



**United Way
of Central New York**

2024 Support Grant Frequently Asked Questions

How do I get information about the 2024 Support Grants?

The 2024 Support Grant Request for Proposal information will be posted on the United Way of Central New York's website, <https://unitedway-cny.org/about-us/agency-resources/>.

Who can apply?

Support Grants aim to fund organizations that actively engage and uplift underserved and marginalized communities, including BIPOC, LGBTQ+, New Americans, refugees, people with disabilities, women, and individuals facing economic challenges. Preference is given to organizations that reflect the diversity of the community they serve, operate with modest budgets, and have not previously received funding from the United Way of Central New York, although past recipients may still be considered if they align with the outlined preferences. Overall, the grant seeks to empower grassroots initiatives and emerging organizations that work towards addressing gaps in local services and engage the community in crafting solutions. See all eligibility requirements below.

What are the requirements to apply?

Eligibility

1. Applicant or Applicant's Fiscal Sponsor must be
 - a. a 501(c)(3) nonprofit human service organization
 - b. provide services to residents of Onondaga County
 - c. able to provide required financial documents (see page 4)
 - d. in operation for at least two years
2. The applicant's proposal must align with at least one of the eight prioritized community outcomes within the [Community Impact Roadmap](#).
3. Applicant must have at least one part-time employee (minimum of .05 FTEs).

Preference Given to Organizations/Applicants

- Reflect the community they serve.
- Empower BIPOC, LGBTQ+ communities, New Americans, Refugees, People with Disabilities or Women.
- Serve Asset Limited, Income Constrained, and Employed (ALICE) individuals or individuals living in poverty.
- Address gaps in local services.
- Involves the communities it serves in developing programs or services.
- Offer opportunities for community engagement and volunteering.

- Operate with an annual budget of \$50,000 to \$1,000,000. Larger, established organizations are not precluded from applying, especially if they align with the other preferences outlined.
- Have not previously received a United Way of Central New York grant. Past recipients may still be considered if they align with the outlined preferences.

How do I apply?

1. All interested organizations must complete a [Support Grant Eligibility Screen](#) form.
2. Eligible organizations will be invited to complete a grant application in our eC-Impact database.
3. Applications must be completed and submitted via eC-Impact by **4:30pm Friday, April 26th**.

What is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit status?

Basically a 501(c)(3) is a federal tax status that nonprofit or charitable organizations can file for. It changes the way they are recognized by the government and allows them to have special permissions in things like paying sales tax. Here is a great resource if you'd like to learn more:

<https://www.501c3.org/what-is-a-501c3/>

Do I need to have a 501(c)(3) nonprofit status?

No. If your group does not have a 501(c)(3), you can still apply for funding. You will need to find a nonprofit 501(c)(3) fiscal sponsor who agrees to receive the funding on your behalf.

What is a Fiscal Sponsor?

A fiscal sponsor is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit that is willing to accept money from UWCNY on your behalf. Our grants must be paid to a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit (including churches).

Can I get help with my application?

UWCNY Community Impact staff are available to provide technical assistance throughout the application process, ensuring fairness and neutrality. However, we do not provide advice or suggestions on the actual content or substance of what should be included in the application.

- Virtual Technical Assistance Office Hours are available. Attendance is optional.
 - April 11, 2024 9am-10am join via [Zoom](#)
 - April 15, 2024 3:30pm-4:30pm via [Zoom](#)
 - April 24, 2024 11am-12pm join via [Zoom](#)
- Contact us Monday-Friday 8:30am-4:30pm at 315-428-2211 or rfp@unitedway-cny.org

How much can I request?

United Way expects to award approximately \$100,000 in 2024. There is no minimum or maximum amount of funding that can be requested for, though last year the average award amount was about \$14,000.

What about the Community Program Grant? Can I apply this year?

We will not be offering an RFP for Community Program Grants this year.

What happens after I apply?

Each application will undergo review by a panel consisting of United Way Board members and staff. The panel will then present funding recommendations to the United Way Board of Directors, whose decisions will be considered final.

Are there non-funding ways that I can get involved with UWCNY?

UWCNY works with other funders and nonprofits to facilitate initiatives that tackle our community's most complex issues. These initiatives range from supporting early childhood success to workforce development and building financial skills, all aimed at strengthening our community and cultivating collaborations. We have also partnered with United Way Worldwide and are able to offer services through Door Dash and Lyft for our community partners.

If I have questions about the RFP or the decision process, who should I reach out to?

Please read the RFP Guidelines in their entirety before beginning the application. If you have questions or comments, please contact Community Impact Staff at (315) 428-2211 or rfp@unitedway-cny.org.

Why does my organization need to provide financial documents with my application?

The United Way of Central New York requests and reviews financial documents from grant applicants as stewards of donors' contributions, ensuring transparency and accountability in the distribution of funds. By examining IRS Form 990 or IRS Form 990 EZ, organizational budgets, and financial statements, the United Way can assess the financial health and integrity of nonprofits seeking funding, aligning with the expectations of donors who entrust their contributions to the organization. Maintaining accurate and up-to-date financial records is also essential for demonstrating compliance with IRS regulations and maintaining tax-exempt status.

Financial Document Definitions

501(c)(3) determination letter - is an official document issued by the United States Internal Revenue Service (IRS) signifying that a nonprofit organization gains tax-exempt status under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC).

IRS Form 990 or IRS Form 990 EZ - the IRS' primary tool for gathering information about tax-exempt organizations, educating organizations about tax law requirements, and promoting compliance. Organizations also use Form 990 to share information with the public about their programs.

Organizational Budget - a planning document used to predict expenses and allocate resources for your organization. It details both the costs that your organization will incur as well as the revenue you expect to receive over a set period.

Financial Audit - an examination of your organization's financial records, accounting practices, internal controls, transactions, and financial statements. An auditor or auditing firm typically conducts this for your nonprofit.

Auditor's Report - a written letter from the auditor containing their opinion on whether a company's financial statements comply with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) and are free from material misstatement.

Auditor's Management Letter - a letter prepared by the auditor which discusses findings and recommendations for improvements in internal control, that were identified during the audit and were not required to be included in the auditor's report on internal control, and other management issues.

Financial Review - an independent examination of a nonprofit organization's financial statements by a certified public accountant (CPA).

Balance Sheet/Statement of Financial Position - a financial statement that summarizes an organization's assets (what it owns), liabilities (what it owes), and equity (assets less liabilities) on a particular date – usually at the end of a financial month or financial year.

Statement of Activities/Income Statement - a financial report that shows your organization's revenue and expenses overtime compared to the previous year.