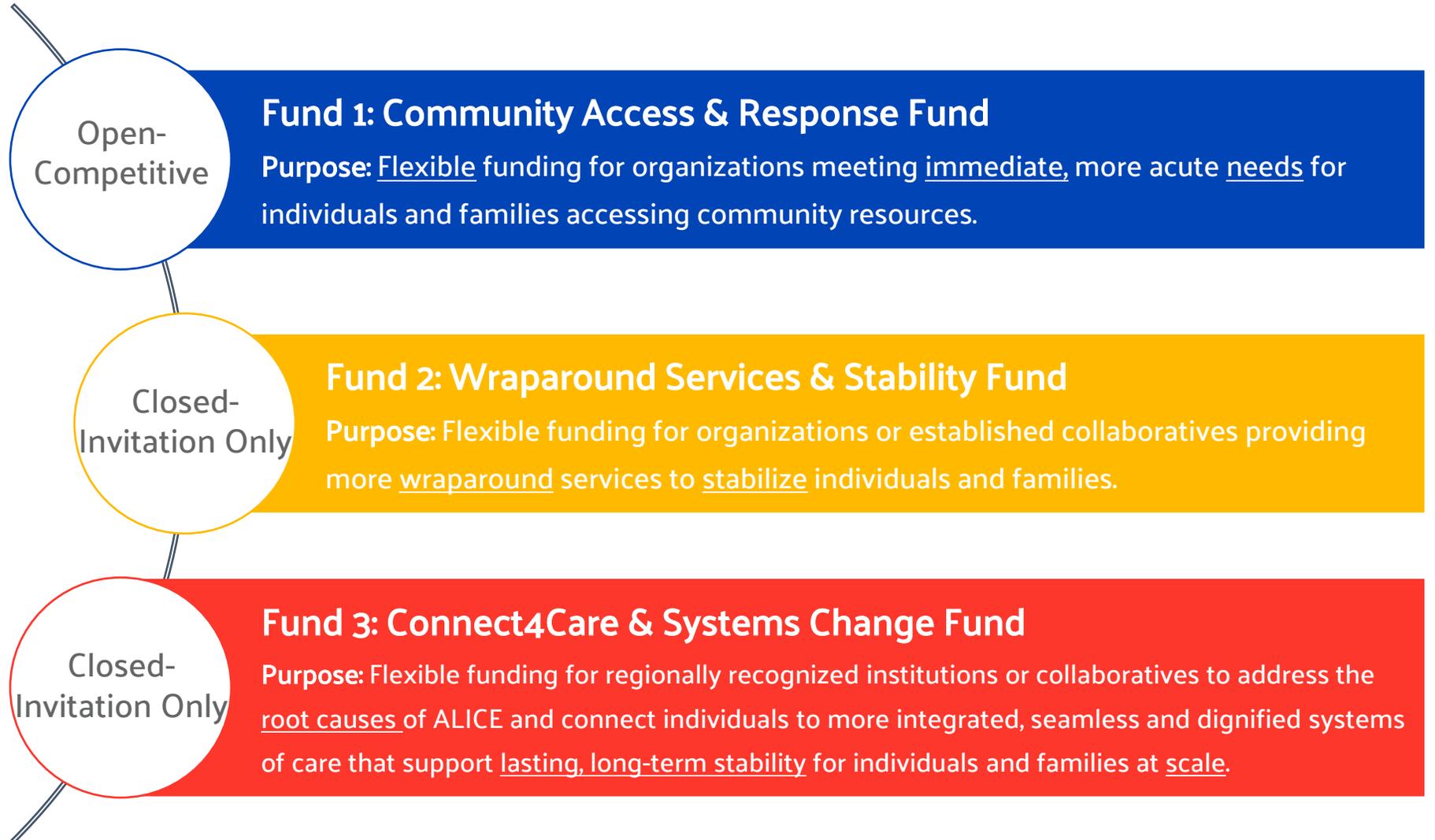


42%
of SE Michigan households struggle to afford basic needs like housing, food and child care.



Funding Framework: Overview

All grant programs are designed to resource and engage a coordinated network of partners providing a continuum of services under a shared vision of helping ALICE individuals and families move from crisis to stability and from stability to prosperity in Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, and Washtenaw County.



FY26 Strategic Focus

- **Focused, Responsive Grantmaking on Life-Sustaining Efforts:** An open, competitive process that shores up the most profound deficit(s) in the safety net.
- **Right-sizing the Prioritization of Youth Opportunity in Spring Investments:** Given the robust Summer Discovery resources flowing to organizations in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb Counties.
- **Stewardship through Stability:** Grant renewals for core partners delivering wraparound support & stability to ALICE families.
- **Achieving Maximum Impact with Constrained Resources:** Use a blended funding model to maximize the total resources available and the entirety of the organization's grantmaking to balance investments across our footprint.

Overview: Community Access & Response Fund

Open-Competitive

Purpose: Flexible funding for organizations meeting immediate, more acute needs for individuals and families accessing community resources.

Award Range: \$15k to \$50k

1. Priority areas and eligible services are identified upfront based on 2-1-1, community-level data and feedback from partners.
2. For the 2026-2027 Funding Cycle, the priorities are:

Emergency Food Assistance



Eligible Services: Pantries, Community/Soup Kitchens, Food Vouchers or Gift Cards

OR

Out-of-School Time STEAM Initiatives for Washtenaw Serving Organizations



Eligible Services: Educational and youth-focused organizations with OST programs that incorporate any or all aspects of STEAM learning are eligible to apply

Why are we prioritizing Emergency Food Assistance?

- **Emergency food supports** are a top need in each county, accounting for about **1 in every 10 requests** 2-1-1 receives.
- Nearly **123,000 Michiganders** are at risk of losing some of their federal food assistance under new SNAP requirements. That's about **8% of individuals currently enrolled**.
- In 2025 USDA Emergency Food Delivery cancelations resulted in the **loss of 94 million pounds of food nationally** and over **1 million meals for area food banks**.
- Across Macomb, Oakland, Washtenaw, Out-Wayne and Detroit **\$1,573,072 is stalled in EFSP funding**. The **majority** of which was slated **to support pantries and community kitchens**.



Sources: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, "Harmful Republican Megabill Fails Families, Children, and Communities."; Gleaners, "Michigan food banks face \$4.3M cut: How will they replace 2 million meals?"; ProPublica, "Trump Canceled 94 Million Pounds of Food Aid. Here's What Never Arrived."

2026-27 COMMUNITY ACCESS AND RESPONSE FUND

Application and Evaluation Process

Emergency Food Assistance



Emergency Food Assistance Eligibility Criteria and Funding Priorities

- Competitive RFP open to new and currently funded partners
- Must be a 501(c)3 and in stable financial position
- Serve residents in Macomb, Oakland, Washtenaw and/or Wayne Counties
- Services/programming must align with the priority area and focus on the delivery of emergency food supports that meet an individual or families' immediate or acute needs
- Demonstrate service experience, use of best practices, and track-record of success
- Promotes access, dignity, and barrier busting
- Partners with other organizations to strengthen hunger response efforts
- Focus on ALICE communities and populations that disproportionately fall below the ALICE Threshold

Responsibilities & Expectations

- Bi-annual grant reporting
- If not funded in 2025-26, attendance at a virtual grantee kick-off
- Register as a member of United Way's Partner Network and attend at least half of the quarterly meetings
- List and update comprehensive program information in the 2-1-1 Resource Directory
- 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

Structure of Grant Application

There are seven sections/tasks in this RFP:

- Organizational Information
- Grant Contact Information
- Partner Responsibilities & Expectations
- Program Narrative
- Target Population(s)
- Service Area and Individuals Impacted
- Budget

Scoring Rubric

Investment decisions will be made based on a variety of criteria, including but not limited to the scoring rubric, geographic scope, past performance & partnership with United Way, gaps in services, and client population. All of which are designed to identify organizations that have the capability to create the most impact both individually and collectively for our region.

- Applications scored across ten categories. 75 total points possible
- Program Narrative
 - Alignment between community need, proposed services, and organization's experience and track-record of success
 - Evidence that services are accessible and organization works to reduce/eliminate barriers
 - Organization collaborates with other providers to address food insecurity
- ALICE
 - Services target priority populations
 - Services target communities with [high concentrations of ALICE](#)
 - Significant number of individuals impacted, aligned to organization's application and responsive to community need
- Budget
 - Consistent with scope of work & transparent

Financial and Compliance Review

Occurs prior to an application being advanced to program review and scoring.

Category	Revenue Threshold	Required Documentation
Category A	Less than or equal to \$250,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compilation prepared by a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) • Form 990
Category B	Greater than \$250,000 but less than \$500,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewed or audited by a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) • Form 990
Category C	Greater than or equal to \$500,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certified Public Accountant (CPA) • Independent Audit • Management Letter • Form 990
For organizations expending Federal funding greater than or equal to \$1,000,000		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single or program-specific audit documentation

Other Required Documents

- IRS Designation Letter
- W-9

Important Notes

- One application per organization. Must choose between priority areas.
- Organizations renewed through the Wraparound Services & Stability Grant are not eligible to apply for the Community Access & Response Fund.
- For the Budget
 - The amount requested should not exceed 15% of your operating budget.
 - The Indirect/Admin rate should not be greater than 15%, unless organization has an approved higher rate.
 - Fringe benefits to be no more than 30% of your salary line item.

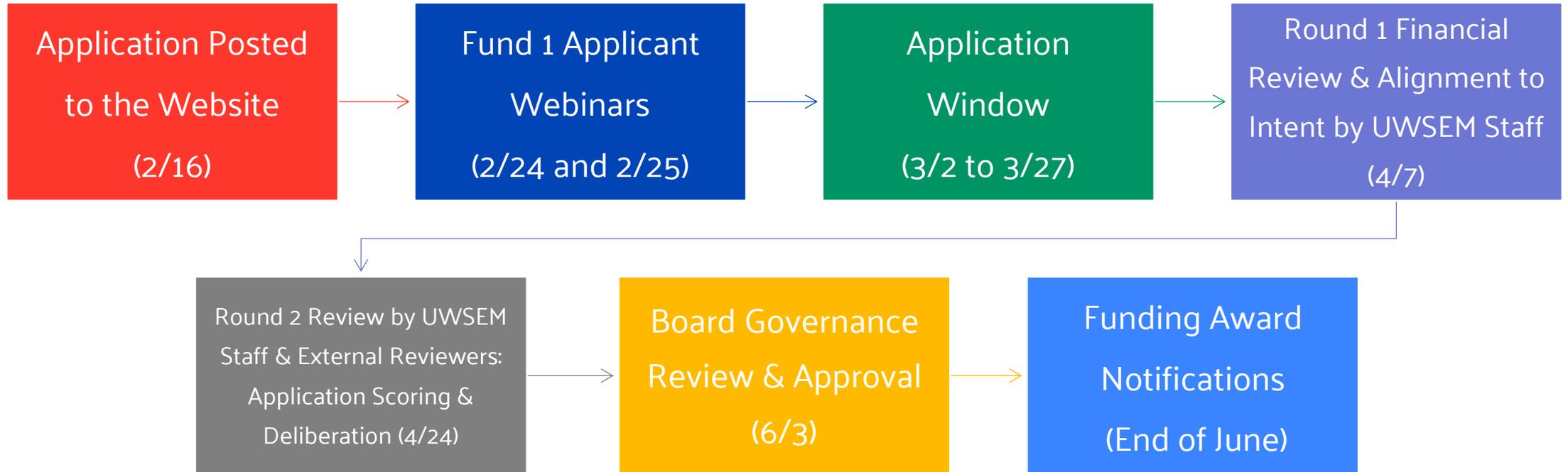
2026-27 COMMUNITY ACCESS AND RESPONSE FUND

Grant Timeline

Emergency Food Assistance



Process Overview



Grant Timeline

- Grant Webinars – February 24th and February 25th
- **Application Opens – March 2, 2026**
- Application Office Hours – March 10th and March 19th
- **Application Closes – March 27, 2026 at 5:00 PM**
- Funding Determination Notifications – Anticipated week of June 22, 2026
- Grant Spending Period – July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027
- Grant Reports – January 15, 2027 and July 16, 2027

Questions

Please drop any questions into the chat box.



SurveyMonkey Apply Overview

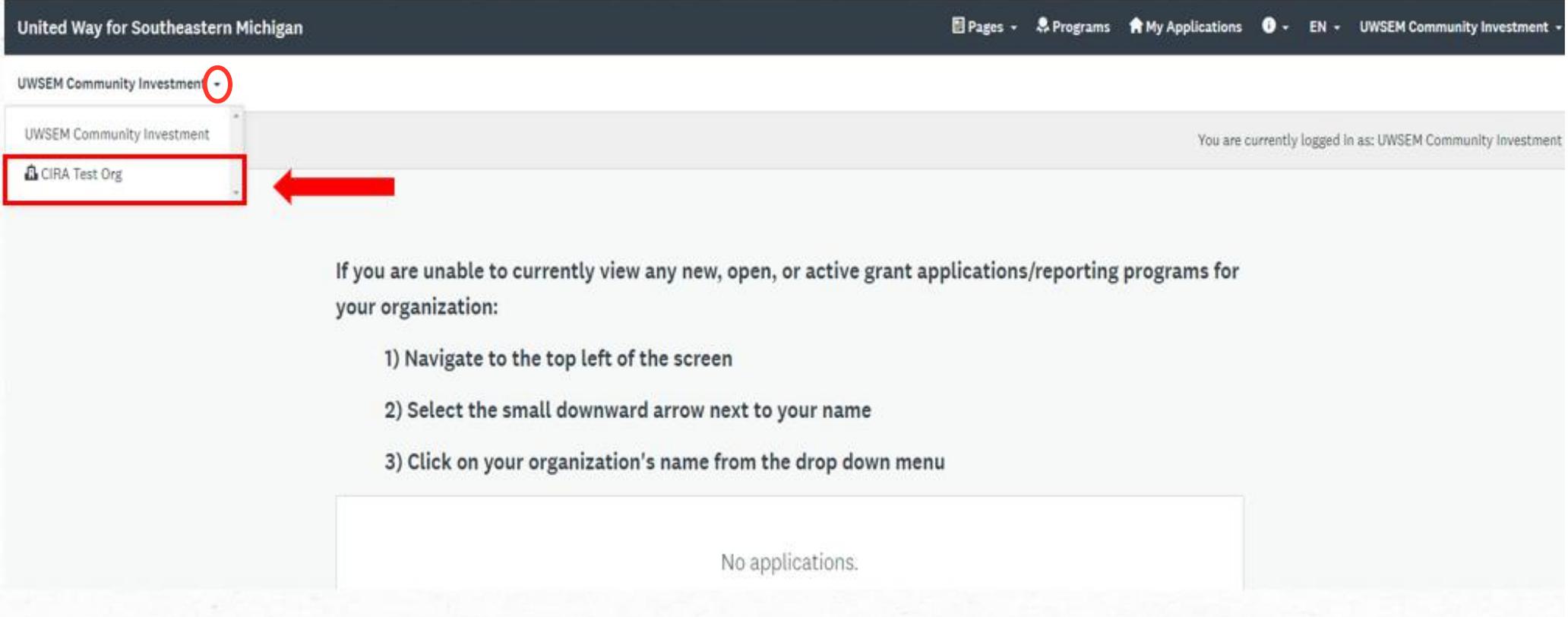
Daisha Allen
Specialist, Grants Management



Fiduciary Details

- If your organization is utilizing a fiduciary to receive funds, the application must be submitted under the fiduciary organization's SurveyMonkey Apply account.
- The fiduciary organization must provide up to date financial information in the Organization + Financial Information application.
- United Way suggests that the fiduciary invite a member of the implementing organization to be a collaborator on the application.

Accessing Application: Switch to Organizational View



The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the United Way for Southeastern Michigan application portal. The header includes the organization's name and navigation links for Pages, Programs, My Applications, and a user profile icon. The user is logged in as 'UWSEM Community Investment'. A dropdown menu is open, showing the current user name and a selected organization, 'CIRA Test Org', which is highlighted with a red box and a red arrow. Below the menu, a message states: 'If you are unable to currently view any new, open, or active grant applications/reporting programs for your organization:' followed by three numbered steps: 1) Navigate to the top left of the screen, 2) Select the small downward arrow next to your name, and 3) Click on your organization's name from the drop down menu. A box at the bottom of the page displays 'No applications.'

Accessing the Application

Daisha's NP

Manage organization

Programs

Search programs..



Organization + Financial Information

Accepting applications on Sep 1 2021 08:00 AM (EDT)
COMPLETE THIS ITEM FIRST - The first step to applying to a United Way grant opportunity: organizational overview and audited financial statements

Organizations can apply.

[See my application](#)

[MORE >](#)

FY 2026-27 Community Access and Resp...

Accepting applications from Dec 4 2025 08:00 AM (EST) to Mar 27 2026 05:00 PM (EDT)
FY 2026-27 Community Access and Response Fund- Emergency Food Assistance

Organizations can apply.

[MORE >](#)

Completing Application: Review Organizational Information

The screenshot shows a web application interface. On the left is a sidebar with a list of application sections. The top section is highlighted with a red box and contains a document icon, the text 'Review Organizational Information', and a green arrow pointing right. Below it are other sections: 'CA26: Contact Information', 'CA26: Partner Responsibilities and Expectations', 'CA26: Program Narrative', and 'CA26: Target Population(s)'. The main content area on the right has a title 'Review Organizational Information' and a progress bar at 0%. Below the title is an 'Instructions' section. The instructions text is: 'United Way for Southeastern Michigan requests that organizations review and, if necessary, update their Organizational & Financial Information Program.' This text is followed by a paragraph: 'Organizations must complete the Organizational & Financial Information application before applying for any United Way grant opportunities. This general application gathers key details about the organization and its financials to support eligibility and funding decisions.' A red box highlights a specific instruction: 'If you need to make any updates, you must make those updates in the [Organizational & Financial Information Program](#) and mark that task as complete. Then return to this program to review your information.' Below this, the text 'Once you have reviewed your information and verified its accuracy, check off on the' is partially visible.

Submitting your Application

[FY 2026-27 Community Access and R...](#)
5674943101
ID: 5674943101 | Status: Application Open- due 3/27

- Review Organizational Information
- CA26: Contact Information
- CA26: Partner Responsibilities and Expectations
- CA26: Program Narrative
- CA26: Target Population(s)
- CA26: Service Area and Individuals Impacted

7 of 7 tasks complete

Last edited: Feb 18 2026 10:38 AM (EST)

REVIEW **SUBMIT**

Submit application

Please confirm submission of your application.

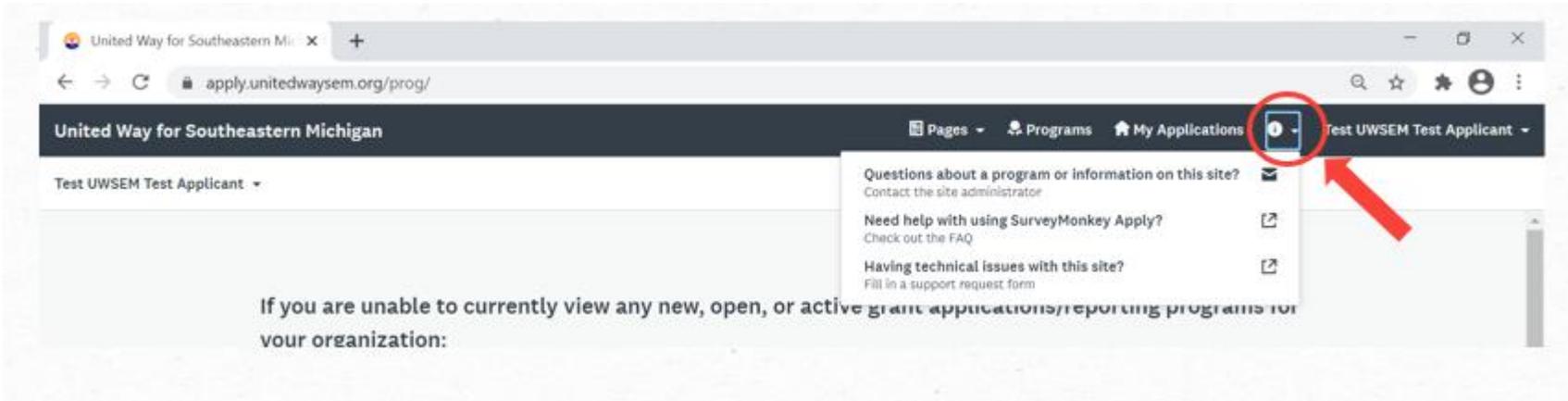
If you wish to take a look at the application before submitting, please Review it.

CANCEL

REVIEW

SUBMIT

UWSEM Technical Assistance



UWSEM Community Investment Inbox:
SMA@unitedwaysem.org

Questions

Please drop any questions into the chat box.



UNITED WAY
Southeastern
Michigan

