

UNITED WAY OF OLMSTED COUNTY



PROJECT PLANNING AND INITIATION PERIOD NEIGHBORHOOD-BASED INITIATIVE

FEBRUARY 2018

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UNITED WAY OF OLMSTED COUNTY 2018 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

United Way of Olmsted County is a community change organization that fights for the education, health, and financial stability of every person in our community. Olmsted County is a fantastic place to live, work, play, and raise a family. A community with tremendous natural beauty, caring neighbors, a strong economy, and seemingly boundless opportunity, Olmsted County is an exceptional community.

But too often, there are people in Olmsted County who are left behind and don't share in the vitality. An unacceptable income gap. Geographic and socio-economic segregation. Personal and collective isolation. Gross inequities along racial and ethnic lines. These conditions and more cause Olmsted County to be experienced differently by people in need. United Way fights to erase divisions, bridge divides, and right inequities. We work to connect people with resources that change lives and transform our community.

We do this in a variety of ways. We operate programs and shared resources that support the community, such as our 2-1-1 information and referral service or our Get Connected volunteer matching portal. We work collaboratively with partners from many organizations and walks of life to create system change and solutions that elevate our community more than any single program or organization could. We provide financial, technical, and volunteer support for programs that make a difference.

At United Way, we LIVE UNITED with the change-makers, risk-takers, and problem-solvers as we seek, find, and create lasting solutions to the challenges that face our community.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

United Way is working to bring an end to inequity in Olmsted County and help people in need reach their potential. This requires taking a long view, working to ensure that families are stable and children grow up in healthy environments that promote success. Those families can break cycles of poverty, strengthen across generations, and make a better community for us all.

Efforts that work together with whole neighborhoods involve residents in developing solutions that work, build social capital, and fight the inequities that develop in segregated communities.

United Way has committed to developing solutions and partnering together with the residents of a neighborhood in Southeast Rochester to identify challenges, find solutions, and advocate for the overall well-being of the neighborhood.

This Request for Proposals is meant to establish a key partnership with an organization (or a collaboration of organizations) to serve as the coordinating partner. That partner will take the lead in developing program plans, leading community organizing efforts, building one-to-one relationships with residents, assessing opportunities and challenges, and managing program partnerships in the neighborhood.

Anticipated Investments:

- United Way of Olmsted County anticipates awarding only one investment through this RFP, with distributions beginning after July 1, 2018, and completing June 30, 2019
- United Way's total investment will not exceed \$150,000
- United Way's investment will not exceed 75% of the total program cost for this grant period

Key Program Requirements:

- Build relationships with residents
- Complete a neighborhood assessment
- Engage residents in developing priorities for action
- Complete a demonstration project within the first grant year
- Establish data practices and infrastructure for future programming
- Document a plan, in partnership with United Way, for ongoing work as Neighborhood Services Coordinator, including United Way financial support

* for complete details and program requirements, refer to page 10

Key Program Expectations:

- Weekly Leadership Team meetings
- Monthly cohort/coalition meetings with partners
- Update your organization's 2-1-1 listings at least annually

* for complete details and partner expectations, refer to page 11

Key Proposal and Review Information:

Interested organizations or coalitions should arrange an initial conversation with United Way staff to discuss the opportunity, learn further details, and surface any questions. The process then continues with a letter of interest from organizations or collaborations wishing to submit a proposal. Letters of interest will be reviewed and selected organizations will be invited to submit a proposal. Proposals will only be accepted from organizations that have been invited to make a proposal. After proposals are submitted, organizations will meet with United Way staff and volunteers to engage in dialogue about the potential partnership before final selections are made.

Interested organizations are encouraged to be in contact with United Way staff as proposals are being developed, to ensure alignment. Direct dialogue and communication are encouraged.

- **Initial Discussions:**.....Now – March 9, 2018
- **Public Information Session:**.....February 27, 2018
- **Letter of Interest Due:**.....March 16, 2018
- **Proposals Due:**.....April 16, 2018
- **Funding Begins:**.....After July 1, 2018

NEIGHBORHOOD INITIATIVE

A Case for Place-Based Investment

Community-wide, there are a number of significant gaps by race in health, income, and education outcomes. While only 6.5% of white eleventh graders in Olmsted County describe their health as fair or poor, 15% of Native American, 13% of Hispanic, and 10% of Asian students do so (“Minnesota Department of Education,” 2016a). Homelessness, unemployment, and housing instability disproportionately affect black and African American community members. While United Way works to address a number of these disparities through its community-wide investments, targeted programs like this place-based initiative are specifically intended to close such gaps.

In 2016, the on-time graduation rate for white students in Olmsted County was 87%, while it sat at 77% for students of color (“Minnesota Department of Education,” 2017a). Despite narrowing the gap in recent years, our students of color experience worse outcomes than white students in terms of test scores, health, and college enrollment. In 2017, 46% of students of color in Olmsted County read at grade level in third grade, as compared to 70% of white students (“Minnesota Department of Education,” 2017b). While approximately 72% of white Rochester graduates enroll in a 4-year college or university in the year following high school, only 51% of minority Rochester graduates do so (“Minnesota Statewide Longitudinal Education Data System,” 2017).

Our community is divided geographically by race and income. Coupled with a public school system primarily based on a neighborhood school model, differences across schools in academic outcomes such as graduation rates, test scores, and discipline records mirror differences across neighborhoods, race, and income.

We know that place matters: Research and experience shows that families and students do better when they live in strong communities (“Center for the Study of Social Policy,” 2017). Strong communities are marked by the opportunities they afford their residents—economic mobility, employment security, and self-advocacy. Yet challenges such as poverty, unemployment, housing instability, and low education levels tend to concentrate in areas negatively impacted by a history of disinvestment and require intentional, location-specific efforts in order to be adequately addressed (Taylor, Brown, Wechsler, & Bochnovic, 2014). Place-based approaches allow for targeted investments in neighborhoods experiencing the highest need, ensuring that all neighborhoods become the kinds of places that allow children and families to reach their full potential.

Since 2000, Olmsted County’s population has grown by 22%, with a 108% increase in the number of people of color who call

the county home (“Compass Points 2016: City of Rochester/Olmsted County,” 2016). Overall, 60% of population growth since then has been persons of color, with 97% of our net migration being international (“Compass Points 2016: City of Rochester/Olmsted County,” 2016). Baby boomers continue to age out of the workforce three times faster than the workforce population grows (Wheeler, 2013). Soon, 30-40% of our internal labor force growth is projected to comprise individuals coming from minority, low-income, and international families (Wheeler, 2013). It is in our community’s best interest to adequately prepare the youth of today to become our workforce of tomorrow. Eliminating disparities in educational, financial, health, and other aspects of well-being will help ensure that our community remains a great place to live and work for future generations, and working at the neighborhood level can be a powerful lever in doing so.

Place matters greatly to a children’s outcomes as they mature: Barriers to academic success – such as poverty, student mobility, and single-parent homes – tend to concentrate in certain neighborhoods. Working in a targeted way in such neighborhoods is anticipated to provide greater leverage in closing achievement gaps than community-wide efforts alone.

KEY FEATURES OF PLACE-BASED INITIATIVES

Partnership:

Place-based approaches connect the work of individual organizations through a shared agenda and a set of metrics that will be used to gauge progress and assess impact. A core set of results rallies a broad cross-section of community members around goals that no single organization can achieve by itself. Results promote common purpose, support collaboration, and provide a guide for decision-making (Anderson Moore et al., 2009).

Local Ownership:

A key activator for place-based work is the genuine engagement of residents, as they are the constituency that defines the community. Ideally, residents are leaders and owners of the effort. With time and capacity-building, the neighborhood partnership is increasingly able to align resources for the neighborhood (Brown & Fiester, 2014).

Capacity Building:

A place-based approach can be used as a vehicle to cultivate human resources. By establishing spaces where residents and stakeholders with different backgrounds and perspectives can learn and work together in service of shared results (Taylor et al., 2014), neighborhoods can increase their collective efficacy as they develop social cohesion and a willingness to intervene on behalf of the common good. Engaging stakeholders in developing a learning agenda and vehicles for cross-site learning cultivates ownership of the learning process and increases the likelihood that results will be useful, relevant, and credible for potential users (Kubisch, Auspos, Brown, & Dewar, 2010).

Learning Community:

The process of breaking down silos while capturing and sharing knowledge is central to place-based work (Department of Education, 2012). It is important that an active and vital learning community draw upon both expert and public knowledge. A learning program dominated by experts undervalues the wisdom of experience and context and can stifle self-directed learning, while total reliance on public knowledge limits a group’s growth through exposure to stimulating outside experts who can challenge the group to think critically about their ideas (Hamilton et al., 2005).

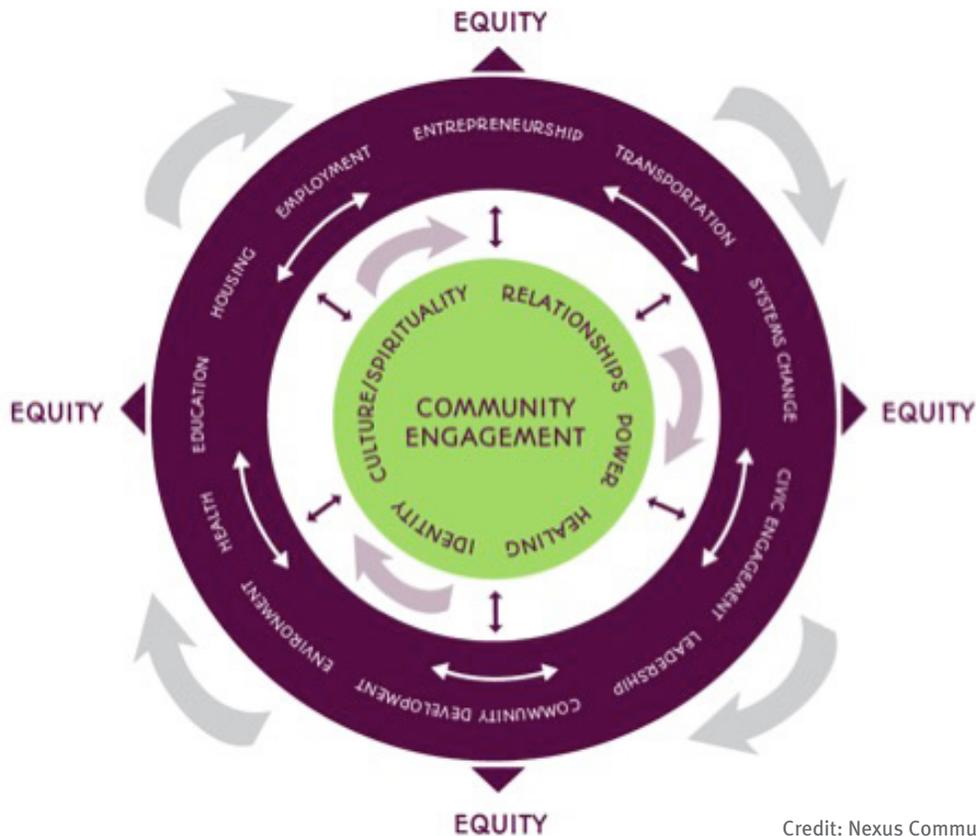
Results-Driven:

A final feature of place-based work is that it is results-driven: the focus is on achieving a core set of results for children and families in the service neighborhood. These overarching results drive the planning, design, start up activities, program implementation, and evaluation of the individual activities and the overall initiative (Jean-Louis et al., 2010). While the use of evidence-based interventions is not unique to place-based work, the fact that the work itself is a portfolio of interventions that can be modified based on results makes it more likely that positive community change will happen.

A COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PERSPECTIVE

The community engagement model that has informed our approach to this work was developed by Nexus Community Partners, and we anticipate continuing to develop an engagement model with the Neighborhood Services Coordinator, which builds on this understanding of community engagement.

As a core perspective, we view community engagement as being at the center of the initiative. While we expect that an impact agenda will develop, we believe it will grow from a strong sense of connection and empowerment among residents. The figure below, provided by Nexus Community Partners, illustrates this viewpoint.



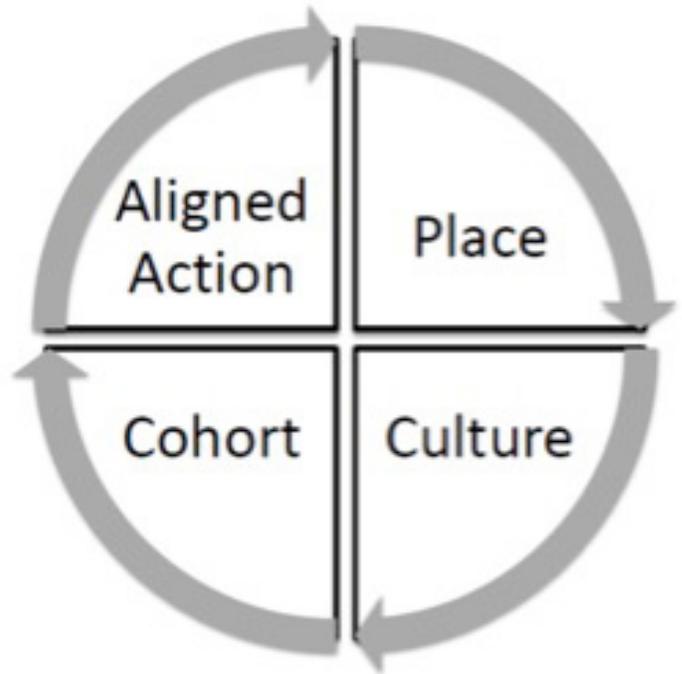
Credit: Nexus Community Partners, 2014

In this model, community engagement sits at the center, characterized by relationships, community power, healing practice, honoring identity, and honoring people’s culture and spirituality.

From this center, action agendas may emerge and resident supports may develop, which could include any kind of support from educational assistance to transportation services – as long as it is backed by residents and connected to the neighborhood’s progress.

In order to enact this perspective in a partnership effort with residents, United Way has been following a process that begins with place—a shared geography and sense of space. Beginning with a shared place, the process advances by respecting and uplifting the individual and shared cultural identities of residents. Only then can a cohort of partners (individuals and organizations) develop with a shared perspective and purpose and create an aligned action agenda.

While this perspective and process provide for many advantages and have several consequences, one key element to remember is that the importance of process will often cause frustration for partners and observers who wish for action to come faster. United Way is committed to taking the time necessary to do community engagement in an authentic and respectful way. We will also expect other partners to equally honor that process.



Credit: Larry Hiscock, Nexus Community Partners, 2017

NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES COORDINATOR

With this Request for Proposals, United Way is seeking a “Neighborhood Services Coordinator.” This is an organization rather than a specific individual, but the work will likely be delegated to a designated staff person within the organization who may be referred to as the site director. This organization will be responsible for implementing a planning period (the focus of this funding opportunity). United Way anticipates this organization will continue in its coordinating role (including United Way financial support) throughout the life of this effort, working with neighborhood residents in developing solutions to local-level barriers, inviting partners into the work to implement solutions, and developing partnership and data collection norms amongst partners.

The Neighborhood Services Coordinator will work in close conjunction with United Way in pursuit of these goals. The organization, in order to receive funding, must hold non-profit status or work with a qualified fiscal agent. This does not indicate that potential applicants be restricted to organizations in the human and social services; faith-based organizations, government entities, advocacy groups, and affiliation groups may also be considered.

The Neighborhood Services Coordinator works directly with the majority of the stakeholders in place-based work. They mobilize neighborhood residents, relay learnings about community need to service providers, coordinate the work of service providers in the neighborhood, and communicate results and learnings back to United Way. This role is complex, varies from project to project, and depends largely on both the organization’s strengths and preferences as well as the pre-existing resources, networks, and organizations present in the neighborhood. Outside of practical considerations like data collection and facilitating meetings, the key role of a Neighborhood Services Coordinator is that it fills the gaps left by other stakeholders.

Any agency under consideration to act as a Neighborhood Services Coordinator should be highly aligned with the vision and values of United Way. As the Neighborhood Services Coordinator will have significantly more interaction with neighborhood residents, it is important that shared values, mission, and expectations are reflected in the work as it appears “on the ground”. This alignment is equally important when the Neighborhood Services Coordinator works with service providers within the project, in order to ensure that programs are running in alignment with the work’s desired results and core values.

Many characteristics sought in the Neighborhood Services Coordinator are similar to those sought in the lead agency (see “Lead Agency” below). The Neighborhood Services Coordinator is beholden to shared accountability for learning and results; should be able to respectfully and authentically engage issues of race, class, and culture; and needs to effectively engage community residents in the work. Unlike the lead agency, the Neighborhood Services Coordinator is not necessarily anticipated to forge policy-level and systems change, but it should be able to support such work (“Center for the Study of Social Policy,” 2017).

THE ROLE OF UNITED WAY

United Way views its role as a lead agency, the agency which developed the initial passion or vision for the work and one of a few central partners whose name is associated with the work. United Way may also provide functions and skills that are not found in other partner agencies or community residents, including serving as a funder to the effort.

A strong role for United Way in this place-based work will center on leveraging new resources on behalf of communities. Traditionally, this is usually thought of in terms of financial resources but could include facilitating the development of an implementation plan, support in improving systems (“NAZ Promise Neighborhood Implementation Grant Application,” 2011), convening and leveraging diverse networks of relationships, and mobilizing political will (Auspos et al., 2009).

Outside of the practical considerations of capacity and resources, one of the most important components of a funder’s role in place-based work is to bring clarity to the effort as a whole. Clarity starts internally: Taking the time to articulate the funder’s own motivations and expectations regarding the initiative creates the foundation necessary for a shared framework around values, barriers, and strategies (Trent & Chavis, 2009).

The foundational learning that should occur in place-based work is to build a solid understanding of the problem and what is needed to solve it (Trent & Chavis, 2009). This requires the funder to have an ongoing commitment to research, literature review, localizing data, and continuous improvement processes. It involves co-learning with all stakeholders: the Neighborhood Services Coordinator, service providers, and neighborhood residents. The learnings of the funder and other stakeholders drive the work, allowing the generation and testing of new ideas and the further building and sharing of knowledge (Auspos, Brown, Kubisch, & Sutton, 2009).

While the funder’s initial understanding of the work will inform the structure and process, both are malleable as new learnings arise and inform the funder’s organizational perspective. As new information comes in—such as uncovering previously invisible unmet needs and gaps, emergent barriers, or turnover within the neighborhood or key service providers—the funder can facilitate the process of interpreting and acting on the new information. The funder is also able to stay abreast of current research and field practices and incorporate this information into the work. By doing so, the funder is able to “stack the odds in favor of success” (Trent & Chavis, 2009), from initial identification of the social issue (or area) to be addressed, to identifying neighborhoods and a Neighborhood Services Coordinator, to interpreting needs assessments, to designing the structures and processes which move the work forward, to communicating impact and results out to the wider community. While few funders or lead agencies can perform all of these roles well with their current staff and resources, it is important that the funder intentionally cultivates the capacity to fulfill whatever role(s) it takes on (Kubisch, Auspos, Brown, & Dewar, 2010).

To the extent that United Way of Olmsted County will be acting as a lead agency in addition to acting as a funder, special consideration should be given to the ways in which these two roles interact and intersect. In the lead agency role, UWOC will be more heavily involved in the planning and implementation of the work than we would if we were acting strictly as a funder. As a funder, we will be granting money to plan and implement work in which staff are personally engaged: possibly as conveners, technical support, or process experts. This overlap represents a convergence of interests, which will need to be carefully managed in the initial stages of the work. This overlap also has the potential to provide a level of consistency to the work which may otherwise be difficult to achieve in a project that brings together many various stakeholders. Establishing a clear framework, vision, and core set of values that can carry the work forward is important early-stage work which has the potential to make or break the sense of consistency of the entire project. It often takes an effort up to two years to develop the capacity to implement a place-based strategy, and it often takes a few more to reach substantial program alignment (Fiester, 2011).

This exploration of place-based work and this specific local effort is not intended to be exhaustive; rather, it serves as an introduction to how this neighborhood initiative might develop over the coming year and beyond.

There are countless ways that this initiative might grow or evolve as we continue to engage residents in imagining the future and as partners are added to the coalition. United Way of Olmsted County welcomes new ideas and perspectives as this effort continues to take shape.

For a deeper exploration of place-based initiatives, United Way of Olmsted County’s process and perspectives on this initiative, and related research, visit www.uwolmsted.org/research.

If you wish to speak with a United Way staff member about this research, this request for proposals, or ask questions about a proposal idea, please contact Chad Campbell at chadc@uwolmsted.org or 507-287-2000.

GRANT DETAILS & REQUIREMENTS

Investment Information:

United Way intends to invest in only one Neighborhood Services Coordinator. That may take the shape of a single organization serving in the role or a partnership between organizations that supplement one another's core competencies to share elements of the role.

We expect the total program cost for the first year (July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019) to be less than \$200k, and United Way expects the successful applicant to provide in-kind support equivalent to at least 25% of the total cost for the year.

Reporting & Milestones:

This planning grant period will not be focused on metrics of progress but rather on achieving milestones in the development of neighborhood plans and capacity. Elements of development will include:

- Building direct relationships with neighborhood residents and establishing a trusted “face” of the initiative within the neighborhood.
- Completing a neighborhood assessment that engages residents and privileges their point of view without imposing an external perspective on barriers and solutions.
- Creating a documented report of key findings from the neighborhood assessment.
- Developing in partnership with neighborhood residents, a prioritized action plan that launches in the initiative's second year.
- Completing a demonstration project within the first grant year that builds support and momentum within the neighborhood and addresses a concern relevant to residents.
- Establishing data practices and infrastructure for future programming, preparing to serve as the data-sharing hub and continuous improvement champion for the initiative.

The order of operations may develop in dialogue with residents, and features of each activity or product might change to reflect residents' priorities; however, these milestones constitute the core expectations of this planning year prior to its start.

Budget Requirements:

Proposals are expected to include a program budget (in your own preferred format) that provides both income and expense details. UWOC funding should comprise no more than 75% of the total program budget the planning year. **While this grant extends for only one year, United Way anticipates a long-term partnership with the organization(s) selected and expects to make continued investments equal to approximately 50% of annual costs.**

United Way knows that all programs require foundational organization support for administrative and fundraising functions. In recognition of that, all program budgets should include an administration cost of at least 15% of the total program cost.

For this grant, we anticipate there will be capacity-building needs during the planning year (such as program evaluation systems, equipment, or training). All such anticipated expenses should be reflected in the program budget.

United Way's funding of this planning year is not restricted to any specific line items within the overall budget (such as an individual staff member or a capital purchase). This award is made to the overall program budget and is not restricted to specific kinds of expenses.

Proposal review criteria:

Proposals will be evaluated in consideration of the following criteria, which will inform United Way's investment decisions:

- **Community Engagement:** Organization demonstrates ability and commitment to apply community engagement principles and practices in all aspects of planning and decision-making.
- **Equity:** Organization demonstrates commitment to promoting equity through policies and practices at all levels of the work.
- **Cultural Responsiveness:** Organization demonstrates commitment to developing and implementing culturally responsive practices at all levels of the work.
- **Data Practices:** Organization demonstrates capacity to collect and analyze individual-level data to inform program design and implementation.
- **Partnership:** Organization demonstrates strong commitment to working in close partnership with UWOC and neighborhood leaders.
- **Budget:** Budget reflects total program costs and revenue sources.

Additional consideration may be given to programs that demonstrate the ability to partner effectively with United Way and others and which are able to advance UWOC programs and strategies.

EXPECTATIONS OF PARTNERS:

- **Weekly meetings with UWOC and leadership team:**

This effort is a joint initiative between United Way of Olmsted County, its selected partner(s), neighborhood residents, and several cooperating agencies. As the planning period progresses, a governance and leadership model must emerge. In the meantime, the Neighborhood Services Coordinator (selected partner) will meet weekly with United Way of Olmsted County staff to coordinate plans and align expectations.

- **Monthly cohort/advisory team meetings:**

Each month, partner organizations and neighborhood leaders will be convened to discuss progress, establish plans, and engage the voices of residents and partners in developing the initiative.

- **Update your organization's 2-1-1 listings at least annually:**

United Way sponsors 2-1-1, our local affiliate of the nation-wide internet- and phone-accessible information and referral service. It is critical that this service maintain the most up-to-date information possible about community supports and services. All United Way partners are required to update their service information at least one time each year.

- **Participate in developing client success stories:**

It is to the mutual benefit of United Way and its partners that we develop compelling stories of the success of individual clients, with appropriate permissions and media releases. These stories help to illustrate the value of our partnership and enhance United Way's ability to continue providing financial support for programs throughout the community.

- **Make volunteer engagement opportunities available:**

While it is not required of any program that it engages volunteers in its work, United Way asks that partners assist in finding and developing opportunities to engage United Way's stakeholders (volunteers, donors, corporate partners, etc.) in volunteer service opportunities.

- **Integration with United Way programming:**

Also not a requirement, United Way asks partners to consider the ways in which other United Way programming can be promoted through the partner's work (e.g. providing FamilyWise prescription discount cards at checkout for food shelf users, etc.).

PROPOSAL & REVIEW PROCESS

- **Initial Conversations:now – March 9, 2018**

Interested organizations or coalitions should arrange an initial conversation (by phone or in person) with Chad Campbell (chadc@uwolmsted.org) to discuss the opportunity and what concerns you might have, as well as to learn any additional details as they continue to develop.

- **Public Information Session:February 27, 2018**

An optional public session, during which United Way staff will provide an overview of the investment opportunity, the program requirements, and the proposal and review process. There will be a brief time for questions and answers. Individual follow-up discussions may also be arranged.

- **Letters of Interest Due:March 16, 2018**

A letter of interest should be submitted by 12:00pm on Tuesday, January 30, 2018. Letters should describe the organization's qualifications and/or experience with community engagement and/or community organizing, data management and/or continuous improvement, and reasons for interest in this effort. Letters should be 2 pages or fewer and can be emailed to Zeni Aly at (ZeniA@uwolmsted.org).

- **Proposals Due:April 16, 2018**

For organizations invited to submit a proposal, all materials must be submitted by 12:00pm on Tuesday, February 26, 2018. Proposals should be submitted through UWOC's online grants portal, CommunityForce at www.uwolmsted.org/grants. For assistance with the online tool, please contact Zeni Aly at 507-287-7877 or ZeniA@uwolmsted.org.

- **Program Review Conversations:Ongoing**

A dialogue between prospective partners and United Way's review team will ensue, which will include basic introductory conversations, possible additional written questions, and follow-up discussion(s). The process will unfold differently for each Prospective partner, based upon the questions our review team has and the advancement of the program through the selection process.

- **Expectations & Deliverables:April 2 – April 15, 2018**

Finalists will work together with UWOC staff to ensure alignment of deliverables and expectations for performance milestones during the funding cycle. These milestones will be co-created and specific to the proposal plan, as developed with the partner.

- **Funding Begins:July 1, 2018**

First disbursements of grants will be made after July 1, 2018.

UNITED WAY'S ONLINE GRANTS PORTAL:

Proposals for this partnership opportunity can be completed by invitation only, following an introductory conversation and a letter of intent.

Upon invitation, proposals will be submitted through United Way of Olmsted County's online grants portal. In your web browser, type in www.uwolmsted.org/grants to learn more about UWOC's funding priorities.

For technical support with the proposal process, you may contact Zeni Aly, Community Impact Administrative Assistant, at 507-287-7877 or ZeniA@uwolmsted.org.

For previous UWOC partners – this is a new system and all partners will need to create a new account.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Can one organization submit proposals for multiple programs?

Yes. United Way of Olmsted County makes awards to programs, rather than to organizations. In the event that a single organization has more than one program that meets serves the goals of the RFP, multiple proposals will be considered.

Organizations may also be eligible to submit proposals to multiple RFPs within United Way's overall investment portfolio.

My program has been funded under one of UWOC's impact areas in the past. Is this RFP for me?

That depends. This RFP is intended to make investments in programs that help to address food security throughout Olmsted County. It is open to programs using both traditional and innovative strategies to improve food security. Whether those programs are motivated to do so in order to improve client health, student education, household financial stability, or another end goal, this RFP is open to considering their proposals.

You've mentioned partnerships and collaborations in this RFP, but stated that this award is only intended for a single organization. What do you mean?

We're seeking an organization that can serve in this role, which includes a variety of ongoing responsibilities—primarily community engagement and data management. Some organizations have both of those competencies, while others may be particularly adept at just one. If two (or more) organizations can collaborate to fill the roles needed for this initiative, their joint proposal would be equally considered, alongside proposals from solo organizations.

I represent a [faith-based organization] / [unincorporated group] / [government agency]. Is my organization eligible?

Yes. Government agencies/units are eligible.

Faith-based organizations are eligible, provided they can demonstrate that there will be no explicitly faith-related content included in their programming and that there are no discriminatory restrictions (age, race, gender identity, ethnicity, sexual orientation, religion, ability, or otherwise) on service recipients.

Unincorporated community groups are eligible, provided they can document their relationship with a proper fiscal sponsor.

Can I save and edit my progress on the online Proposal?

Yes. Our online proposal management system requires an organizational profile and login to be created, which allows you to create, save, edit and submit your proposal online.

When can I expect to hear back from you?

You should expect to receive an automated notification that your proposal has been received immediately after submitting it. If you believe you've successfully submitted your proposal, but you haven't received an acknowledgement, please contact Zeni Aly (zenia@uwolmsted.org or 507-287-7877) for assistance.

After submission, you should anticipate hearing about the progress of your application during the week of April 23, 2018.

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