

Fund Description

United Way of Racine County's Youth As Resources (YAR) empowers young people to make a positive difference in Racine County through grant making and community service. YAR provides grants to fund youth-designed, youth-led community service and service learning projects. YAR projects feature youth as planners and volunteers while creatively address specific community needs or problems, such as environmental, social and cultural awareness issues. The Youth As Resources pool of funds is a subset of the community investment pool. The purpose and function of YAR is to support United Way's community impact strategies as follows:

- Provide funding for supplies needed to complete youth-designed, youth-led community service and service learning projects.
- Promote youth as valuable community members who have ideas and are able to take on responsibilities with energy and skill.
- Empower youth to develop and apply their ability to change themselves and the world in which they live through active participation in the relationships, events and organizations that impact their lives.
- Foster youth/adult partnerships where adults play a significant role as respectful partners and both youth and adults share power and decision making.
- Promote the direct involvement of youth in their communities as productive workers, as change agents, and as advocates for themselves and others in organizations throughout the community.
- Promote youth gaining knowledge and new skills while providing support and challenging opportunities.

Youth As Resources Committee

The Youth As Resources (YAR) committee is composed of student ambassadors representing the Academies of Racine at Mitchell Community School, the Academies of Racine at Gifford, and the Academies of Racine at Jerstad-Agerholm. The YAR committee members may meet collectively or within their respective schools. The YAR committee is responsible for reviewing funding requests and making funding recommendations to United Way of Racine County staff. The special projects manager serves as the main point of contact for the YAR committee. The academy coaches are responsible for convening and supporting the YAR committee members.

Fund Eligibility

Any group of youth in the Racine Unified School District's middle school academies eighth grade capstone class may apply for a YAR grant up to and including \$500.

YAR grants are awarded to projects that:

- Are planned, led and implemented by youth with adult advisors.
- Address a community need or problem clearly and creatively.
- Can be started and finished by the same group of youth in a reasonable amount of time.
- Have solid, well-organized plans and a realistic, cost-effective budget.
- Create and work within the community through the donation of services, talents and materials.
- Publicize the positive work being done by youth to improve Racine County.
- Include reflection activities that help youth gain insight into how they can make the world a better place.

Non-allowable Expenses

United Way of Racine County Youth As Resources Fund Description, Application Questions and Reporting Requirements



YAR grants cannot be used to cover:

- Overhead costs (rent, electric bills, etc.)
- Salaries, wages, stipends, or honorariums
- Direct donations to other organizations
- Capital items (computers, power tools, etc.)
- Items purchased prior to receiving notification of a YAR grant award for this project
- Items or supplies that will result in a profit for the group receiving the grant, or for other groups

Application Timeline

The 2024-25 YAR application period opens in October 2024. There are two deadlines:

- Friday, November 8, 2024
- Spring 2025 deadline TBD

Applications are reviewed by the YAR board the following week:

- Week of November 11-15, 2024
- Spring 2025 TBD

Notification of funding status will be sent to the designated youth:

- By November 18, 2024
- Spring 2025 TBD

Application and Funding Process

- Funding request submissions require two elements: a grant application and a short video that describes the project plan. Requests must be submitted via email to ktuttle@unitedwayracine.org.
- The YAR grant application is available to download at www.unitedwayracine.org/yar.
- The YAR committee makes funding recommendations based on the project's ability to meet the funding guidelines and the potential impact of the project.
- Funding recommendations may contain specific conditions.
- Submission of a proposal that meets all requirements does not guarantee funding.
- Recommendations from the YAR committee for grants up to and including \$500 are reviewed and approved by United Way of Racine County's president and CEO, or by the chief operating officer and community investment director.
- The president and CEO is responsible for monitoring expenditures from the YAR pool and reporting them in the monthly financial reports to the board.
- United Way of Racine County reserves the right to change the focus of the fund at any time.
- The special projects manager is available for consultation throughout the planning and application process and throughout implementation and completion of approved projects.
- All funding notifications will be provided via email within two weeks of review.
- Unused funds and inappropriately used funds must be returned to United Way of Racine County.

Reporting Requirements

The youth group is required to submit a report to Special Projects Manager Katie Tuttle at ktuttle@unitedwayracine.org within 30 days of the completion of the YAR-funded project. Additional reporting requirements may be stated in the funding agreement. Information included in this 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, including the impact report to our community:

- The reporting requirements are comprised of two parts:
 1. The youth group must submit the recording of the capstone presentation to ktuttle@unitedwayracine.org. The presentation must include a summary of the following:
 - The project idea and how the project went from start to finish.
 - The community need or problem that the project addressed.
 - How well the project met the goals and followed the original project plan.
 - Lessons learned through the experience, including what went well and any roadblocks and solutions.
 - The success of the project, including how success was determined.
 2. The youth group must submit a written report that includes the following information. A report template will be provided.
 - Title of project
 - School
 - Name of youth completing the report
 - Teacher name
 - When did your project start and finish?
 - Where did your project take place?
 - Total number of youth volunteers (ages 4-24)
 - Total number of adult volunteers (25+ years old)
 - How many hours of service were completed by youth volunteers?
 - How many hours of service were completed by adult volunteers?
 - How many people were helped or received services from your project?
 - 2-3 sentence reflection statement from an adult associated with the project that describes the impact the project had on the students who were responsible for planning and implementing. Include the adult's name and role.
 - 2-3 sentence reflection statement from at least one student that demonstrates what the student feels they learned through the process of planning and implementing the project.
 - Examples of publicity related to the project (links to social media posts, press releases, etc.).
 - Project budget summary that compares proposed budget to actual costs.



YAR APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Group Information

Youth contact name:

Youth contact age:

Youth contact email:

School Information

Name of school youth group attends:

Class period:

Adult Information

Adult contact name:

Adult contact phone number:

Adult contact email:

Project Plan

How many students are actively involved in the planning and implementation of this project?

How many adults are actively involved in the planning and implementation of this project?

Dollar amount requested:

Who will be helped by or receive service from this project?

How many people will be helped by or receive service from this project?

What is your project idea?

- **Tell us about your project in 4-5 sentences. Imagine you are on an elevator with someone who is interested in your project and only have a few seconds to tell them about your project idea! What would you say? Your summary should include what you hope to accomplish and how you will do it.**

What community need or problem does your project address?

Why did your group choose this issue to address? Why do you care about it?

What do you think you will learn by doing this project?

Project start date:

Project end date:

Where in Racine County will your project take place? Be specific.

Explain your project step-by-step, including dates when tasks will be finished. It is helpful to number each step. You can include steps leading up to applying for this grant in a timeline format.

What does success look like for this project? Describe the results that you hope to have.

Name any other groups or organizations that you are partnering with on this project.

Is there anything else we should know about your project?

