

UNITED IS THE WAY

Information Session
Spring 2025



Overview

- Introductions & Background
- RFP Overview
- Application Overview
- Closing
- Questions



Introductions & Background



Our Vision

A Rhode Island where every individual in each community had equal opportunity for justice and prosperity.



Our Mission

Uniting our community and resources to build racial equity and opportunities for all Rhode Islanders.



- “United Is The Way” is designed to provide needed resources to Rhode Islanders and to the community-based organizations serving them through this unpredictable time, focused on key priority areas.
- United Way will expand programming and support for nonprofits through the Alliance for Nonprofit Impact, expand services for residents through 211 and community outreach, and expand grantmaking and technical assistance to local nonprofits that provide vital support to their communities.

United Is The Way Overview

RFP Overview



Stability & Sustainability

Alliance for Nonprofit Impact:

Technical assistance, cohort-based training programs in areas such as scenario and strategic planning, revenue generation, grant writing, strategic partnerships, and restructuring (partnerships, mergers, collaboration, etc.)

Legal Assistance

Alliance for Nonprofit Impact:

Pro bono legal assistance from The Lawyers' Committee for Rhode Island, providing legal technical assistance, education, and support for RI nonprofits via the Nonprofit Legal Protection Project.



Resources

- [Alliance membership](#) (still free!)
- [Registration for Legal Technical Assistance for Federal Grantees and Subawardees](#)
- Legal Office Hours
 - 4/10, 11:30am - [Termination of Federal Grants](#)
 - 4/23, 10am - [DEI Certification](#)
 - 5/8, 11am - [Changes in Grant Conditions](#)
- [Request Support, Training, or Technical Assistance](#)

[Small Business Hub](#) – Services include

- Strategic/Business Planning
- Legal Advice (risk management, compliance)

[Upcoming Alliance Events](#)

- 4/15 Office Hours with Shaun Ting, Business Data Analyst
- 4/16 Understanding the State Budget with OMB
- 4/21 Alliance Monthly Fundraising Learning Session
- 4/22 Banking Services and Nonprofit Lending
- 4/23 Monthly Advocacy Office Hours
- 401Gives Debrief events



Special Opportunity Grants

Community Investments

Financial assistance to RI-serving nongovernmental organizations (NGO) impacted by reductions, delays, or termination of government funding, focused on basic needs (food, shelter, safety, access to healthcare and emergency relief) for marginalized and vulnerable RI residents.



Grant Details



Grant Details

Grant Amount

Up to \$50,000, with average anticipated grants of \$25,000-\$30,000

Grant Type:

General Operating Dollars

Eligibility

Rhode Island-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations or fiscally sponsored organizations. Priority consideration will be given to organizations impacted by reductions, delays or termination of government funding.

Application Overview



United Way of Rhode Island



Logon

Email Address*

roshni.darnal@unitedwayri.org

Password*

.....

Log On

Create New Account

[Forgot your Password?](#)

Welcome to the United Way of Rhode Island's Online Portal.

New Users: Please click on "Create New Account" to complete the registration process and create your logon credentials.

(NOTE: United Way has transitioned to a new grants platform. If you have applied to United Way grants before December 2020, through the Agency Portal, you will still be required to create a new account)

Existing Users: Please enter your credentials and log in. If you forgot your password, please use the "Forgot your Password?" link to the

 Fields with an asterisk (*) are required.

- > Overview
- > Eligibility Questions 
- > General Request Information 
- > Narrative
- > Anticipated Outcomes
- > Organizational Budget
- > Additional Information

Scoring Rubric



	1- Unsatisfactory	2- Adequate	3- Exemplary	Score	Weight Score	Comments
1. Proposal Alignment	Proposal aligns somewhat to priority areas but lacks strong connection.	Proposal somewhat aligns with one or more other priority area and meets eligibility requirements.	Proposal clearly aligns with one or more of the priority area and meets ALL eligibility requirements (501c3 status or fiscal sponsor). Organization has a clear mission, vision and values that guide their work.		0	
2. Community Need & Urgency	Identifies a community need but lacks supporting details or urgency.	Clearly articulates a pressing community need, supported by data or examples; demonstrates an urgent or emergent situation.	Clearly articulates a pressing community need, supported by data or examples; demonstrates an urgent or emergent situation. Organization demonstrates its ability to respond to emergent situation through past experiences.		0	
3. Proposed Impact & Anticipated Outcomes	Outcomes are somewhat defined but lack clear metrics for measurement.	Outcomes are defined and align with the funding priority area; potential for community impact, but limited in scope	Clearly defined, measurable, and achievable outcomes that align with the funding priority area; displays proof of community impact and learning through data and measurement.		0	
4. Budget & Use of Funds	Budget is vague, incomplete, or lacks alignment with proposed activities.	Budget is provided but lacks sufficient detail or justification in some areas.	Detailed and reasonable budget with clear justification for each expenditure; funding request is well aligned with priority areas.		0	
5. Sustainability & Organizational Capacity	Organization has capacity but limited plans for long-term sustainability.	Demonstrates strong organizational capacity to implement and sustain the program beyond the grant period.	Organization demonstrates strong organization capacity and has the ability to scale programs if demand requires.		0	
6. Demonstration of Increased Need	Mentions increased need but lacks any formal details	Demonstrates increased need and how the organization has addressed it in this emergent scenario.	Strong demonstration of need, through actual increased numbers, shared timeframe for context and clear articulation of how the organization has documented and met the increased need.		0	
7. Overall Proposal Quality & Clarity	Poorly written, disorganized, or unclear	Generally clear but contains minor inconsistencies or lacks a compelling narrative	Well-written, clearly organized, and free of errors; presents a compelling case for funding.		0	

Important Dates

- RFP Release Date: March 28, 2025
- Application Deadline: Applications are accepted on a rolling basis and will be reviewed monthly.
- Grant Decision Notifications: Applicants can expect to receive a decision from us in approximately 4-5 weeks.
- Funding Distribution: Organizations selected for funding can expect payment within 7-10 days of completion of the Grant Agreement.



Points to Remember

- Virtual office hours available; register on website. <https://www.unitedwayri.org/for-nonprofits/apply-for-grants/> or <https://www.unitedisthewayri.org/>.
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) and RFP Overview documents have most of the information to determine eligibility and how proposals will be evaluated.
- Email technical questions to Ruth.Saah@unitedwayri.org
- Email any application or eligibility questions to Roshni.Darnal@unitedwayri.org
- Email the Alliance For Nonprofit Impact at alliance@unitedwayri.org



Questions & Feedback

