

United Way of Siouxland Small Grants



Statement of Purpose

United Way of Siouxland (UWS) fights for the Health, Education, and Financial Stability of every person in every community. As part of its grant funding portfolio, UWS has set aside funding for use during each fiscal year (July 1 through June 30) to provide small grants to eligible nonprofit organizations in Siouxland.

The intent of the Small Grants Program is to provide support for community projects, programs, or initiatives in need of a small, one-time grant, but may not be eligible for funding through other grant opportunities. Le Mars based non-profits are not eligible for small grants due to an open funding process available to agencies serving Plymouth county residents. The Le Mars United Way open funding process begins in March.

About Small Grants

The Small Grants Program is an outreach of the Community Impact (CI) funding process. The maximum amount of available grant dollars each year will be \$15,000.

One-time grants, between \$1,000 and \$5,000 will be awarded to organizations aligned with United Way's priority areas.

Allowable Uses of Funding

UWS Small Grants Program can be used for projects such as:

- Organizational capacity building including strategic planning, governance, and other types of organizational planning and/or development activities
- Program planning and/or development
- Emergency expenses associated with capital expenditures
- Unforeseen capital expenditures necessary to provide services to clients
- Public education and advocacy in alignment with UWS community impact outcomes

Funding Guidelines

- Small Grants of up to \$5,000 are available for qualified projects
- One grant per organization, per fiscal year (July 1 – June 30)
- Organizations cannot renew project funding on an annual basis – each proposal/project will be assessed on its individual merit on an annual basis
- Primary target – organizations with an annual budget size of up to \$2 million per year; if a larger organization has a project or need that meets the goals of the Small Grants Program an application may be submitted and considered on a case by case basis
- Funding will support programs, projects, initiatives or expenses outlined in the Allowable Uses of Funding
- Funding will not cover ongoing operating costs, loss of grant dollars, or debt

Eligibility

Proposals will be accepted based on the following criteria:

- Organization mission must be in alignment with UWS goals outlined in the Agenda for Change
- Organizations must 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; for projects with a fiscal sponsor, the fiscal sponsor must meet the above criteria

- 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 based in Le Mars are not eligible due to an open funding process available for non-profit agencies serving Plymouth county residents
- Organizations should 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

Timeline

Small grants will be available throughout the year, as long as funds are available.

It is anticipated that a decision will be made within 45 days of submitting an application. If the decision is delayed UWS staff will be in contact with the applicant to let them know the timeline.

Application Process

- Grant applications should be submitted 60 days before the anticipated start of the proposed activity, if this was not possible organizations should be prepared to explain why not
- Grant recipients must meet at least one of the goals outlined in the section describing the Allowable Uses of Funding above
- Applications submitted for the Small Grants Program must include: project description, objectives of project, brief description of the organization's mission and track record, timeline of planned activities and who is responsible, benefit to the community, a project budget, a current list of the board of directors, IRS determination letter, and the 990 or audit for the last fiscal year before the applications has been submitted
- For organizations using funding to hire contractors, consultants, researchers, professional speakers, facilitators or any other out-sourced professionals, bids must have been secured, and the selection process explained
- UWS staff will review and evaluate grant requests. Fund distribution will be at the discretion of this team with final approval coming from the UWS board of directors
- If additional information is needed to make a decision, UWS will notify the organization within this 45 day time period and request the specific information needed; an estimate of the extended timeframe will also be given at this time

For more information contact:

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

Agenda for Change

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