**PROGRAM GRANTS | GUIDELINES**

**HOW UWSELA APPROACHES GRANTMAKING**

United Way of Southeast Louisiana (UWSELA) has a bold vision for eradicating poverty in Southeast Louisiana. Grantmaking supports the vision of *“equitable communities where all individuals are healthy, educated and economically stable.”* This means both a sharpened focus on poverty and equity through supporting the critical programs that form the bedrock of serving our population, and a systems change approach centered on collaboration. Our grantmaking is rooted in addressing the complex interplay of symptoms and drivers of poverty in the region.

**FUNDING PRIORITIES FOR GRANTS**

UWSELA grants are designed to be responsive to community-identified priorities for residents in the seven parish region of Southeast Louisiana. UWSELA seeks grant requests across four areas that we believe will produce long-term change to sustain our vision of poverty eradication for SELA communities. In particular, we will consider proposals that:

1. **Focus on one or more of our four priority outcomes.** *Data, community conversations and partner convenings conducted in 2014 and 2015 resulted in articulating four interrelated outcomes that describe the SELA we want to see*:
   * **Stability Today.** All families have the skills, resources and opportunities to access basic needs.
   * **Prosperity Tomorrow.** All families have the social, educational, and financial assets to create a better future.
   * **Personal Wellness.** People of all ages enjoy a high quality of life and wellbeing.
   * **Vibrant Communities.** All communities are safe, thriving, and equitable.
2. **Contribute to at least one of our stated indicators related to poverty eradication.** *The four outcomes will be tracked over time through these population-level indicators*. Please see Appendix A for full list of population-level indicators.
3. **Uphold the guiding principles for our work.** *The following six guiding principles articulate the core values that underpin our work, and by extension, the work we want to see from and with our partners:*
   * **Connectivity.** We coordinate our efforts to create pathways of prosperity that are trusted, culturally appropriate, accessible, and without bias.
   * **Equity.** We strive to lift up all people and to eliminate systemic barriers to prosperity.
   * **Lived Experience.** We amplify the voices of those we are serving and allow their needs and aspirations to guide our work.
   * **Long-Term Commitment.** We commit to continuing our work until the cycle of poverty is broken, communities are thriving, and people are living prosperously.
   * **Shared Responsibility.** We believe success requires the unique contributions of the entire community, including individuals, families, schools, nonprofits, the faith-based community, funders, governments, and the private sector.
   * **Systems Change.** We embrace our work as holistic and dynamic, impacting people, place, practice, and policy.

**USE OF FUNDS**

Program grants are designed to support a distinct program or project. Grantees have the flexibility to direct these funds in ways that best support the program or project. However, funds cannot be used to support capital projects. Please note the following regarding program grants:

* + **Grant awards range from $25,000 - $75,000** for the twelve months funding period.
  + Funding requested from the United Way of Southeast Louisiana should **be no more than 50% of the program budget**. Other revenue sources must be identified.

**FUNDING TIMELINE**

This funding timeframe is July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023.

**GEOGRAPHY SERVED**

UWSELA is proud to serve and fund the seven parishes of Southeast Louisiana, defined as: Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, and Washington.

**GRANT REQUESTS NOT ACCEPTED**

Agencies organized for primarily religious, educational, fraternal, governmental, political, cultural animal welfare purposes, or to redirect funds are not eligible for funding through UWSELA.

**SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION**

Submit your application and required documentation online at [website] by 11:59PM Monday, March 7, 2022. **NO LATE** or **incomplete** applications will be accepted.

Note this is a competitive process. We are fortunate to live in a region with many dedicated and effective organizations working on behalf of our community. Consequently, we cannot fund them all. If a decision is not made in your favor, feel free to contact Mary Ambrose at MaryA@unitedwaysela.org for more information. However, please note that there is no appeals process and all decisions are final.

**GRANT DEADLINES**

Deadlines for the application process are as follows:

* Application opens: February 7, 2022
* Last day for questions: COB February 25, 2022
* Application due date: March 7, 2022 by 11:59PM

Extensions will not be granted and late proposals will not be accepted. If you have questions on the submission of your materials, please contact Mary Ambrose MaryA@unitedwaysela.org before the deadlines noted above.

**APPENDIX A – POPULATION LEVEL INDICATORS**

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| **OUTCOMES** | **POPULATION-LEVEL INDICATORS** |
| **STABILITY TODAY**  All families have the skills, resources, and opportunities to access basic needs. | % of unemployed individuals (among people of employment age)  Overall poverty rate   % of households earning a living wage  % of families living with severe housing problems  % of children in poverty  \ |
| **PROSPERITY TOMORROW**  All families have the social, educational, and financial assets to create a better future. |  % of children entering kindergarten ready to learn   % of individuals graduating high school on time   % of individuals reading at grade-level  % of individuals in ALICE households   % of individuals with financial capability skills |
| **PERSONAL WELLNESS**  People of all ages enjoy a high quality of life and well-being. | Δ % of individuals who self-report good or better physical, behavioral or mental health  Low birth rate   % of vulnerable populations receiving high quality care |
| **VIBRANT COMMUNITIES**  All communities are safe, thriving, and equitable. | Rate of conviction   % of households with access to basic resources in a community |