



# Creating Synergy for a Stronger Future Grant Application Guide

Your Agency Thrives for a Stronger Future

June 2025

# Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that the lands upon which we reside, and gather are the ancestral territories of the indigenous peoples of Turtle Island.

In what is now known as Genesee, Livingston, Wyoming, Ontario, Wayne, and Monroe counties in New York State, these include but are not limited to the Haudenosaunee (ho-deh-no-SHOW-nee) Confederacy, the Seneca (SIN-uh-kuh), Cayuga (kuh-YOO-guh), Onondaga (ah-non-DAH-gah), Oneida (oh-NY-duh), and Tonawanda Nations.

We honor the sacred lands as we continue to curate, develop, and sustain an inclusive culture and climate across our six-county region.

# **Our Mission**

Our mission is to mobilize the goodwill and resources of our community so that everyone can thrive.

United Way of Greater Rochester and the Finger Lakes encompasses 5,144 square miles of rural, suburban, and urban neighborhoods, and brings together more than 50,000 donors, 14,000 volunteers, 600 workplaces, and hundreds of nonprofit partners to address the region's biggest human services challenges.

# United Way is Committed to an Equity-Driven Six-County Culture

At United Way of Greater Rochester and the Finger Lakes, we believe in the transformative power of equity. In our unwavering commitment to the residents of six diverse counties, we champion a future where every individual, regardless of their background or circumstances, has equal access to opportunities that empower them to thrive.

Through collective giving via our Community Impact Fund and input from our community, everyone can participate in our mission to foster an inclusive society where everyone, irrespective of their race,

W. UnitedWayROCFLX.org

gender, socioeconomic status, or abilities, can flourish. We tirelessly support initiatives that bridge gaps, break barriers, and create pathways to success. By investing in **youth opportunities**, **financial security**, **community resiliency**, and **healthy communities**, we pave the way for sustainable change.

United, we can turn the tide, break the cycle of inequality, and ensure that every individual has the chance to write their own success story.

# **For General Inquiries**

For general inquiries for staff of the Office of Community Impact, please contact us via <a href="mailto:ciadmin@uwrochester.org">ciadmin@uwrochester.org</a>. We will endeavor to respond to your inquiry within 48 hours during work weekdays. Please note that questions concerning the application process must be submitted by August 5<sup>th</sup> to be considered. Additionally, questions concerning the content of a proposal or the likelihood of receiving funding will not be entertained.

# Overview of Creating Synergy for a Stronger Future Grant

Creating Synergy for a Stronger Future Grant provides **capacity-building support for nonprofits' organizational health, vitality, and sustainability.** In the ever-evolving world, nonprofits need support to manage an organization's culture and climate; employee transitions and succession planning; and collaborations that increase operational efficiency and/or improve program services. This grant aims to support nonprofits to grow stronger and live out their missions for their respective communities.

Creating Synergy for a Stronger Future Grant is powered by the New York Council of Nonprofits, ESL Charitable Foundation, and United Way's Community Impact Fund. This grant provides support for **costs** incurred toward activities that support a nonprofit's overall capacity.

# **Eligibility Criteria**

- Health and human service nonprofits within United Way of Greater Rochester and the Finger
   Lakes' six-county region—Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Wayne, and Wyoming counties.
- The nonprofit that has had exemption from Federal Income Tax under Section 501(c)3 of the IRS
  Code and has been registered with (or has verifiable exempt from registration) with the New
  York Charities Bureau since January 1, 2024, or earlier.
- The nonprofit is up to date with all required IRS and NYS Charities Bureau requirements, including annual filings.
- Nonprofits are willing to sign and comply with the requirements for funding outlined in the United Way Partnership Agreement. A sample Partnership Agreement is available at the end of this Guide and in the e-CImpact Resource Center. This includes submitting a final report outlining project progress, income and expenditures, and being willing to provide verification of expenditures upon request. Each eligible agency can apply for a maximum of THREE capacity building projects. The maximum request is \$50,000. A completed project form must be submitted for each project.

## **Evaluation Criteria**

All applications will be evaluated on the following components during the evaluation period. Evaluations may or may not include short presentations or engagements for more information regarding the application submitted.

- Clarity and completeness of the grant application: each question is answered completely and in accordance with instructions; mandatory attachments are included. Applications not fully completed in accordance with instruction will not be reviewed.
- Content of the application aligns with grant priorities.
- Needs assessment: Clearly articulates the capacity challenges faced by the organization that the project addresses; provides data or evidence supporting the need.
- Feasibility of the proposed effort: provides a detailed plan of action, clear roles/responsibilities, and a reasonable timeline for implementation.
- Results: Clearly defines expected benefits and describes a solid plan for measuring success using metrics.
- Budget: Budget aligns with project activities; costs are reasonable and necessary for implementation. Other funding sources are identified if needed.

### **Grant Periods**

Creating Synergy Grant is available at two intervals (quarters) within a year. This grant will be available within the first (January to March) and third (July to September) quarters of the calendar year. Decision periods will take place during the **second** and **fourth** quarters of a calendar year.

# **E-CImpact Grant Portal**

Our entire application process is online in our e-CImpact grants portal at <a href="https://agency.e-">https://agency.e-</a> cimpact.com/login.aspx?org=34485F, along with resources to help you build your application. All applications and reports must be submitted through our online grants management system, e-CImpact. If your agency is NOT currently registered in e-CImpact, you will need to request access. Go to <a href="https://agency.e-cimpact.com/login.aspx?org=34485F">https://agency.e-cimpact.com/login.aspx?org=34485F</a>, scroll to the bottom of the page, and click on the "Click here to add your agency to e-Cimpact" button. The person registering the agency will receive an email notification within two business days. After the agency account is approved, the person who has set it up can add additional agency users as necessary.

If your agency is already set up in e-Clmpact (as is the case for all agencies that previously applied for the multiyear program grant in 2024 and/or received a program grant in 2023 to the present) and you need personal access, contact someone at your agency that already has access to e-Cimpact to add you. As an agency's e-Cimpact account includes sensitive information, including staff salaries on budget forms submitted as part of applications and reports, we ask that agencies determine who has access and add additional users themselves.

# **Application Timeline**

The application timeline is an overview of what to anticipate for the Creating Synergy grant.

- Virtual Information Session June 24, 2025, at 2 pm. Registration required at
   https://bit.ly/UWCapacity2025. The session will be recorded and available in e-CImpact.
- Application opens July 1<sup>st</sup> in e-CImpact and closes August 12<sup>th</sup> at noon. Late applications will not be accepted.
- Questions about the grant process will be accepted from July 1<sup>st</sup> through August 5<sup>th</sup> and must be submitted via email to <u>ciadmin@uwrochester.org</u>. Answers to the questions will be aggregated and posted in e-CImpact on a weekly basis. Please note that we will not answer questions asking for advice on the content of the application or the likelihood of a proposal receiving funding.
- Notification of decisions: **November 19, 2025**.
- Payment of grants for accepted applicants commence **on or before December 31, 2025.** Payment is contingent on acceptance and submission of Partnership Agreement.
- A final report will be required for successful applicants and due on **January 25, 2027**. All funds allocated should be expended by **December 31, 2026**. United Way reserves the right to request return of any unspent grant funds.

# Overview of the Synergy GraHi nt Application

Creating Synergy for a Stronger Future is a capacity-building grant designed to support nonprofits' organizational health, vitality, and sustainability. The following components are a part of the application.

# **Organizational Information Form**

# **Lead Organization Information**

- Organization Name
- **Organization Address**
- Organization Main Contact Phone Number
- Organization Main Contact Email
- IRS EIN number
- NYS Charities Number (if exempt, type "exempt")
- If exempt from NYS Charities registration, explain why
- Head of the Organization
- Organization's Mission Statement
- Brief description of the health and/or human services programming that the organization currently offers.

### County(ies) Agency(ies) Provides Physical Services In

Genesee

Ontario

List Other Counties

Livingston

Wayne

Monroe

Wyoming

# County(ies) Whose Residents Agency(ies) Serve

Genesee

Ontario

List Other Counties

Livingston

Wayne

Monroe

Wyoming

# **Capacity-Building Project Form**

This form needs to be completed for each capacity project you are applying for; your organization may apply for a maximum of three projects.

# **Overview Section**

- Name of the Project (please develop a name that speaks to the essence of the project)
- Project's Primary Contact name, Email, Phone Number, and Mailing Address

# **Capacity-building Focus Area**

Please select the area(s) for this capacity-building grant application.

Organizational Development		Advancing Workplace Culture	
	Strategic hiring practices		Enhancing diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI)
	Retention initiatives, inclusive of staff wellness		efforts
	programs, etc.		Fostering a positive organizational climate
	Leadership and board development		Building frameworks for adaptability and
	Strategic planning		innovation
			Wage compression
Learning and Development			
	Professional training opportunities	Mergei	rs/Affiliations
	Team-building activities		Merger between two or more w (operations or
	Cross-functional skill development		programs)
Efficiency Building			Formal affiliation/collaboration between two
	Upgrading technology and systems		or more organizations including shared staff
	Automating repetitive processes		
	Streamlining operational workflows		
•	• If the project involves a merger/affiliation, list the additional organization(s) involved in the		

merger/affiliation, and for each, primary contact name, email, phone number, and mailing address.

W. UnitedWayROCFLX.org

# **Capacity-Building Effort Details Section**

# **Capacity-building Exploration: Short Answer**

Please address the following areas with concise and complete statements.

When using acronyms, please spell out the acronym and indicate the letters in parenthesis, and feel free to use acronyms throughout short answer statements.

Points will not be deducted for slight grammatical and punctuation errors; however, it is strongly recommended short answers are proofread for clarity and consistency.

#### **Needs Assessment**

Describe the circumstance, situation and/or determination that led to this request (the specific capacity challenge that this project aims to address). Include:

- How were these challenges identified? Include any pre-planning or alignment activities that occurred and the level of commitment for your organization or each organization connected to this effort.
- Describe the **intended state the agency** would like to achieve.

#### **Scope and Reach**

Describe the intended audience(s) that are currently impacted; also share the intended audiences that could enhance the overall reach or impact of request fulfilled.

For mergers/affiliations, for each partner, describe **current geographic reach**, the number of **individuals served on an annual basis**, and the **primary services provided**.

#### **Benefits and Risks**

What are the **principal benefits** of this request? Describe the **improved and/or increased capacity**, **service delivery**, **effectiveness**, and/or **financial health** anticipated.

What are the **potential risks** with the completion of this request?

# **Activities and Implementation Plan**

Describe the key activities to be implemented, major milestones, the expected date for completion, the person(s) responsible, and/or any dependencies or circumstances that are time sensitive. Be specific. Also include the date by which you anticipate the project being completed.

**Plan for Sustainability and Success** 

Describe how success will be measured (e.g. anticipated short-term and long -term outcomes), the anticipated impact will be sustained, and how the request will be measured over time within the organization(s) and the greater community.

Are there any **perceived opportunities for sector-wide learning** regarding repositioning activities that may be shared, informally or formally?

# **Budgetary Information Section**

# **Exploring the Budget for the Request**

Please address the following areas with concise and complete statements. If you have attachments to completely answer questions, please feel free to include the document(s) scanned into one attachment.

### **Proposed Fees and Expenses**

Provide a line-item budget describing the **fees and expenses** associated with this request.

What are the **estimated total costs** associated with this request? (This should match the total of the line-items denoted above.

What is the anticipated support you are seeking from United Way for this request? The maximum request is \$50,000. Requests for greater than \$50,000 will not be reviewed.

# **Additional Funding**

Are there any **secured** funding commitments? If so, please indicate the source and amount.

Are there any **pending** requests? If so, please list the source, the amount of the request, and date you expect answer.

# **Optional Attachments**

- Project Charter
- Budget documents

# **Commonly Used Terms**

The list of commonly used terms is available to strengthen any descriptions or phrases for the grant application. These terms awaken understandings related to a welcoming equity-driven six-county region.

**Access:** Strictly speaking, access means being able to get what you need, being able to enter a space, and being able to connect with policy makers and leadership.

*Accessibility*: Intentionally creating programs, events, educational opportunities, and other offerings to be easily usable for individuals with disabilities.

ALANA: An acronym that stands for African American, Latino/a American, Asian American & Native American.

*Anti-Black Racism:* Anti-Black racism is the attitude and practice that involve the construction of Black people as fundamentally inferior and subhuman (Gordan, L. R., 1995).

**Anti-Racist:** One who is expressing the idea that racial groups are equals and none needs developing and is supporting policy that reduces inequity (Kendi, I. X., 2019).

**Anti-Semitism:** Also known as anti-Jewish hatred and Judeophobia (fear of Jews), is the belief or behavior hostile toward Jews just because they are Jewish. It may take the form proclaiming the inferiority of the Jewish people or through political efforts to isolate, oppress, or otherwise injure them physically, through vandalism of Jewish spaces, or otherwise.

*Bias:* Prejudice in favor of or against one thing, person, or group compared with another, usually in a way considered to be unfair. Unconscious or implicit bias refers to biases that we carry without awareness (definition developed by the Kirwan Institute).

**BIPOC:** An acronym that stands for Black, Indigenous, and people of color.

**Community Impact:** The creation of positive community change aimed to improve the lives of residents and address underline community conditions (United Way Worldwide, 2023).

*Climate:* The extent to which an organization successfully promotes fairness [supported by] strong norms for fair interpersonal treatment along with the promotion of policies associated with these practices (Dwertmann, et al., 2016)

*Culture:* Defined as "how we do things around here." Because policies, processes, and practices have such an impact on outcomes, examining and improving the university culture is a key element in making the university more equitable and inclusive. Policies, processes, and practices such as how decisions are made, how budgets are allocated, and who is involved in those decisions should be considered as we work toward a more inclusive culture. (Davis, A, 2019)

*Cultural Pluralism:* Recognition of the contribution of each group to the common civilization; it encourages the maintenance and development of different lifestyles, languages, and convictions. It is a commitment to deal cooperatively with common concerns. It strives to create the condition of harmony and respect within a culturally diverse society (Pusch, 1979).

**Culturally Responsive**: Dr. Gloria Ladson-Billings defined culturally responsive instruction as "a pedagogy that empowers students intellectually, socially, emotionally, and politically by using cultural referents to impart knowledge, skills, and attitudes" in her book *The Dreamkeepers* (1994).

*Disability/Disability Inclusion:* Understanding the relationship between the way people function and how they participate in society and making sure everybody has the same opportunities to participate in every aspect of life to the best of their abilities and desires. (www.cdc.gov)

*Discrimination:* The behavioral manifestation of prejudice involving the limitation of opportunities and options based on particular criterion (i.e., race, sex, age, class).

*Diversity:* Refers to demographics and representation—people from a wide range of backgrounds, identities, and life experiences represented throughout the community. Consideration of diversity includes, but is not limited to, race, ethnicity, gender, religion or faith beliefs, political beliefs, cognitive styles, sexual orientation, gender expression, physical ability, and socio-economic status. (Davis, A., 2019).

**DEIBJ:** An acronym that stands for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Belonging, and Justice.

*Equity:* A term that focuses on outcomes. For example, it is possible to have a diverse population, but have outcomes for that population, in terms of leadership opportunities, promotion, or other recognitions, which do not reflect its demographics. Equity is thus different from equality – equality means treating all members of the community the same. However, because of generations of unequal treatment throughout the history of our country, education generally, supporting equitable outcomes often calls for giving different support to different groups. (Davis, A., 2019).

Gender Identity: Gender identity is a term used to refer to an individual's internal identification with being male or female. In contrast to sexual identity, gender identity is focused on one's view of oneself, rather than one's attractions to others. Although it is often conflated with sexual identity in the literature, gender identity is a distinct construct. (Balsam, K. F. & Lehavot, K., 2013).

Identity: The feeling of being included in a group or culture (definition developed by the Kirwan Institute).

*Inclusion:* The ability and freedom to express all aspects of one's identities at work (Ferdman, 2015; Nishii, 2012; Roberson, 2006).

"ISMS": A way of describing any attitude, action, or institutional structure which subordinates (oppresses) a person or group because of their target group, color (racism), gender (sexism), economic status (classism), older age (ageism), youth (adultism), religion (i.e., anti-Semitism), sexual orientation (heterosexism), language/immigrant status (xenophobism), etc. (definition developed by the Kirwan Institute).

*Hegemony:* Hegemony is the power or dominance that one social group holds over others. But hegemony is more than social power itself; it is a method for gaining and maintaining power. (Lull, J., 1995).

*Heteronormative:* Heteronormative ideology refers to the belief that there are two separate and opposing genders with associated natural roles that match their assigned sex, and that heterosexuality is a given. (van der Toorn, J., Pliskin, R., & Morgenroth, T., 2020).

*Homophobia*: Encompasses a range of negative attitudes and feelings toward homosexuality or people who are identified or perceived as being lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer (LGBTQ). It has been defined as contempt, prejudice, aversion, hatred or antipathy, may be based on irrational fear and ignorance, and is often related to religious beliefs.

*Islamophobia:* The fear, hatred of, or prejudice against the Islamic religion or Muslims generally, especially when seen as a geopolitical force or the source of terrorism. Several scholars consider Islamophobia to be a form of xenophobia or racism, while others see it's as a form of religious discrimination.

*Latina/o/x:* General term used to reference persons from Latin America—the endings of "a," "o," and/or "x" represent a more gender-inclusive term and is contested by some members of the community.

*LGBTQ+/Queer:* is an initialism that stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender. To recognize this inclusion, a popular variant adds the letter Q for those who identify as queer or are questioning their sexual identity; **LGBTQ** has been recorded since 1996.

**Person first:** The usage of "a person with" different abilities, a person who is deaf or hard of hearing.

**Power and Economics:** The engine that "drive" a system that provides a rationale and elements of cognitive dissonance that is divisive.

*Prejudice*: A negative attitude toward a person or group, based on pre-judgment and evaluation, often using one's own or one's group's standards as the "right" and "only" way (definition developed by the Kirwan Institute).

Privilege/Internalized Entitlement: Concrete benefits of access to resources and social rewards and the power to shape the norms and values of society, unconsciously or consciously. There are unearned entitlements—things that all people should have—such as feeling safe in public spaces, free speech, the ability to work in a place where we feel we can do our best work, and being valued for what we can contribute. When unearned entitlement is restricted to certain groups, however, it becomes the form of privilege that Peggy McIntosh calls "unearned advantage." Unearned advantage gives whites a competitive edge we are reluctant to even acknowledge, much less give up. The other type of privilege is conferred dominance, which is giving one group power over another: the unequal distribution of resources and rewards (definition developed by the Kirwan Institute).

**Racism:** Structures that determine and regularly create racial inequity; institutional norms that sustain White supremacy by allowing the ongoing subordination of minoritized persons; individual actions (both intentional and unconscious) that produce marginalization and cause harm on people who come from marginalized backgrounds, such as BIPOC (Harper, 2009; Harrell, 2000; Jones, 2000).

**Sexual orientation:** Sexual orientation describes a person's enduring physical, romantic, and/or emotional attraction to another person (for example: straight, gay, lesbian, bisexual).

*Transphobia:* The fear, hatred, disbelief, or mistrust of people who are transgender, thought to be transgender, or whose gender expression doesn't conform to traditional gender roles.

# Frequently Asked Questions Guide

The frequently asked questions section is for the Creating Synergy for a Stronger Future grant.

# **Eligibility:**

# What are the eligibility requirements to apply for a grant?

- Health and human service nonprofits within United Way of Greater Rochester and the Finger
   Lakes' six-county region—Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Wayne, and Wyoming counties.
- The nonprofit that has had exemption from Federal Income Tax under Section 501(c)3 of the IRS
  Code and has been registered with (or has verifiable exempt from registration) with the New
  York Charities Bureau since January 1, 2024, or earlier.
- The nonprofit is up to date with all required IRS and NYS Charities Bureau requirements, including annual filings.
- Nonprofits are willing to sign and comply with the requirements for funding outlined in the
  United Way Partnership Agreement. A sample Partnership Agreement is available in the
  Resource Center. This includes submitting a final report outlining project progress, income and
  expenditures, and being willing to provide verification of expenditures upon request.
- Each eligible agency can apply for a maximum of THREE capacity building projects. The maximum request is \$50,000. A completed project form must be submitted for each project.

# My organization does not yet have a 501(c)(3) ruling from the IRS but has applied for one. Can we apply for a grant?

Unfortunately, no. United Way can only accept applications from organizations that have already received tax exemption status from the IRS.

Our organization operates under a fiscal sponsor. May we apply for a grant? No.

# Would an agency or nonprofit be able to submit multiple applications requesting funding for this grant?

Yes. It is acceptable to have an agency or nonprofit to apply for a maximum of three capacity-building projects through this grant opportunity. The agency will need to fill out a separate project form for each project. More details are available within the e-Cimpact grant portal.

# For this grant, are there any reporting requirements?

Yes. A final report will be required for successful applicants and due on January 25, 2026.

For this grant, if a consultant is needed, is the agency required to use the list of consultants connected to United Way?

No. An agency is free to utilize a consultant that is most appropriate to fulfill their request.

# **Application Process**

### How do I apply for the grant?

Our entire application process is online in our e-CImpact grants portal at <a href="https://agency.ehttps://ag

# Do I have to use the online application system?

Yes. All applications and reports must be submitted through our online grants management system, e-CImpact.

# Do I have to have an account to access the online application in e- CImpact?

Yes. An account is required to access and submit an online application.

If your agency has not previously registered, you will need to request access. Go to <a href="https://agency.e-cimpact.com/login.aspx?org=34485F">https://agency.e-cimpact.com/login.aspx?org=34485F</a>, scroll to the bottom of the page, and click on the "Click here to add your agency to e-Cimpact" button. After completing the form, the person submitting will receive an email notification within two business days. After the agency account is approved, the person who has set it up can add additional agency users, as necessary.

If your agency is already set up in e-CImpact (as is the case for all agencies that previously applied for the multiyear program grant in 2024 and/or received a program grant in 2023 to the present) and you need personal access, contact someone at your agency that already has access to e-Cimpact to add you. As an agency's e-Cimpact account includes sensitive information, including staff salaries on budget forms submitted as part of applications and reports, we ask that agencies determine who has access and add additional users themselves.

# I've forgotten my password. What should I do?

If you have forgotten your password, go to <a href="https://agency.e-cimpact.com/login.aspx?org=34485F">https://agency.e-cimpact.com/login.aspx?org=34485F</a> and click on the "Having trouble signing in?" link to have a One-Time Sign In Link sent to the email address associated to your account. United Way of Greater Rochester and the Finger Lakes

# I've forgotten my username. Can you help?

In most cases, your username is the same as the email address you used to create your online account. The exception is if you have more than one account because you work for more than one organization. In that case, email <a href="mailto:ecimpact@unitedwayrocflx.org">ecimpact@unitedwayrocflx.org</a> to request your username.

# Can I save and continue my application at a later time?

Yes, you can save your work on any application form by clicking "Save My Work" at the bottom of the page. Remember to come back to finish all forms and submit before the deadline! Please check out the e-CImpact Resource Center which contains resources on navigating the system and completing your application.

# Will I receive email confirmation that my application was submitted and received successfully?

Yes. Once all forms are completed and ready to submit, the "Submit This Application Now" option will appear. Enter your email in the box next to "Send Submission Confirmation Email To:" then click on "Submit Now."

# Is my organization's information kept private when I apply online?

United Way takes your privacy seriously. We do not sell or share personal information about you or your grant application with other people, companies, or organizations.

### Can I submit an application prior to the deadline?

Yes, applications will be accepted prior to the deadline.

### Will I have an advantage by submitting a request sooner than the deadline date?

No. Submitting a request before the deadline will not guarantee approval nor garner additional points.

# Can I apply for grant funds for more than one project?

Yes, but no more than three. You will need to create a project profile within e-Cimpact for each project for which you are requesting funding. You will also need to complete the form for each project before submitting the application.

#### Can a United Way Community Impact team member speak to me about my application prior to submission?

To remain impartial and fair to all applicants, **United Way is unable to review** the applications of anyone seeking funding or provide any quidance or advice around the details to include within your narrative.

No. To remain impartial and fair to all applicants, United Way is unable to provide any input on proposals.				
What is the minimum or marinary and the control of				
What is the minimum or maximum amount I can apply for?				
There is no minimum amount. The maximum amount is \$50,000 per project.				

Would you be able to review our proposal for input before final submission?

# Sample Partnership Agreement between United Way of Greater Rochester and the Finger Lakes and #AgencyName#

This Agreement acknowledges the partnership between **United Way of Greater Rochester and the Finger Lakes** and **#AgencyName#** in addressing our community's most pressing social needs. We are honored to work with you, and to continue fostering our relationship based on the principles of mutual respect, cooperation, inclusiveness, transparency, and high standards.

# United Way and #AgencyName# commit to:

- Acting as a responsible steward of donor dollars as allocated through Community Impact Fund investments.
- 2. Partnering in a manner that ensures we remain responsible to each other and the community we serve, thus, activating the principles of Trust-Based Philanthropy.
- 3. Building a strong, collaborative, respectful relationship by communicating openly, honestly and often.
- 4. Informing the other promptly of circumstances likely to affect its ability to fulfill commitments to each other or which might reasonably be expected to be of interest or concern to the other party.
- 5. Working to address structural racism, trauma, and community building in our collective work.
- 6. Working cooperatively with other agencies in meeting the needs of the community and promoting high standards of efficiency, effectiveness and quality.
- 7. Complying with laws and reporting requirements for organizations that are tax-exempt under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3) and ensuring that all funds will be used in compliance with all applicable anti-terrorist financing and asset control laws, regulations, rules, and executive orders.
- 8. Ensuring we engage in inclusive and non-discriminatory practices.

- 9. Demonstrating public support of our partnership.
- 10. Recognizing the contributions of members of organized labor to the success of our annual campaign and avoiding contracting which results in union positions being replaced by non-union employees.
- 11. Working collaboratively to evaluate projects and report results to community stakeholders.
- 12. Honoring this agreement during the investment period: January 1, 2026, to January 31, 2027.

# Using reasonable efforts, United Way commits to:

- Conducting a region-wide fundraising campaign with the goal of maximizing Community Impact Fund investments.
- Promoting the Community Impact Fund as the best way to address our community's opportunities and challenges while respecting the donors' right to choose the recipient of their gift.
- 3. Striving to increase the public's understanding of the critical work of Community Impact Fund partners through year-round communication.
- 4. Annually advising the provider partner of their community investment grant amount and making timely and regular payments during the investment year.
- 5. Clearly communicating partner expectations including reporting requirements and due dates.
- 6. Maintaining the confidentiality of sensitive information provided by provider partners.
- 7. Visiting provider partners to observe activities; meet with project staff members; discuss results, successes, and challenges; and problem-solve together.
- 8. Serving as a Hub for Good by hosting learning and educational opportunities for provider partners.

# #AgencyName# commits to:

- Using the United Way grant award for the funded project(s) noted in the award letter. Funding cannot supplement or move to another project without engagement with the Chief Impact Officer.
- Maintaining up-to-date contact information and submitting a timely and accurate final report in <u>e-Clmpact</u> by January 25, 2027. All funds allocated should be expended by **December 31**,
   2026. United Way reserves the right to request return of any unspent grant funds.
- 3. Registering with and maintaining an up-to-date profile at <u>2-1-1 WNY</u> (if operating in Wyoming and/or Genesee Counties) and/or <u>2-1-1 Lifeline</u> (if operating in Monroe, Livingston, Ontario, and/or Wayne Counties).
- 4. Engaging with your assigned Project Officer, Community Relationship Manager, and/or Leadership Development Project Coordinator in a timely manner for a site visit during the project periods. Failure to engage with your Project Officer, Community Relationship Manager, and/or Leadership Development Project Coordinator in a timely manner (beyond 90 days) will result in loss of continual funding and/or make your organization ineligible for future funding opportunities.
- 5. Maintaining the confidentiality of sensitive information provided by United Way.
- 6. Recognizing United Way of Greater Rochester and the Finger Lakes as a funding partner on marketing materials (may be partner logo or name acknowledgment).

At United Way, we believe in the idea that we are *stronger together*. Together we make an important difference, and together we commit to being good stewards of community dollars.

For this reason, we ask that you uphold all aspects of this partnership agreement for funding to be assured, and we agree to do the same. We are so very grateful for all you do, and look forward to a wonderful year ahead, together!