

# United Way of Siouxland

## FOCUS Grants

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### Statement of Purpose

*The United Way of Siouxland (UWS) mobilizes people and resources to strengthen our community. As part of its grant funding portfolio, UWS has set aside funding for use during each fiscal year (July 1-June 30) to provide one-time grants to eligible nonprofit organizations in Siouxland.*

*This grant program offers a Funding Opportunity to Connect and Uplift Siouxland (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

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

One-time grants, between \$20,000 and \$50,000, will be awarded to programs or initiatives aligned with community outcomes outlined in the UWS Agenda for Change.

Every few years UWS will evaluate the capacity to take on a new annually funded community impact program. UWS will approach the grant recipient who they feel shows positive results and meets required criteria. There is no guarantee of becoming a partner program.

### Funding Guidelines and Eligibility

The intent of the FOCUS Grants fund is to award one-time grants 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 a major community-wide 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 include leveraging opportunities such as matching funds needed to participate in local community partnerships or collaborations
- 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. Grant recipients will have a maximum of 24-months to utilize the funds and be required to report results bi-annually for two years
- Programs that are receiving multi-year community impact funding awards from UWS are ineligible; however, agencies administering annually funded community impact programs may submit an application for a separate program that meets the funding guidelines and eligibility

## FOCUS Grant Application & Review Process

The FOCUS Grant application is a two-step process. Step one is submission of a Letter of Intent (LOI). Once LOI's are received, they will be reviewed by United Way staff, the Community Impact Chair, the Board of Directors Chair, and one of the Campaign Chairs. The most promising proposals will be selected to proceed to step two in the process, which is to submit a full FOCUS grant application and required documentation. **Please note that an invitation to submit a full application does not guarantee funding.**

A committee comprised of key volunteers and UWS staff will review and evaluate the final 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:

- Programs that are focused and leveraging resources to respond to a community wide issue and aligns with one of the community outcomes outlined in the UWS Agenda for Change (See pg. 3)
- 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 community 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

- FOCUS Grant Letters of Intent will be accepted April 1 – April 15. **Letters submitted after April 15 will not be accepted**
- Organizations chosen to proceed with the application process will be notified via email by April 27
- Full FOCUS Grant applications must be submitted no later than **May 18**
- It is anticipated that final funding decisions will be made by **June 30**

## Letter of Intent Submission

- All completed Letters of Intent must be submitted by email with the subject line “**FOCUS Grant Letter of Intent**” to Morgan Harpenau at [mharpenau@unitedwaysiouxland.com](mailto:mharpenau@unitedwaysiouxland.com)
- All submissions must be in PDF format and saved as, “**Name of Organization – LOI**”
- **Please do not submit materials in addition to the LOI form**

For more information contact:

Morgan Harpenau, Community Impact and Communications Associate at [mharpenau@unitedwaysiouxland.com](mailto:mharpenau@unitedwaysiouxland.com) or call 712.277.0519.

# Agenda for Change

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## Purpose

*The agenda for change outlines specific outcomes associated with each of the three focus areas. All UWS funded programs are working to impact each of the issues identified. The agenda can be found on our website with the programs that are aligned with each community outcome.*

## Health

- Children are born healthy and develop on track
- Individuals of all ages will increase coping and life skills to achieve mental wellness
- Youth and adults live a healthy lifestyle
- Youth and adults live in and maintain a safe/healthy environment

### Special focus

- Healthy lifestyles
- Reduce bullying and violence
- Healthy developmental growth of children through parenting

## Education

- Children enter Kindergarten ready to succeed
- Children are socially and emotionally prepared to succeed in school
- Children are on track academically and prepared to succeed in school

### Special focus

- Kindergarten readiness
- Grade appropriate reading levels
- Graduation rates

## Financial Stability

- People have access to resources in crisis to stabilize their situation
- People have resources and skills to build financial stability

### Special focus

- Emergency Services
- Basic Human Needs
- Access to resources that build financial stability
- Increase income potential