



United Way of Central and
Northeastern Connecticut

FAQ: United for Racial Equity, United We Read, United for ALICE

1. Can organizations apply for more than one funding area?

Yes

2. Can organizations apply for the same program in more than one area?

Organizations may respond to the RFP in which they can best demonstrate achievement of the outcome goals for the impact area. All organizations that meet eligibility requirements are welcome to apply for capacity-building support through United for Racial Equity.

3. What is the funding period?

Decisions regarding funding awards will be made in January 2022. Most award periods will begin immediately upon approval and will conclude on December 31, 2022. However depending on the scope of work proposed, we are open to a different proposed timeline.

4. Will there be additional RFP's in 2022?

Yes, we anticipate that there will be additional funding opportunities later in the year.

5. Are organizations that do not have their own 501c3 eligible to apply?

In order to receive funds, organizations must be deemed tax-exempt by the Internal Revenue Code, Section 501(c)(3) or have a fiscal sponsor/agent that is exempt. For questions regarding this criteria, please contact Liz Buczynski to discuss further at lbuczynski@unitedwayinc.org.

6. Are schools or municipalities eligible to apply?

Public agencies (such as schools or municipalities) may be considered upon request; please contact Liz Buczynski to discuss further at lbuczynski@unitedwayinc.org.

7. We do not have a recent audit, can we apply?

Organizations receiving support must commit to having an annual audit or independent financial review. If your organization has not completed one in the past year, please contact Liz Buczynski to discuss your circumstances at lbuczynski@unitedwayinc.org.

8. How much can we request?

Please note the recommended funding guidelines in the individual RFP notices.

9. Can we request multi-year funding?

We are not making multi-year awards at this time; however, you are welcome to describe your project goals beyond the grant period.

10. How is capacity building defined?

Capacity building is an investment in the effectiveness and future sustainability of a nonprofit. Some examples include Board and staff development and/or training, program development and evaluation, strategic planning and organizational assessment and/or planning (such as fundraising, marketing, and communications); improving financial management practices, etc.

11. Will you consider advocacy and public policy work?

Yes, we will consider advocacy/policy activities directly conducted by eligible organizations.

12. How is systems change defined?

Systems change is about addressing the root causes of social problems, which are often intractable and embedded in networks of cause and effect. It is an intentional process designed to fundamentally alter the components and structures that cause the system to behave in a certain way.

13. How are funding decisions made?

United Way staff and volunteers will review and evaluate applications; all funding decisions are made by United Way's volunteer Board of Directors.

14. Our headquarters is located out of state. Can we still apply?

The applicant/fiscal sponsor must be a registered nonprofit with the State of Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection Charity Unit and abide by all state laws regulating charities. The program seeking support must benefit the community in our local service area in central and northeastern Connecticut ([link to map](#)).

15. What is United Way's Affirmation of Non-Discrimination?

The applicant must affirm that its program(s)/services do not discriminate against individuals or permit discrimination against any person or group of persons except in the case of a bona fide occupational qualification on the grounds of race, color, religious creed, age, marital status, familial status, national origin, ancestry, sex, gender identity or expression, intellectual disability, mental disability, learning disability, lawful sources of income, sexual orientation or physical disability, including but not limited to, blindness or deafness, or any other protected class not identified herein.

It is required that both the local organization and sponsoring organization, such as a National affiliate, affirm that they do not discriminate (if applicable).

16. Are there certain characteristics or criteria which will be weighted more strongly?

United Way and volunteers will review all applications utilizing the same rubric and evaluation tools. We strongly value collaboration and efforts which demonstrate coordination across communities or service-type. Priority consideration will be given to those initiatives that address systems changes through collaborative community initiatives. In addition, we firmly believe in approaches that are inclusive of community voice, can demonstrate best practices, as well as have a history of achieving outcomes.