

# United Way of Southwest Minnesota Community Impact Grant Guidelines

## Statement of Purpose:

Community Impact Grants are one of the ways United Way of Southwest Minnesota (hereafter UWSWMN) invests local dollars back into our communities. United Way fights for the health, education and financial stability of every person in every community. LIVE UNITED. In southwest Minnesota, we focus on health, education, financial stability, hunger and safety & well-being. Programs awarded funding work to improve the lives of local people in Lincoln, Lyon, Murray, Yellow Medicine and portions of Cottonwood, Lac qui Parle, Nobles and Redwood counties in Minnesota.

**UWSWMN awards funds to support specific programs that seek to improve lives of local people within one (or more) of our priority areas. We do not fund organizations.**

**To be eligible to apply for a UWSWMN Community Impact Grants, the organization offering the program must meet the following requirements:**

- Operate as nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, a public school, a unit of government or have a fiscal sponsor who meets this requirement.
- Operate and provide a service or program within Lincoln, Lyon, Murray, Yellow Medicine or the portions of Cottonwood, Lac qui Parle, Nobles and/or Redwood counties of Minnesota served by UWSWMN. Grant funding can only be used to support programs that serve individuals living within the UWSWMN service area.
- Operate under written Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws or other written documents or statutes that define the organization's purposes, membership, management and operation.
- Operate on a non-discriminatory basis in employment, recruitment of volunteers and delivery of services.
  - Diversity enriches our community and its neighborhoods and organizations.
  - Discrimination based on race, color, creed, religion, sex, national origin, age, physical disability, mental disability, medical condition, veteran status, gender, gender identity or expression, marital status, pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions, or any other basis protected by federal and/or state laws is prohibited.
  - UWSWMN reserves the right to request a copy of your non-discrimination policy.
- Demonstrate effective financial responsibility and accountability as follows:
  - For applicants with total budgets of **\$500,000 or more**, submit copy of an independently conducted audit.
  - For applicants with total budgets of **less than \$500,000**, submit an Independent Review. Recommended documentation should include: a statement of activities (profit and loss statement) and statement of financial position (balance sheet as of the end of the organization's fiscal year). An Independent Review is conducted by someone with financial expertise, not necessarily a CPA, but not associated with the organization and/or UWSWMN. The Independent Review should be signed by the financial representative conducting the review and also by the organization's board chair, executive director or board treasurer. In some cases, appropriate signers may be board/foundation/committee officers.
  - If this is considered a hardship for small organizations, please contact the UWSWMN office to discuss special accommodations.
- Demonstrate use of good governance practices.

## Additional information to be aware of:

- Funds can be requested on a yearly basis and shall be used solely for the granted purpose.
- Completed grant application must be submitted by the deadline set forth by UWSWMN in order to be reviewed for funding. **No extensions will be given.**
- Grant applications that are received in a timely manner and meet funding requirements will be reviewed by a team of community volunteers who will make a recommendation on proposed funding to the UWSWMN board of directors based on submitted application, in-person interview, and UWSWMN priority areas, as well as funds available. Funding requests may be denied without a hearing or onsite visit.
- All grant award recommendations made by the Community Investment volunteer process shall be reviewed by the UWSWMN board of directors and adjusted or approved as submitted. The amount of any

grant will depend upon individual program requests and the need as determined by the UWSWMN board of directors.

- Organizations should receive written notification of the board's decision by July 1.
- No grant will be given for any purpose that would jeopardize the tax-exempt status of UWSWMN or the applicant organization.
- Awarded funds must be used in compliance with all applicable anti-terrorist financing and asset control laws, statutes and executive orders.
- Awarded funds must be used exclusively for the intended purpose in alignment with UWSWMN priorities.
- If funding is granted, grant recipient must sign the UWSWMN Community Partnership Agreement and abide by all requirements of the agreement in order to receive awarded funds.
- Funded activities shall commence in a timely manner and all awarded funds must be spent within the UWSWMN fiscal year July 1 – June 30, unless an extension is requested and granted by the UWSWMN board of directors.
- Awarded funds not expended within the specified timeframe shall be returned to UWSWMN.
- Grant recipients shall conspicuously acknowledge UWSWMN in all promotional materials related to activities and programs funded with UWSWMN grants. UWSWMN requests that digital pictures and/or copies of news releases be shared with UWSWMN throughout the grant year.
- Grant recipients must submit a final report and program financial statement to UWSWMN on or before determined deadline. Failure to do so may result in removal from consideration of future grant opportunities.

**Funding will generally not be awarded for:**

- **Marketing efforts**
- **Event or fundraising promotions**
- **Capital campaigns or expenditures (i.e. land, building, real estate, vehicles, equipment, building upkeep or repair)**
- **Funding for organizations that intend to distribute funds at their own discretion**
- **Debt reduction or program shortfall from earlier years**
- **Endowment funding**
- **Political campaigns or lobbying efforts**
- **Activities that support a specific religious purpose**
- **Professional development or training**
- **Programs that operate in a discriminatory manner**
- **Program work outside the UWSWMN service area**
- **Programs not demonstrating a strong local need**
- **Direct individual support**
- **Volunteer recruitment and recognition**
- **Staff positions at schools**

**Additionally, UWSWMN funding will typically not be awarded if UWSWMN is the sole funding source for a program.**