

Request for Partnership:

United Way of the Franklin & Hampshire Region (UWFH)

2024 Three-Year, Programmatic, General Operating Support Partnerships

Two Opportunities:

- Youth Wellness & Mental Health Aligned Impact Partnerships
- Children, Youth, and their Families General Partnerships

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Mission: UWFH's mission is to work in partnership with our community to identify and address our region's most pressing issues. We inspire and engage individuals and organizations to invest together in overcoming those challenges.

Vision: Our vision is that all individuals and families have equitable access to the tools and resources to support their basic needs and ensure future successes. In doing so, we build a strong, vibrant, and inclusive community.

UWFH Values

- **Equity:** We understand and acknowledge that we live in a world with systemic racism, economic disparities, and other forms of intersectional disadvantages. We are committed to addressing those inequities at the organizational and individual level.
- **Human Dignity:** We treat all people respectfully and operate in ways that celebrate everyone's humanity.
- **Collaboration:** We work collaboratively with each other, our partners, and our communities to make the most of our combined resources.
- **Accountability:** We hold ourselves accountable to high ethical, administrative, programmatic, and fiscal standards.
- **Curiosity & Learning:** We strive to ask questions rather than make judgements. We are committed to learning from our successes and our mistakes.

This RFP describes two funding (partnership) opportunities available to distinct programs of nonprofit agencies providing substantive services within our coverage area, focusing on Children, Youth, and their Families, and following eligibility guidelines.

- **Program staff or a direct supervisor from the applicant program must attend a mandatory, in-person, informational session in January 2024 to be eligible to apply.** Grant writers and/or consultants, while welcome to attend, do NOT count towards this requirement.
- **This funding may be used for general operating support within the distinct program outlined in the application.** Our funding is impact-based and we do not seek to micromanage its use. Non-allowable uses of funds are outlined later in this RFP.
- We typically will not fund above 30% of a program's budget.
- Receiving funding from United Way does not imply continued support outside of the funding period.

There are two partnership opportunities available. **Applicants may apply for both.**

FUNDING FOCUS AREAS (TWO OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARTNERSHIP)

1) *ALIGNED IMPACT PARTNERSHIPS FOCUSED ON YOUTH WELLNESS AND MENTAL HEALTH*

Youth Wellness and Mental Health has reached a crisis point. It has repeatedly been identified as the number one emergent need facing youth in our region in local needs assessments and in our United Way's community outreach. UWFH seeks to drive **aligned impact** and **collaboration** to help solve this challenge by announcing the availability of three-year partnerships to distinct programs of nonprofit organizations and/or coalitions who are interested in working to address this need in a collaborative way.

- **Total available funding is over \$200,000 a year for three years. We anticipate partnerships will be in the \$40,000-\$50,000 range, per year for three years. That being said, we encourage larger requests from collective impact initiatives and/or multi-agency collaborations.** Multi-agency collaborations must extend beyond routine cross-referrals.
- For our purposes, supporting youth wellness and mental health is broadly defined and may include, but is not limited to, support for social activities, mental health, mentoring, and skill building; activities that create community and build belonging in order to nurture healthy development of youth ages 11-22.
- We will prioritize projects that focus on key communities of concern, specifically BIPOC youth, LGBTQ+ youth, youth with disabilities, youth in isolated rural areas, and youth suffering from trauma.
- We will prioritize projects/activities that have actively engaged youth in the development process and continue to seek feedback from youth voices during implementation.
- **UWFH looks to build a multi-agency approach to addressing Youth Wellness and Mental Health. Programs partnering with us will be expected to participate in forums and conversations to help drive alignment between different organizations and programs working on the same problem.**
- This application process will be more intensive and longer than the second option. It will also include site visits by reviewers.
- Due to the size of these grants, their availability is limited. UWFH will likely only fund 4 to 6 of these projects. Applicants may apply for both partnership opportunities.
- We encourage programs and/or coalitions seeking funding through this opportunity to reach out to UWFH staff directly before submitting an application.

For more information about youth wellness and mental health needs in our region, please review these local data sources (links available on our website):

[Baystate Franklin Medical Center's 2022 Community Health Needs Assessment](#)

[Cooley Dickinson Hospital's 2022 Community Health Needs Assessment](#)

[Public Health Institute of Western Mass Youth Mental Health Roadmap](#)

2) *PARTNERSHIPS FOCUSED ON CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND THEIR FAMILIES MORE BROADLY*

Children, Youth, and their Families partnerships will target programs that nurture the healthy growth, development, and general well-being of children, youth, and their families with an emphasis on approaches that are preventative, address needs early, and engage whole families.

- **Funding available via these partnerships is up to \$15,000 a year for three years.**
- We will prioritize projects that focus on key communities of concern, specifically Children, Youth, and their Families who are BIPOC, LGBTQ+, living with disabilities, living in isolated rural areas, and/or suffering from trauma.
- Projects requesting support through this partnership opportunity may also focus on Youth Wellness.
- This application process will be less intensive than the first option. However, all following information in this RFP applies to both opportunities.

FUNDING CONSIDERATIONS

Our region is diverse, and addressing the most pressing needs can be complex. Our goal is to fund the most effective and efficient programs that address these needs, balancing crisis response, prevention, and/or stabilization. We consider a diverse range of local programs. Specifically, we look at:

- **Agency and program stability:** We review leadership, finances, rates of success, and potential.
- **Large and small organizations:** We fund all sizes.
- **Supporting Hampshire County and Franklin County,** especially the most economically depressed areas. (Please note that South Hadley and Granby are not part of the UWFH coverage area.)
- **Multi-purpose agencies:** Applications must be for distinct programs within agencies. Even though funding is flexible, it must be used within that program.
- **Supporting the most vulnerable and/or underserved members of our community.**
- **Typically, we will not fund above 30% of a program budget.**
- **We encourage applications from multi-agency collaborations.** To be considered, program activities must extend beyond routine cross-referrals and/or networking. Applicants must clearly outline the following:
 - **One agency as the lead,** responsible for coordination, tracking results, reporting, and financial management.
 - **A plan,** including meaningful and substantive joint programming with clear goals, metrics, and measures of success.

2024 Funding Timeline

1. RFP Released: Application with narrative questions opens online.	January 2024
2. Mandatory Info Sessions Hampshire County: Hadley Public Library, Hadley Franklin County: FRCOG/John W. Olver Center – Allen Room, Greenfield	January 2024 Thurs., Jan. 18 @ 10:00 AM Fri., Jan. 19 @ 2:00 PM
3. Application Due	Fri., March 1, 2024
4. Site Visits	March/April 2024
5. Notification of Funding Decisions	June 2024
6. Contractual Documents Finalized	June 2024
7. Funding Released (1 st monthly payment)	July 2024

GENERAL GRANT INFORMATION

Eligibility

UWFH funds programs that effectively identify community needs and that are designed to achieve measurable results. To be eligible for funding, applicants must meet all of the following criteria:

- **Currently provide substantive services to residents of Hampshire County and/or Franklin County,** Massachusetts, with the exception of South Hadley and Granby, which are not part of the UWFH coverage area.
- **Have a board of directors** that is in compliance with the bylaws of the organization.
- **Practice nondiscrimination** with respect to employment, volunteer participation, and the provision of services on the basis of race, color, creed, ethnicity, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender expression, physical or mental disability, age, ancestry, veteran status, or any other class protected by applicable law.
- **Hold all applicable local, state, and federal licenses and certifications** to support its programs and operations.
- **Comply with all federal and state laws and regulations concerning anti-terrorism activities.**
- **Be financially stable** and able to submit a current/recent financial audit or audited financial statement (if large enough to be required by state law to have an audit), as well as an IRS 990 or 990EZ tax form (if required for the agency).

- **Current partners must be up-to-date and in compliance with required reporting.**

Non-allowable Uses of Funding

- Capital projects and/or campaigns
 - Debt reduction
 - Academic research
 - Endowments
 - Sectarian or religious purposes
 - Support for candidates for public office or to promote a partisan cause
 - We do not directly fund government agencies, schools, or hospitals. We will fund programs working with or within those venues, however.
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PROGRAM MEASURES

UWFH is accountable to the community, its donors, volunteers, and board of directors to ensure that funds are used appropriately, that they deliver results, and that they produce the maximum intended benefit for those most in need. Applicants must be able to:

1. **Identify and clearly describe the community need** they intend to address.
 - a. Who is your target population?
 - b. What are your program goals?
2. **Describe the program's design in relation to the community need.**
3. **Identify what resources** are needed to make the program design work.
4. **Measure and describe whether or not the program is successfully** having an impact on the community need.

REQUIRED APPLICATION MATERIALS

All to be submitted via UWFH's online grants portal, e-CImpact.

UWFH Forms and Materials

- Application forms, including responses to narrative questions

Agency/Program Documentation

- Proposed program budget

Government and Other Documentation for the Most Recent Year Available

- IRS Form 990 or 990EZ (If there are special circumstances regarding your agency's tax filing, please contact the UWFH directly about this issue. For collaborations, provide forms from each agency.)
 - Audit and/or audited financial statements (if required by state of Massachusetts)
 - Certificate for Solicitation (issued by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts)
 - Certifications (if applicable)
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PROPOSAL REVIEW & APPROVALS PROCESS

Proposal Review Process

To ensure accountability and transparency, UWFH has established the following application review and decision-making process:

1. **Review:** Applications will be reviewed by UWFH's Community Investment Committee, as well as by teams of community reviewers with support from UWFH staff.

2. **Recommendations:** UWFH's Community Investment Committee will make recommendations to the UWFH Board of Directors.
3. **Determinations:** Final determinations will be made by the UWFH Board of Directors. UWFH's grant application process involves extensive community input, transparency, and due diligence. All decisions made by the UWFH Board of Directors are final.
4. **Notifications:** Notification of decisions will be made in June of 2024.

Post-grant Requirements

After having been awarded a grant and prior to receiving funds, agencies must:

- **Enter into a Funding Agreement** with UWFH, which stipulates:
 - Program and financial progress reports.
 - Periodic site visits during grant period.
- **Enter into a Partnership Agreement** with UWFH, which stipulates:
 - Participating in capacity-building activities.
 - Recognizing UWFH funding support.
 - Providing clear online program information.

Continuing Assessment

UWFH will conduct periodic assessments of grant programs. These reviews will require that grantees regularly provide programmatic and financial data, in addition to other considerations. This data will be used to ensure that the program is meeting its measures of success, and that participants are experiencing the intended benefits. Continuation of funding throughout the grant period is contingent upon program performance.

All funded programs must have data-gathering systems in place to enable timely reporting. Reports will be submitted electronically, as determined by UWFH. All grantees are expected to cooperate with assessment activities deemed necessary by UWFH. Applicants may propose their own evaluation activities, but these may not be in lieu of participation in UWFH evaluation activities.

Contact Information

If you have questions regarding any aspect of this RFP, please contact:

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United Way of the
Franklin & Hampshire Region

