



UNITED WAY
Northwest Indiana



2026 COMMUNITY IMPACT GRANT



June 17, 2026

Dear Community Partner,

At United Way Northwest Indiana, we are pleased to announce the launch of our 2026 Community Impact Grant Program. We are excited to invite and encourage all ALICE-serving not-for-profit organizations throughout Lake, Porter, Jasper, Newton, and Starke counties to apply for program/project funding prior to the July 31, 2026 application deadline.

This initiative represents an important expansion of our work to create stronger families and stronger communities across Northwest Indiana. Through this grant opportunity, United Way Northwest Indiana continues its mission to unite and mobilize partners, volunteers, and resources to advance economic stability for families while building healthier and more resilient communities throughout the Region.

The primary focus of this grant cycle is to support programs that provide new or expanded services to working families, with particular emphasis on initiatives that strengthen youth opportunity and financial stability. Consideration may also be given to programs aligned with United Way Northwest Indiana's broader focus areas of healthy community and community resilience.

Grant awards ranging from \$5,000 to \$150,000 will be evaluated and awarded based upon the anticipated level of measurable impact generated. United Way Northwest Indiana will prioritize funding for programs that demonstrate the greatest potential for measurable, and sustainable impact on the well-being and economic mobility of individuals and families throughout Northwest Indiana.

Applications will be evaluated based upon:

- Confidence that project can be completed by December 31, 2027
- Expected measurable outcomes
- Evidence of program effectiveness
- Scale and depth of service
- Alignment with United Way priorities
- Organizational capacity to achieve meaningful change
- Long-term sustainability and community benefit

As organizations prepare their proposals, we encourage applicants to carefully evaluate project scope and budgets. It is our intention to review requests as submitted and, whenever possible, approve or deny applications in full rather than partially funding projects.

Questions regarding the application process may be directed to:

Chris White, President/CEO

work: 219.329.1369

mobile: 219.713.3250

Chris@unitedwaynwi.org

www.unitedwaynwi.org

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must:

- Be recognized as a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code
- Provide direct services within Lake, Porter, Jasper, Newton, and/or Starke counties
- Be in good standing with all applicable federal, state, and local requirements

FUNDING PERIOD AND USE OF FUNDS

Funding requests should support programs and services occurring between October 1, 2026 – December 31, 2027.

Grant funding may be used for:

- Program operations
- Staffing support (limited to 75%)
- Equipment and materials
- Pilot or expansion programs
- Administrative Support limited to 10%

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Organizations receiving funding will be expected to:

- Provide quarterly progress updates
- Submit outcome and impact reports
- Provide financial accountability documentation
- Participate in site visits and reviews as requested.
- Co-brand program/project with United Way Northwest Indiana

We have worked diligently to make this application process as streamlined and accessible as possible. Enclosed you will find a concise two-page application form, including submission instructions and a checklist of required attachments.

Once completed, applicants should compile the application and all supporting documents into a **single PDF** file and submit it electronically to **Grants2026@unitedwaynwi.org** no later than **July 31, 2026**. Note: There is a limit of one application per organization.

APPLICATION REVIEW & TIMELINE

Applications may be reviewed on a rolling basis prior to the deadline to allow United Way staff to provide technical feedback where appropriate. Final funding decisions are anticipated by September 30, 2026, with grant distributions expected to begin October 15, 2026.

United Way Northwest Indiana values equitable access to opportunity and encourages applications from organizations serving diverse and underserved populations throughout the Region.

We recognize and deeply appreciate the critical work being carried out every day by nonprofit organizations across Northwest Indiana. Together, we have the opportunity to create meaningful and lasting impact for the hardworking families who depend upon strong community partnerships and support systems.

Thank you for your commitment to serving our communities. We look forward to reviewing your proposal and to continuing our shared work of building a stronger Northwest Indiana.

Sincerely,



President/CEO

United Way Northwest Indiana



2026 COMMUNITY IMPACT GRANT APPLICATION



GUIDELINES & SUBMISSION DETAILS

The mission of United Way Northwest Indiana is to unite and mobilize partners, volunteers, and resources to advance economic stability for families to build healthier, more resilient communities. United Way NWI is seeking innovative and impactful proposals that support ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) with focus on families with children throughout Lake, Porter, Jasper, Newton, and Starke Counties.

Proposed programs and initiatives should align with one or more of United Way NWI's impact priorities:



**FINANCIAL
SECURITY**



**HEALTHY
COMMUNITY**



**YOUTH
OPPORTUNITY**



**COMMUNITY
RESILIENCY**

Grant requests may range from \$5,000 to \$150,000. Organizations are encouraged to request the amount necessary to effectively implement and sustain their proposed project or initiative.



Should your request be accepted, your organization agrees to host or participate in a Day of Caring project opportunity and conduct a Workplace Campaign during the grant period. Additionally, organizations awarded funding agree to include the United Way NWI logo and recognize UWNWI support in all applicable program materials, marketing, media, and communications related to the funding initiative.



Applications are due no later than July 31, 2026 at 5PM Central Time. Submit completed application and all required attachments as one PDF to Grants2026@unitedwaynwi.org. Do not include UWNWI Guidelines with your application. Applicants will receive a confirmation email upon submission.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Please check each box as you complete the corresponding section and verify that all required information and attachments have been provided.

- ☐ **Narrative** responses may not exceed three (3) pages total, including photos, charts, graphs, and tables, and should clearly address:
 - Community need being addressed
 - Program impact and measurable outcomes
 - Alignment with United Way Northwest Indiana priorities
 - Organizational capacity and sustainability
 - Collaboration and regional impact
- ☐ **Budget and Line-Item Narrative** may not exceed two (2) pages total. Grant funds may be used for:
 - Supplies and equipment
 - Software and technology
 - Training and professional development
 - Program-related personnel expenses (up to 75%)
 - Administrative expenses (not to exceed 10%)
 - Identify additional funding sources, partnerships, and in-kind support contributing to the project budget.

REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ Board of Directors list | ☐ Most recent Form 990 |
| ☐ Organizational chart | ☐ Audited financial statements |
| ☐ IRS Determination Letter | ☐ Relevant partnership agreements and/or |
| ☐ Current organizational operating budget | letters of support |

Questions? Call 219.464.3583 or email Grants2026@unitedwaynwi.org

2026 COMMUNITY IMPACT GRANT APPLICATION



APPLICATION FORM

ABOUT YOUR ORGANIZATION

Organization Name			
Address			
City	State	Zip Code	
EIN	Website		
Primary Contact	Title	Phone	
Primary Contact Email	CEO / ED	CEO Email	

YOUR PROJECT

Please select the funding range for your request:

☐ \$5,000 - \$25,000	☐ \$25,001 - \$75,000	☐ \$75,001 - \$150,000
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Please select the primary impact area:

☐ Financial Security	☐ Healthy Community	☐ Youth Opportunity	☐ Community Resiliency
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PROGRAM / INITIATIVE INFORMATION

Program / Initiative Title			
Total Funding Request	Demographic Focus		
Program Start Date	Program End Date	Geography Served	
Estimated # Served Annually	Cost Per Individual Served		

Please include a brief program summary. Include estimated beneficiaries and geographic focus:

SIGNATURES & CERTIFICATION

By signing below, the organization certifies that all information provided is accurate and complete. If awarded, the organization agrees to participate in reporting and, when feasible, host or participate in Day of Caring and conduct a Workplace Campaign with staff.

☐ I have reviewed this submission and verified that all information and attachments are complete.

CEO / ED Signature		Date	
Board President Signature		Date	

CONTACT US



951 Eastport Center Drive
Valparaiso, IN 46383



219.464.3583



www.unitedwaynwi.org



info@unitedwaynwi.org



OUR MISSION

We unite and mobilize partners, volunteers, and resources to advance economic stability for families, and to build healthier, more resilient communities.

OUR VISION

A Northwest Indiana that provides support, opportunity, and stability for families and communities to thrive.



UNITED WAY
Northwest Indiana

SERVING LAKE, PORTER, JASPER, NEWTON AND STARKE COUNTIES.