

## **United Way for Southeastern Michigan Request for Proposals**

### **FY 2024 Washtenaw Racial Equity Fund**

The Racial Equity Fund will provide financial support and technical assistance to BIPOC-led organizations through operational unrestricted grants. The fund is designed to empower BIPOC-led organizations to provide programs and projects that work toward eliminating racial disparities in pursuit of more equitable and just communities across Southeastern Michigan.

Created by a diverse and inclusive workgroup of community members over the course of two months in the Summer of 2021, this fund seeks to prioritize the lived experience of our communities. The workgroup's scope was informed by the [Centering Community Voice Blueprint](#).

The fund's objective is to empower Black, Indigenous and people of color (BIPOC) and people most harmed by systemic oppression. Our efforts seek to ensure all people experience authentic inclusion and have equitable access to resources and opportunities to thrive and reach their full potential.

This year, \$200,000 is available in grants ranging from \$10,000 to \$50,000 directly for organizations serving and located within Washtenaw County with BIPOC executive leadership.

#### **ELIGIBILITY AND FUND DETAILS**

- Organizations that are 501(c)3 nonprofits. 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, and financial statements. Organizations may apply via a fiduciary if applicable.
- Flexible and operational unrestricted grant amounts range between \$10,000 and \$50,000.
- Organizations must have BIPOC executive leadership.
  - UWSEM takes a comprehensive approach to assess the identities of who holds decision-making power when determining whether an organization or group is BIPOC-led. This means that we not only collect information on the identities of the organization leader, but also assess the extent to which key staff, who hold decision-making power, identify as BIPOC, and the extent to which the board of directors/advisory council, who also hold decision-making power, identify as BIPOC.
  - If you have questions as to how this definition might apply to your organization, please reach out to Ray Stoesser at [RacialEquityFund@unitedwaysem.org](mailto:RacialEquityFund@unitedwaysem.org).
- Organizations should propose programming for funding that responds to and mitigates the effects of racial inequities and/or builds power and infrastructure in communities of color in Washtenaw County.
- The fund seeks to support organizations often excluded from the traditional funding ecosystem. To increase the diversity of organizations and programs supported, organizations that are currently funded by United Way for Southeastern Michigan, United Way of Washtenaw County, and/or a previous Racial Equity Fund recipient are **not eligible to apply**.

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- Investment decisions will be made based on a variety of criteria, including but not limited to the scoring rubric, geographic scope, gaps in services and client population, organizational budget, all of which are used to identify organizations that have the capability to create the most impact both individually and collectively for Washtenaw County.

**Basic Needs, Health, and/or Crisis**

*Examples*

- *Living Wage*
- *Food Security*
- *Housing*
- *Racial Health Disparities*
- *Mass Incarceration*

**Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion**

*Examples:*

- *Rest, rejuvenation, & healing for nonprofit leaders & staff*
- *DEI Skill-Building*

**Economic Mobility**

*Examples:*

- *Programing to support BIPOC-owned businesses*
- *Employment / skilled trade*

**Environmental Justice**

*Examples:*

- *Climate Change*
- *Pollution*
- *Clean Water, Food, & Air*

**Open Category**

- The Racial Equity Fund is open to funding organizations or programs working in pursuit of racial equity in emerging or undefined spaces. If your program does not fall neatly into the above priority areas, that doesn't mean it isn't meeting a critical need. Please elaborate when prompted in the application.

**GRANT TIMELINE**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Date</b>
Application Opens	January 3, 2024
Applicant Webinar 1, To Join Click <a href="#">Here</a>	January 9, 2024; 1PM – 2PM
Application Closes	January 18, 2024
Award Announcements	February 9, 2024
Effective Grant Dates	January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024
First Report	July 19, 2024
Second Report	January 10, 2025

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If you have any questions please reach out to Ray Stoesser, Social Innovation & Equity Partnerships Director at [RacialEquityFund@unitedwaysem.org](mailto:RacialEquityFund@unitedwaysem.org)

If you have questions regarding, [Survey Monkey Apply](#), please email [SMA@unitedwaysem.org](mailto:SMA@unitedwaysem.org)

**Applications are due no later than Thursday, January 18, 2024, at 5:00 PM**