

Statement of Purpose

The United Way of Siouland (UWS) mobilizes people and resources to strengthen our community. As part of its grant funding portfolio, UWS has set aside \$50,000 for use during each fiscal year (July 1-June 30) to provide one-time grants to eligible nonprofit organizations in Siouland addressing an identified community issue. Funding may vary based on various factors.

This grant program offers a Funding Opportunity to Connect and Uplift Siouland (FOCUS). The intent of this one-time grant is to provide support for community programs and initiatives that are able to identify a strategy that will correct the issues most negatively impacting our community and create long-term solutions.

About FOCUS Grant Funds

The FOCUS Grants Program is an outreach of the UWS Community Impact (CI) funding process.

One-time grants, covering a 2-year funding cycle, will be awarded to programs or initiatives working to address a United Way of Siouland targeted issue.

Funding Guidelines and Eligibility

The intent of the FOCUS Grants fund is to award one-time grants, with a commitment of 2 years of funding, to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (or corresponding section of any future federal tax code), or to organizations defined as charitable under Section 170(b)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and its Regulations as presently existing or as hereafter amended that identify a strategy for impacting a specific issue related to the UWS Agenda for Change.

- Organizations must be a 501(c)(3) organization in good standing or a 170(b)(1) in good standing
- Organizations must have a volunteer board of directors composed of at least five people, must have established bylaws, meet at least quarterly, and maintain minutes of all board meetings
- Organizations must be located in the UWS service area and serve the residents of this community
- Organizations must have an annual operating budget; demonstrate financial controls, including a financial control policy, and should be current on all IRS filings and payment of payroll taxes
- This funding pool is meant to respond to an identified targeted community issue through the support of significant planning; intervention or other problem solving efforts; this could include funding capital assets necessary for the success of a program/project that will positively impact the community
- Priority will be given to applications that are innovative and collaborative in addressing targeted issues and should include a sustainable solution to ensure long term success
- Start-up money for pilot projects (service delivery in a new, improved or creative way) which focus on collaboration and are evidence based. Programs may include community partnerships or UWS initiatives which, if successful, may serve as a model for others
- All FOCUS Grants will be limited to a one-time award with a commitment of 2 years of funding. Grant recipients will be required to report results bi-annually for two years

FOCUS Grant Application & Review Process

A committee comprised of key volunteers and UWS staff will review and evaluate the grant requests. Fund distribution will be at the discretion of this committee with final approval from the UWS board of directors.

Priority will be given to:

- Solutions to the targeted issue that are innovative, collaborative, and sustainable
- Programs that are focused and leveraging resources to respond to an identified community wide issue
- Organizations with strong leadership, staff, evaluation, and financial capacity with a budget that is appropriate for the program

- Organizations that are utilizing collaboration to more effectively reach targeted goals
- Programs using a model and/or curricula that is well-designed to effectively meet the needs of the target demographic and achieve intended results; that use meaningful and quality measures to continuously improve services and reach goals

Timeline

- Organizations wishing to fill out FOCUS Grant application should contact Blake Branch at bbranch@unitedwaysiouxland.com by **March 25** with the following information: agency name, program/project name, tax EIN of agency to verify nonprofit status
- FOCUS Grant RFP to open **April 1**
- Full FOCUS Grant applications must be submitted no later than **April 22 by 4:00 pm**
- It is anticipated that final funding decisions will be made by **June 30**

For more information contact:

Blake Branch, Community Impact and Communications Associate at bbranch@unitedwaysiouxland.com or call 712.255.3551.