



COMMUNITY INVESTMENT GRANT GUIDELINES

United Way of Northwest Arkansas (UWNWA) is committed to creating pathways to prosperity that increase opportunities for children and families to live and grow in a thriving, nurturing environment. Thanks to the generosity of the Northwest Arkansas community, United Way is proud to announce the next grant opportunity for 2022.

FUNDING PRIORITY

As a mobilizer of community resources, UWNWA works in collaboration with partners throughout the region to raise funds that support programs to increase the capacity of children and families so they can achieve their fullest human potential.

In the Northwest Arkansas region, more than 196,000 households are defined as A.L.I.C.E. and/or living in poverty. A.L.I.C.E. (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) refers to members of our community who go to work, sometimes working more than one job, but still struggle to afford basic expenses and are unable to access opportunities for their families to thrive. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of vulnerable households continues to increase. More information regarding A.L.I.C.E. can be found at <https://www.unitedforalice.org/>.

UWNWA investments are focused on empowering families to prosper, and funding priority will be given to programs serving a significant population of these vulnerable households. To ensure more opportunities to thrive, our three funding focus areas are:

- **Early Learning:** The first years of life are critical for healthy brain development and for children to get the boost they need to be ready to learn and thrive. Early Learning programs will ensure that children, parents, caregivers, and families are working together to strengthen school readiness skills.
- **Quality Out-of-School Time:** Quality Out-of-School Time programs increase academic success, expand exploration of career paths, and result in positive outcomes for children. This funding area focuses on increasing access to programs that will build the capacity for greater success.
- **Developing Self-Sufficiency:** Developing Self-Sufficiency programs will ensure the future economic stability of children and families by strengthening workforce readiness skills and increasing the capacity of youth and families to acquire a sustainable living wage.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible programs must meet the following criteria:

- Be implemented by a 501(c)3 organization or education institution
- Align within one of the funding focus areas
- Provide services primarily in or is based in Benton, Madison, or Washington Counties

- Meet the criteria for responsible financial stewardship including:
 - Submission of most recent financial filing (Form 990)
 - Submission of Audit or Financial Review based on the following conditions:
 - An Organization is required to have a full audit for any grant, federal funding or state funding, or any other purpose must submit this same audit to the UWNWA, no matter what amount of funding is requested.
 - An Organization funded by the UWNWA who receives an annual allocation of \$50,000 or more, must have an annual audit, consistent with General Accounting Principles; conducted by a certified public accountant and must submit the results of such audit, together with the accountant's management letter, to the UWNWA. The CPA must be independent of the client and the financial statements must contain all required disclosures.
 - Any Organization funded by UWNWA whose annual budget exceeds \$50,000 and receives an allocation of \$10,000 - \$49,999 may submit a Formal Review conducted by a CPA in lieu of an audit. The CPA must be independent of the client.
 - Management letter from CPA is absent of any material weaknesses, significant deficiencies, going concern, or other adverse opinion
 - A minimum in cash reserves equal to or greater than 30 days of operating expenses
 - Requested UWNWA funding cannot exceed 30% of total organizational budget

While the grant opportunity is open to any nonprofit that meets the eligibility criteria outlined above, all requests will be considered by the Community Investment Committee but there is no guarantee of automatic awards or fully funded requests.

INFORMATION SESSIONS

Information sessions will be held on the following dates via Zoom:

- Tuesday, September 14, 2021 at 3 p.m.
- Wednesday, September 15, 2021 at 10 a.m.
- Thursday, September 16, 2021 at 2 p.m.

Please register for a session at the following link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8PCRGMG>.

HOW TO APPLY

Applications will be available online on August 30, 2021 through the UWNWA Grant Portal (<https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=UWNWA>). If you do not have an account, please create a new account to access the grant application.

The deadline to submit a grant application is **October 18, 2021 at 12 noon CST**. Applications will only be accepted online and are limited to one submission per organization. Applications may be submitted for 1 or 2 years of funding support. UWNWA anticipates awarding the grants in early January 2022.

SELECTION DECISIONS

The applications will be reviewed by a panel of community volunteers to determine which programs will be approved for funding. UWNWA is committed to conducting a transparent process and will adhere to the following guidelines:

- Submissions for UWNWA funding opportunities and award decisions are reviewed and scored by community volunteers (Community Investment Grant Committee).
- Members of the Grant Committee may not be employed by or serve on the board of any applicant seeking funding.
- UWNWA may elect to not advance any applicants with known management, fiscal, reporting, program or other problems that make it unlikely they would be able to fulfill the grant requirements.
- Qualification under the eligibility criteria requirements does not entitle an organization to be selected.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR AWARDED PROGRAMS

Awarded programs should be able to comply with certain requirements, including:

- Expenditure of grant funds by December 31, 2022 (for 1-year funding request) or December 31, 2023 (for 2-year funding request).
- Submission of a mid-cycle update, which may consist of a site visit or staff conversation.
- Submission of a final report.

Failure to comply with reporting standards may prohibit organizations from being eligible for future funding opportunities.

QUESTIONS?

Please contact the following UWNWA team members:

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