



United Way of Central and  
Northeastern Connecticut

**United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut  
*Neighbors in Need: COVID-19 Response***

**Funding Opportunity**

United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut (United Way) is making funds available for eligible organizations to apply for one-time funding to support residents who have been adversely impacted by the pandemic.

**Eligibility Requirements**

Organizations must meet the following requirements in order to apply:

- Be exempt from federal income tax under the Internal Revenue Code, Section 501(c)(3) or have a fiscal sponsor/agent that is exempt; public entities (i.e. school district, municipality, etc.) will also be considered.
- Organization/fiscal sponsor has been in operation and has had tax exemption for a minimum of three fiscal years.
- Organization/fiscal sponsor has an independent annual audit or financial review which reflects a clean opinion and a sound financial position.
- Must be a registered nonprofit with the State of Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection Charity Unit and abide by all state laws regulating charities (if applicable).
- Serves individuals/families in United Way's [catchment area](#).
- Affirms United Way's Policy of Non-Discrimination.
- Grants permission by virtue of the application that information can be shared with other philanthropic partners as we work to coordinate efforts and maximize resources.
- Will actively assist marketing efforts in providing human interest stories and related information, promoting United Way *Neighbors in Need* and recognizing United Way as a partner.

**Community Priorities**

Asset-Limited, Income-Constrained, Employed (ALICE) households already walk a tight financial rope, and with this crisis, we know that many are facing even more of a challenge. We anticipate that needs may grow and change over time, but in this initial phase we are prioritizing support for ALICE households that are immediately and disproportionately impacted due to this crisis, through the following:

- Organizations providing services that address basic human needs such as: food, shelter, safety from domestic violence/sexual assault, mental/physical health, rent/mortgage or utility assistance, or other identified needs;
- Organizations providing childcare to essential workers.

**Proposal Submission and Review Process**

Applications are available on our website beginning March 27, 2020 and will be accepted on a rolling basis. Access to our proposal and required documents for submission can be found [here](#). Any agencies that have not previously applied for funding through United Way of Central and Northeastern CT will be required to create an account in order to access the application. The proposals will be reviewed and evaluated by United Way staff and volunteers on a monthly basis. Funding amounts will be determined based on funds available at the time of review, number of proposals, and ability to demonstrate that funds will directly support aforementioned priorities.

**Notification**

Notification of awards will be made the month following submission. Agencies that are approved for funding will receive an award letter explaining reporting requirements, partnership expectations, and details regarding payment of award.

## **FAQ**

### **I'm an individual who's been affected by COVID-19. Can the *Neighbors in Need* Fund help me?**

We understand many individuals and families have been affected by the outbreak already and more will continue to be affected. United Way is working to move resources to community-based organizations that are directly supporting residents and families who are most affected by emerging health, economic, and social impacts.

While we are not able to provide grants to individuals, we will be funding community-based organizations that have experience and history of providing people and families with services and support. As we begin to award grants, we will post them on this page. Please check back for a list of the organizations that may be able to assist you. If you are looking for resources now, please contact United Way 211 by dialing 211 or visiting <https://www.211ct.org>.

### **My organization is interested in resources from the *Neighbors in Need* Fund, but we are not currently a United Way Community Investment partner. Can we be considered?**

Yes, if your organization meets the criteria listed above your organization can be considered. We understand COVID-19 is impacting nonprofits in many ways, including increased demand for their services, lost revenue due to closures and cancellations, as well as other challenges. We are working to ensure that the resources awarded meet the greatest needs in communities disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. You may contact Liz Buczynski, Director of Community Investment at [lbuczynski@unitedwayinc.org](mailto:lbuczynski@unitedwayinc.org) or 860-493-1106 to make sure we are aware of your organization's work supporting economically vulnerable residents and families.

### **I want to donate. Can I restrict my funding to a prioritized grantee?**

The *Neighbors in Need* Fund was created in the hopes of providing a way to coordinate as many resources as possible in response to the greatest community needs. Funds contributed to *Neighbors in Need* may not be designated to a specific agency at this time.

### **Should I give to the *Neighbors in Need* Fund instead of making other donations?**

*Neighbors in Need* was not created to be the only vehicle resourcing critical community activities during this outbreak. Rather it is working to facilitate getting more targeted resources into the community where they are needed most. If the *Neighbors in Need* priorities align with your values, please consider donating. However, this is a critical time for so many, including the nonprofit organizations who've benefited from your giving in the past, as well as those who've had to cancel their annual fundraising events or depend heavily on public gatherings. Please continue to give to organizations you regularly support, and those that need your help at this crucial time. Now is the time to double down for our community as we gain greater awareness of the depth and scale of the long-term ramifications of the outbreak.

### **What will NOT be included in the first phase of funding?**

We anticipate multiple phases of funding to address both the acute needs now and the longer-term impacts of the outbreak and recovery. In this first phase, we are prioritizing community-based organizations that are serving communities and individuals who are immediately and disproportionately suffering from this crisis. In this first round, we are not able to prioritize organizations that have lost revenue or are likely to lose future revenue due to canceled events or programs. We recognize these challenges, and as the crisis and long-term impacts continue to unfold, we will continue to assess and evolve our funding strategies.