



**UNITED WAY**  
of Yellowstone  
County

2025-28

## Community Investment Agency Grants FAQ

### What are the eligibility requirements?

Applicants must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- 501(c)3 non-profit status
- Provide services in Yellowstone County
- Fit one of the Impact Areas and strategies described below:
  - Building Futures | Literacy - School Readiness - School Success
  - Community Resiliency | Crisis Stabilization - Mental Health

### What will be funded?

**Building Futures:** Empowering youth to reach their full potential through the following:

- **Literacy** – Increasing reading proficiency  
Which includes:
  - Programs/initiatives that support increasing adult to child reading interactions
  - Increasing reading skills to Yellowstone County children ages 0-18
- **School Readiness** – Increasing school readiness outcomes  
Which includes:
  - Programs/initiatives that support parent engagement
  - Increasing school readiness skills among Yellowstone County children ages 0-5
- **School Success** – Increasing school success outcomes  
Which includes:
  - Programs/initiatives that support school attendance
  - Increasing school success skills among Yellowstone County residents ages 5-24
  - Increasing social supports to Yellowstone County transitional age youth (ages 16-24) including but not limited to those coming out of the foster care system, experiencing homelessness, etc.

**Community Resiliency:** Enhancing the wellbeing and supporting basic needs for our community through the following:

- **Crisis Stabilization** – Stabilizing vulnerable populations  
Which includes:
  - Programs/initiatives that support housing stabilization
  - Programs/initiatives that increase Yellowstone County resident self-sufficiency (education, job training, financial literacy, etc.)
  - Increasing resource awareness and/or access to services for Yellowstone County residents
- **Mental Health** – Increasing positive mental health outcomes  
Which includes:
  - Programs/initiatives that increase access to mental health supports

## What are the expectations of a UWYC Partner Agency?

When an agency partners with United Way, the agency connects their brand to the trusted United Way brand. Therefore, we strive to assure all grant awardees share core values and practices that support long-term success. Which include but are not limited to:

**Collaboration** – to ensure that scarce financial and human resources are used effectively, UWYC encourages collaboration among public and private human service providers. This includes keeping a listing on MT 211 and assigning a staff member to update it as necessary.

**Reducing duplication** - while the demand for human services in Yellowstone County is greater than the current system can meet, UWYC shares a community desire to reduce duplication of effort among service providers when possible.

**Preventing root causes of issues** - Programs that are preventive in nature will receive priority consideration, but we will continue to ensure that demands for basic needs in our community are met.

**Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Commitment** - United Way of Yellowstone County has always stood for coming together to support one another.

**Supporting United Way as a community partner** – this includes co-branding marketing materials as they relate to funding and running a United Way internal workplace giving campaign to provide employees with the opportunity to give to the causes they care about. Employee participation is always voluntary.

## How are funding decisions made?

Funding decisions are made through a Community Investment process led by volunteers. Local health and human services agencies engage in a competitive grant process and submit funding requests that fall within our key focus areas of Building Futures and Community Resiliency. After volunteer-led committees review requests and compare requests with community needs, recommendations are made to the Board of Directors. Upon approval, dollars are distributed as a three-year grant with annual renewal for specific programs within agencies that address the most pressing needs in our community.

## How much funding is available? How does that compare to last year?

Funding is based on community campaign contributions received by UWYC and is determined by the Board of Directors. Funding awarded to Partner Grants last year totaled \$300,000.

The funding range for 2025-2028 awards is \$25,000 - \$50,000 annually per year OR \$75,000 - \$150,000 over the three-year grant cycle.

In total \$900,000 will be awarded to agencies through the three-year grant cycle.

**We anticipate awarding funds to 6-12 applicants.**

## Can an organization submit multiple applications, either in the same Impact Area or for more than strategy?

**No.** Applications can only be submitted by one organization in one Impact Area for one strategy.

## What is the application timeline?

- January 20, 2025 – Applications open
- February 14, 2025 – Applications close
- March-April – Applications are reviewed
- July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025 – Award Announcements
- July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – Monthly funding installments start via ACH deposit and will continue for the duration of the grant award.

## What is the funding timeline?

Funds will be awarded for a three-year period from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2028. Contracts will be renewed on an annual basis and are subject to review and re-evaluation based on UWYC budget appropriations.

## What kind of reporting is required?

Agencies that receive grants will be required to submit annual reports. These reports are to ensure that United Way partners meet standards of accountability to provide donors updates on grant funded programs to show ROI including results, outcomes and impact.

## How do I Apply?

[Community Investment Grant Application | United Way of Yellowstone County \(unitedwayyellowstone.org\)](https://unitedwayyellowstone.org)

## Will there be other funding opportunities?

**Yes.** UWYC will be rolling out Go Grants in the fall of 2025 as an annual funding opportunity for projects/services that are “shovel ready” or just need a bit of start-up funding to get off the ground. We anticipate giving out \$30,000-\$35,000 in Go Grants annually OR \$100,000 over the three-year strategic plan period.

More information about Go Grants will be available in Summer 2025.

## What do I do if I have questions?

Visit [www.uwyellowstone.org/apply](https://www.uwyellowstone.org/apply) where you can:

- Download a paper copy of the application when it is released on Monday, January 13
- Get a link to attend the Friday, January 17 virtual information session
- Listen to a recording of the information session – available after January 17

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