

Fund Description

The Essential Support Fund supports projects/programs that benefit the Racine County community, align with United Way of Racine County's mission and support individuals and families by addressing their most urgent needs. We anticipate the majority of requests will propose enhancements to existing programs, rather than the creation of new efforts. This is a competitive fund and requests that meet requirements are not guaranteed funding. United Way of Racine County reserves the right to adjust the fund structure at any time.

- The fund supports efforts that ensure equitable access to essential resources and services required for an individual's or family's wellbeing. This includes but is not limited to access to:
 - Food, shelter, clothing, healthcare, utilities and safety.

Fund Eligibility

The fund is available to Racine County-serving nonprofits. To be eligible to apply for funds, organization must meet all of the following criteria:

- Serves residents of Racine County, WI.
- Able to provide (upon request) detailed board-approved budgets and financial reports, including an audit or audited financial statements as required by State of Wisconsin Statute 202.12 (1)(b).
- Has been legally incorporated for at least six months.
- Is tax exempt as described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
- Maintains a policy of non-discrimination and equal opportunity, and complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- If currently receiving any funds from United Way, be in compliance with all funding agreements, policies and procedures.

Application Process and Fund Timeline

Requests submitted on or before the last day of the month will be reviewed by United Way's community investment community (CIC) the following month. Applications must be submitted online at www.unitedwayracine.org/ESF. Notification of funding will be issued by the end of the month of review. Grantees are required to submit an end-of-funding report within 60 days of the completion of the project/program/event.

Application Review

The review process is conducted by United Way staff, board members and community investment committee volunteers. Incomplete applications, applications that do not meet the eligibility requirements, and applications with misalignment between the request narrative and request budget will not be considered for funding. Proposals from organizations not in compliance with requirements for other United Way funds, current funding agreements

and/or the community investment policies and procedures at the time of review will not be reviewed.

The president and CEO is responsible for monitoring expenditures from the Community Workforce Fund and reporting them in the monthly financial reports to the board.

All requests are reviewed, approved and monitored by CIC.

Non-allowable Expenses

- Funds cannot be used to cover expenses incurred prior to funding notification.
- Funds cannot be used to supplant existing budgeted items (e.g. existing organization dollars already allocated for the project/program/event cannot be displaced by United Way of Racine Essential Support Fund dollars and reallocated for other organizational expenses).

Request Guidelines

- The maximum request amount is \$20,000.
- The minimum request amount is \$5,000.
- Organizations may be granted a maximum of one Essential Support Fund per calendar year.
- Funding is available until the available Essential Support Fund dollars are exhausted.
- UWRC reserves the right to change the focus of the fund at any time.

Budget Requirements and Grant Payments

- All fund applicants are required to submit a complete and detailed budget and budget narrative using the budget template available at www.unitedwayracine.org/ESF. Budget details should include product sources, quantities, unit costs and calculations.
 - Budget items must include essential services and resources that directly address needs of individuals and families. Items may include but are not limited to services in the following areas:
 - Housing/shelter, food/nutrition, healthcare and medical needs, clothing/personal care, transportation and safety.
- If the total budget for the project exceeds the amount requested from UWRC, there must be clear documentation of already-secured additional funding sources to cover the difference.
- Requests should demonstrate thorough planning that will result in successful implementation.
- Requests must be in whole dollar amounts.

Application Questions

Following submission of the application form at www.unitedwayracine.org/ESF, the individual listed as the Primary Contact on the application will receive an auto-generated confirmation email. The Primary Contact must immediately respond to that email with the following attachments:

- Proof of IRS determination of 501(c)3 status
- Completed United Way of Racine County Community Workforce Fund Budget Template
- Optional: Additional quotes/estimates and/or brochures/registration details you feel will strengthen your proposal.

Eligibility requirements

Organizations that cannot answer Yes to all of the eligibility requirements will not be considered for Community Workforce Fund grants.

- Does your organization serve residents of Racine County, WI?
- Is your organization able to provide detailed financial reports and board-approved budgets upon request?
- Has your organization been legally incorporated for at least six months?
- Is your organization tax exempt as described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code?
- Are you able to provide an audit or audited financial statements as required by the State of Wisconsin Statue 202.12 (1)(b)?
- Does your organization maintain a policy of non-discrimination and equal opportunity, and comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act?

Organization information

- Organization legal name, organization name as you'd like it to appear in print, website address, phone, address, city, state, zip code
- Primary contact name, title, email address and phone
- Organization/fiscal agent EIN

Fiscal agent information

- Do you have a fiscal agent?
 - If yes, the following information is required.
 - Fiscal agent legal name, executive director/CEO name, email address, phone number, website address, phone number, address, city, state, zip.
- All organizations/fiscal agents must provide proof of IRS determination of 501(c)3 status.

Application Questions

- Name of the program/project/event for which your organization is seeking funding.
- Dollar amount requested.
- Provide a brief description (3-4 sentences) of the program/project/event. If you only had a minute to explain your program/project/event to someone, what would you want them to know?
- Provide a brief description (3-4 sentences) of the specific community need/problem to be addressed by this program/project/event.
- How many individual people (unduplicated) will be served by this program/project/event?
- Describe anticipated impact of this program/project/event.
 - (ex. pounds of food to be distributed, number of hotel vouchers, etc.)
- Is there anything else you would like the review committee to consider?
- Budget: Upload a complete and detailed Essential Support Fund budget that includes quantities, unit costs and calculations. The budget template is available at www.UnitedWayRacine.org/ESF. Other budget formats will not be required.

Reporting requirements

All funded projects are required to submit:

- A progress report by March 31, 2026
- A final report by July 31, 2026

If a project is completed prior to March 31, 2026 the March report may serve as the final report. In such cases, no additional reporting will be required in July.

Reporting deadlines will be confirmed at the time of signing the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and will be based on each project's specific timeline. Additional reporting requirements may be stipulated in the funding agreement. Late and/or incomplete reports will negatively impact the organization's eligibility for future United Way of Racine County funding. Information in the report will be shared with United Way staff, board and community investment volunteers, and may also be included in United Way reports, media and publications.

Report questions

The report form can be found and submitted at: www.unitedwayracine.org/ESF

- Organization name
- Name and email address of person completing report
- Name of the project/program/event for which your organization received funding
- Describe any deviance from proposed activities to actual activities.
- How many unduplicated individuals were served by this program/project/event?

United Way of Racine County Essential Support Fund
Description, Application Questions and Reporting Requirements



- Describe the direct impact the funding had on the individuals served by this project/program/event.
- Describe any indirect impact the funding had on your clients/participants and/or community.
- Share any specific measurable results achieved because of this funding.
- Provide a photo(s) (with media release) that demonstrates the impact of the grant.
- Provide a 2-3 sentence statement of impact that can be used as a stand-alone quote. Include the name and title of the person quoted.
- Provide links to any social media posts, media releases, marketing collateral, etc. related to the project/program/event/funded.
- Is there any additional information you would like to report?