



2026-27 Community Access & Response Fund

Washtenaw STEAM Initiatives

Applicant Webinar

February 24, 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



Meaghan Gorski

Director, Grants Management



Kellie Etzel

Associate Director, Out-of-School
Time Education



Overview: Community Access and Response Fund

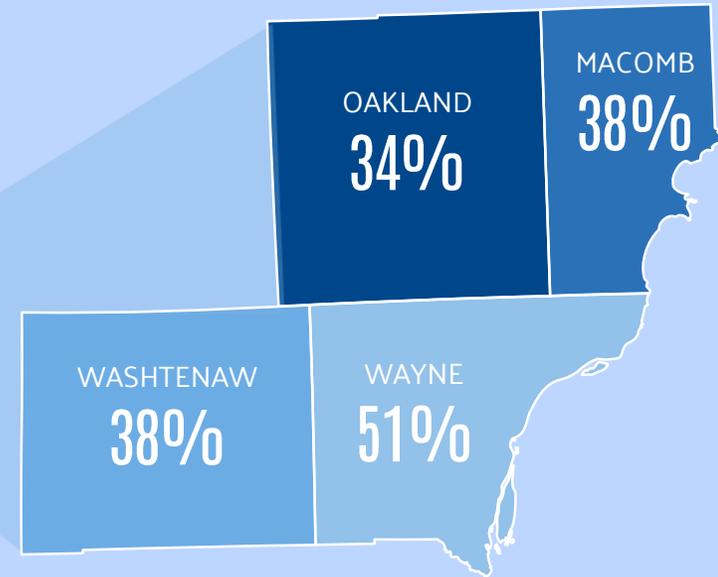
Washtenaw STEAM Initiatives

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

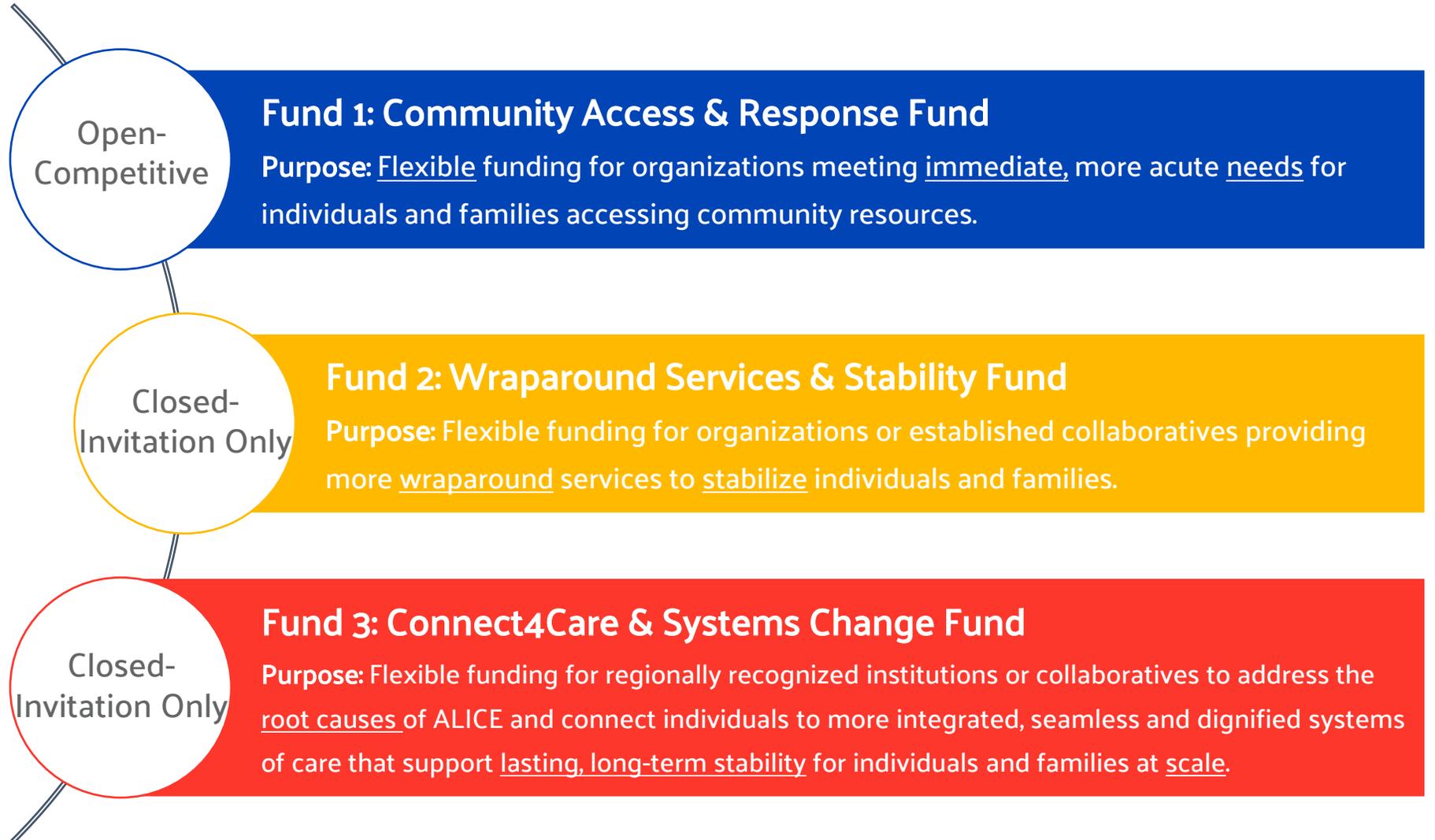


42%
of SE Michigan households struggle to afford basic needs like housing, food and child care.



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

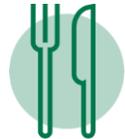
Open-Competitive

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 Out-of-School Time STEAM Initiatives in Washtenaw County?



Heavy current emphasis on WOM in the YO investment portfolio (Summer Discovery, Ballmer OST)



Leverages ongoing work with WISD (Deloitte) and Washtenaw CTE Advisory Committee



Opportunity to create a cohort that can evolve over time and foster collaboration that strengthens our presence/support in Washtenaw

- **STEAM** education has never been more important, with STEAM **occupations growing 3.5 times faster** than other fields. There will be an estimated **shortfall of 1.4 million workers** in these occupations across the country by 2030.
- While STEAM occupations are growing, **only 16% of high schoolers express interest in a STEAM career** and only 6.4% have taken a foundational computer science course.
- STEAM programming helps **build foundational skills** like problem-solving, communication, and collaboration, which **support academic achievement across all subjects**.
- Recent **state budget cuts eliminated multiple major sources of funding** supporting STEAM teaching and learning throughout the state.

Application and Evaluation Process

Washtenaw STEAM Initiatives

Washtenaw STEAM Initiatives 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 students in Washtenaw County
- Services/programming must align with the priority area and focus on out-of-school time STEAM initiatives to help students develop critical thinking skills and approach problems with logic, creativity, and flexibility
- Demonstrate service experience, use of best practices, and track-record of success
- Promotes access and reduce/remove barriers to access
- Programs align with students' curricular learning
- Focus on ALICE communities

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 six sections/tasks in this RFP:

- Organizational Information
- Eligibility Criteria and Partner Responsibilities & Expectations
- Grant Contact Information
- Program Narrative
- 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 nine categories 75 total points possible
- Program Narrative
 - Alignment to fund goals, including connection to foundational literacy &/or the arts and out-of-school time commitment
 - Addresses community need with the proposed programming
 - Program design is intentional and directly connected to both community needs and students' curricular learning
 - Service history/experience demonstrate success in meeting community's STEAM needs
 - Organization promotes access and identifies/reduces barriers to service delivery
- ALICE
 - Programming is tied to meeting community need and number of participants served
 - Serving communities in [high ALICE zip codes](#)
- Budget
 - Aligned with proposed scope of work

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

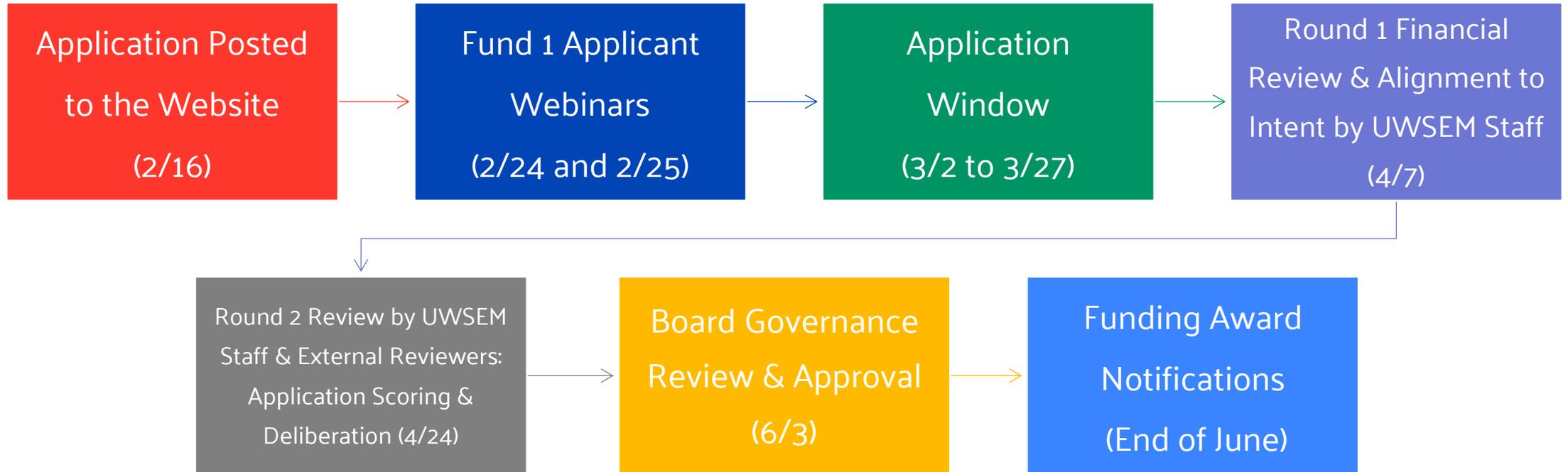
- One application per organization. Must choose between the priority areas.
- Organizations renewed through the Wraparound Services & Stability Grant are not eligible to apply for the Community Access & Response Fund.
- Schools are also not eligible to apply – only Washtenaw-serving community-based organizations (CBOs) will be considered.
- 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

Washtenaw STEAM Initiatives

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

Meaghan Gorski
Director, 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

United Way for Southeastern Michigan

Pages Programs My Applications EN UWSEM Community Investment

UWSEM Community Investment

UWSEM Community Investment

CIRA Test Org

You are currently logged in as: UWSEM Community Investment

If you are unable to currently view any new, open, or active grant applications/reporting programs for your organization:

- 1) Navigate to the top left of the screen
- 2) Select the small downward arrow next to your name
- 3) Click on your organization's name from the drop down menu

No applications.

Accessing Application: Switch to Organizational View

United Way for Southeastern Michigan

EN Pages Programs My Applications UWSEM Community Investment

CIRA Test Org Manage organization

You are currently logged in as: UWSEM Community Investment

If you are unable to currently view any new, open, or active grant applications/reporting programs for your organization:

- 1) Navigate to the top left of the screen
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Accessing Application

You are currently l

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.

[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)

United Way for Southeastern Michigan will prioritize funding for out-of-school time (OST) STEAM initiatives serving students in Washtenaw County. United Way will prioritize funding for programs that align with students' curricular STEAM learning, including through literacy supports and artistic activities. Educational and youth-focused organizations with OST programs that incorporate any or all aspects of STEAM learning are eligible to apply for this unique funding opportunity.

Organizations can apply.

[MORE >](#)



Accessing Application

0 of 1 tasks complete

Last edited: Feb 16 2026 01:59 PM (EST)

REVIEW **SUBMIT**

Deadline: Mar 27 2026 05:00 PM (EDT)

CIRA Test Org

UWSEM Community Inve...
ciratestuwsem@gmail.co...
View & edit

Add Member or Team

[FY 2026-27 Community Access a...](#)

1080177221

CIRA Test Org Status: Application Open- due 3/27

APPLICATION ACTIVITY

Your tasks

ST26: Eligibility Criteria

Accessing Application

ST26: Eligibility Criteria

Instructions

Before proceeding with your application, please review the following questions to ensure that the Community Access and Response Fund: Washtenaw Out-of-School Time STEAM Initiative is the best fit for your organization and the services/programming for which you are seeking funding.

For the 2026–27 grant year, this opportunity prioritizes out-of-school-time STEAM initiatives in Washtenaw County. Do your proposed services or programming align with this priority area?

- Yes
- No

Is your organization based in Washtenaw County?

- Yes
- No



I have reviewed the partner responsibilities and attest if awarded my organization will be able to meet the engagement expectations of this grant program.

Name

Date

SAVE & CONTINUE EDITING

MARK AS COMPLETE

Accessing Application

The screenshot shows a web application interface for reviewing organizational information. On the left is a navigation sidebar with a list of tasks. The task 'Review Organizational Information' is highlighted with a red box and a right-pointing arrow. Below it are 'ST26: Eligibility Criteria' (marked complete with a green check), 'ST26: Contact Information', 'ST26: Program Narrative', 'ST26: Service Area and Individuals Impacted', and 'ST26: Budget'. At the bottom of the sidebar, a progress bar shows '1 of 6 tasks complete' and the text 'Last edited: Feb 16 2026 02:21 PM (EST)'. The main content area has a header 'Review Organizational Information' with a progress indicator at '0%'. Below the header is the title 'Review your organizational information' and a section titled 'Instructions'. The instructions state: 'United Way for Southeastern Michigan requests that organizations review and, if necessary, update their Organizational & Financial Information Program. 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. 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. Once you have reviewed your information and verified its accuracy, check off on the acknowledgement and click "Mark as Complete" at the end. Then use the left-hand navigation bar to move on to the next task. For additional information on updating your Organization + Financial Information Program, [click here](#).'

Accessing Application

Instructions

United Way for Southeastern Michigan requests that organizations review and, if necessary, update their Organizational & Financial Information Program.

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.

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.

Once you have reviewed your information and verified its accuracy, check off on the acknowledgement and click "Mark as Complete" at the end. Then use the left-hand navigation bar to move on to the next task.

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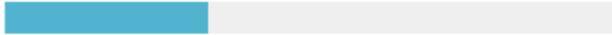
Accessing Application

[FY 2026-27 Community Access and R...](#)
4340412359
ID: 4340412359 | Status: Application Open- due 3/27

1	  Review Organizational Information
	  ST26: Eligibility Criteria
2	  ST26: Contact Information >
	  ST26: Program Narrative
	  ST26: Service Area and Individuals Impacted
	  ST26: Budget

3

2 of 6 tasks complete



Last edited: Feb 16 2026 02:48 PM (EST)

REVIEW **SUBMIT**

Deadline: Mar 27 2026 05:00 PM (EDT)

Accessing Application

[FY 2026-27 Community Access and R...](#)
4340412359
ID: 4340412359 | Status: Application Open- due 3/27

- ✓ Review Organizational Information
- ✓ ST26: Eligibility Criteria
- ✓ ST26: Contact Information
- ✓ ST26: Program Narrative
- ✓ ST26: Service Area and Individuals Impacted
- ✓ ST26: Budget >

6 of 6 tasks complete

Last edited: Feb 16 2026 02:56 PM (EST)

REVIEW SUBMIT

Deadline: Mar 27 2026 05:00 PM (EDT)



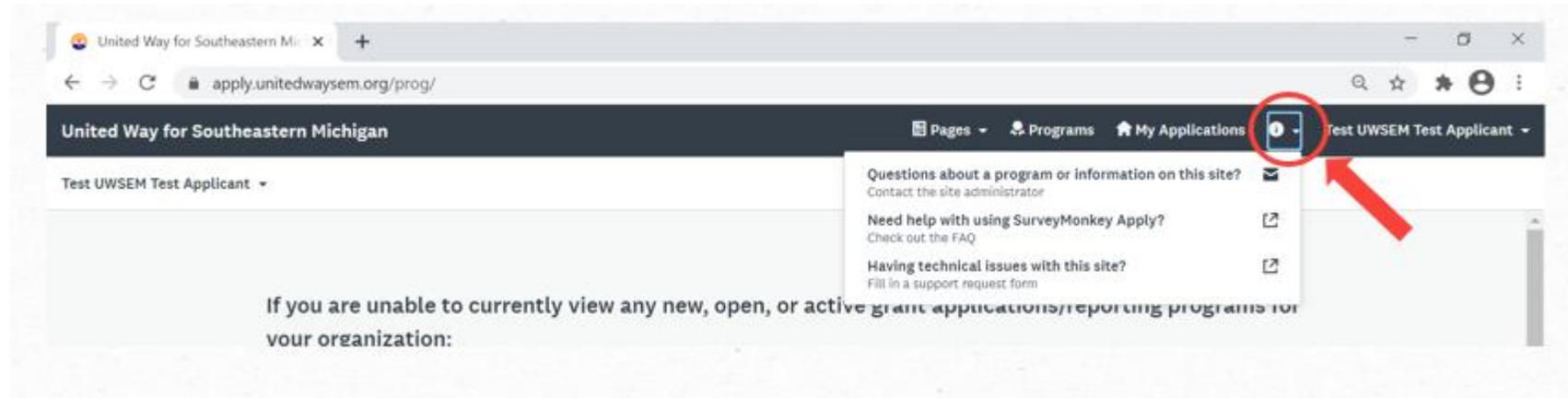
Submit application

Please confirm submission of your application.

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

CANCEL REVIEW SUBMIT

Technical Assistance



UWSEM Community Investment Inbox:
SMA@unitedwaysem.org

Questions

Please drop any questions into the chat box.



UNITED WAY
Southeastern
Michigan

