

**UNITED WAY**  
**Montcalm-Ionia**  
**Counties**  
2018 & 2019  
Community Impact  
Grant Request for  
Proposals

## United Way Montcalm – Ionia Counties

### 2018-2020 Request for Proposals (RFP)

#### Community Impact Grants

United Way Montcalm – Ionia Counties (UWMI) is pleased to announce the release of the Request for Proposals (RFP) for the 2018 and 2019 Community Impact Grants process. The RFP will cover the granting period of April 1, 2019 – March 31, 2021.

Grants will be awarded for a period of two years. Grant renewals in 2019 will be based strictly on the availability of funds, program performance (outcomes) and compliance with the terms of the grant agreement. ***There will be no grant requests accepted in December of 2019.***

UWMI is committed to creating lasting change with measurable improvements for people in need in Montcalm and Ionia Counties. As a convener, collaborator and catalyst for change, our vision is to create a thriving community where adults and children have access to education and access to basic needs, which are the building blocks to self-sufficiency and a high quality of life.

All grants are to provide programs and services that help ALICE (Asset, Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) families and individuals. ALICE represents the men and women of all ages and races who get up each day to go to work, but who face tough financial choices. ALICE is not an individual, but a conceptual blending of all those in our community who bring home a paycheck that doesn't stretch to cover household needs. ALICE is one crisis away from poverty. UWMI Community Impact Grants are meant to help create solutions that offer ALICE and our communities a better future.

As part of this commitment, UWMI invests in high performing organizations that provide programs and services that align with the UWMI Focus and Impact Areas. Community Impact Grants are donor-based funds directed toward quality, local programs that benefit communities in Montcalm and Ionia Counties. Funding is granted to nonprofit organizations, ISDs and government agencies through a competitive application process.

#### **United Way Montcalm – Ionia Counties' 2018 and 2019 Investment Priorities**

Community Impact Grants will be awarded in the following Focus Areas – Education and Basic Needs. This chart provides a detailed breakdown of Focus Area, Impact Area and Programming Needs. Only grant requests that address these specific areas will be selected to move forward to participate in Community Impact Grant presentations (a detailed calendar of dates follows).

Focus Areas	Impact Areas	Programming Needs
Education	<b>1. Early Education</b> (Birth to 3 <sup>rd</sup> grade)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Access and social supports for birth through third grade students in low to moderate income families</li><li>• Providing preschool and early elementary school learning opportunities for low to moderate income families</li><li>• Nutritional education for low to moderate income families</li><li>• Providing family support and engagement in low to moderate income families</li></ul>

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	<p><b>2. Literacy</b> (Birth to age 99)</p> <p><b>3. College and Career Access</b> (Middle School to age 22)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individual and family support to improve literacy and improve 3<sup>rd</sup> grade reading levels in low to moderate income families</li> <li>• Engagement of literacy supportive services and coaching from birth to age 99 for low to moderate income individuals</li> <li>• Access to college and career coaching for low to moderate income individuals</li> <li>• Raising post-secondary education and career exposure to low to moderate income individuals</li> </ul>
<p><b>Basic Needs</b></p>	<p><b>1. Food Security</b></p> <p><b>2. Shelter</b></p> <p><b>3. Transportation Access</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to healthy food for low to moderate income families and individuals</li> <li>• Supportive services for food pantries (Meant to increase the pantry reach. No capital improvements and not food) in the form of capacity building for pantries</li> <li>• Collaboration to expand outreach and families served</li> </ul> <p><i>Note: UWMI will not fund food to stock shelves</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Helping low to moderate income individuals gain access to permanent/adequate housing and wrap-around services</li> <li>• Providing supportive services for low to moderate income families and individuals that need assistance getting to and from healthcare appointments and/or work</li> </ul>

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**Who is Eligible for Funding**

Nonprofit Organizations, ISDs, government agencies serving Montcalm and Ionia Counties are eligible to apply for Community Impact Grants during the open application period.

**Funding Guidelines for Grants Awarded for April 2019 – March 2021**

- Organizations wanting to seek Community Impact Grant funding must be registered as a partner in both the 2-1-1 database and MiBridges for the duration of this grant period.
- Funding for programs in Montcalm and Ionia Counties may be requested with a minimum grant request of \$3,000/per year.
- Programs must align within one of the six (6) Impact Areas specified in this RFP as listed below:

<b>Education</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Early Education</li><li>2. Literacy</li><li>3. College and Career Access</li></ol>	<b>Basic Needs</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>4. Food Security</li><li>5. Shelter</li><li>6. Transportation Access</li></ol>
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- Grant requests must project the number of unduplicated individuals served by this grant.
- ALICE data must be collected and reported on.
- 2-1-1 data must be collected and reported on. 2-1-1 reports will be available from UWMI.
- Organizations may apply for funds to start a new program, for expansion to an existing program or maintenance of an existing program.
- Grant funding can be used for operational, administrative, and supply expenses required to support the program. And can be in addition to direct service provision.
- Community Impact Grants **cannot** be used for capital expenditures such as building, plans, construction or renovation; to fund an endowment; or *to purchase food*.
- Organizations that are awarded grant funds will be required to submit four (4) Community Impact Grant Reports on the progress of program outcomes. The due dates of the Community Impact Grant Reports are as follows:
  1. October 31, 2019
  2. March 31, 2020
  3. October 31, 2020
  4. March 31, 2021

**Program Outcomes**

United Way Montcalm – Ionia Counties recognizes the importance of collecting and utilizing data to help in storytelling efforts and in articulating the work that agencies do. This data translates into a valuable return on investment and overall impact on the local community. All applicants are required to report on three areas of data – **Mobilizing Resources, Building Stronger Communities, and Changing Lives.**

**Mobilizing Resources:** All grantees must report on the following metrics:

1. Number of unduplicated individuals served by this grant (please specify the population served e.g. students/adults/families)
2. County of residence

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3. Number of referrals made to your program through the 2-1-1 call center (reports available through UWMI)
4. Total number of volunteers for the specific Impact Area that this grant covers
5. Total dollar amount of resources invested in specific programming

**Building Stronger Communities and Changing Lives:** All applications are to select and report on a minimum of **five (5)** measures in the program area that correspond to the funding request. The reporting requirements are as follows:

1. **Five (5) measures** should come from the list of measures below that corresponds with the Impact Area. A competitive application may wish to include additional measures from the list. Grantees may report on as many additional measures that are reasonable with collected data.
2. UWMI acknowledges that the grantee may already collect data and report on other outcomes measures not included the list below. The grantee may report on up to two (2) of these additional measures.

Impact Area	United Way Outcomes
<p><b><u>Education</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Early Education</b></li> <li>• <b>Literacy</b></li> <li>• <b>College and Career Access</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>BUILDING STRONGER COMMUNITIES</b></p> <p><b>Direct Supports and Services</b></p> <p># of children served receiving literacy supports in grades k-3</p> <p># of students who improved attendance during the current school year or adults that improved on the job attendance</p> <p># of students who improved behavior</p> <p># of children (0-5) enrolled in high-quality early childhood programs</p> <p># of students who passed to the next grade level or were enrolled in a preschool program</p> <p># of youth or adult attending college and career fairs</p> <p># of mentoring relationships created</p> <p># of books received</p> <p><b>Systems of Improvement</b></p> <p># of policies promoted, enacted or modified to promote childhood success</p> <p># of early childhood staff trained to provide quality programs, services</p> <p># of volunteers trained to provide quality programs, services</p> <p><b>CHANGING LIVES</b></p> <p><b>Outcomes</b></p> <p>% of children (0-3<sup>rd</sup> grade) served who achieve developmental milestones</p> <p>% of children served who are proficient on school readiness assessments by the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade</p> <p>% of children (k-3) served reading at grade level</p> <p>% of children (k-3) served who maintain satisfactory or improve attendance</p> <p># of at risk served (i.e., incarcerated, etc.)</p> <p># of adults that completed their GED</p> <p># of adults that gain employment</p>

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	<p># of high school youth served that gain post-secondary employment, further education or credentials                  # of youth and adults that complete resume and interview training</p>
<p><b><u>Basic Needs</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Food Security</b></li> <li>• <b>Shelter</b></li> <li>• <b>Transportation Access</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>BUILDING STRONGER COMMUNITIES</b></p> <p><b>Direct Supports and Services</b></p> <p># of households that received emergency supports (rent/mortgage, utility, and bed nights served)                  # of individuals housed (including the # placed in affordable housing)                  # of individuals meeting the USDA/HHS recommended 5-9 daily serving requirements of fruit and vegetable consumption                  # of households who received food assistance (either by reporting the # of meals or days of groceries were provided and/ or the # of individuals who utilized farmers markets and/or mobile markets and pantries for healthy food)                  # of individuals who enrolled in food assistance program (SNAP/WIC/Senior Farmers’ Market Nutrition Program /Child Nutrition Program/Other)                  # of individuals who enrolled in medical insurance - Children (CHIP) or Adults ( Medicaid/Medicare/Private Insurance)                  # of individuals transported to healthcare or to jobs</p> <p><b>Systems of Improvement</b></p> <p># of policies promoted, enacted or modified to promote health                  # of staff trained to provide quality programs, services                  # of volunteers trained to provide and deliver quality programs, services</p> <p><b>CHANGING LIVES</b></p> <p><b>Outcomes</b></p> <p>% of children/adults who eat healthier, increase their physical activity, and/or move towards a healthy weight                  % of children and adults served who avoided or reduced risk-taking behaviors                  % of individuals served that were able to continue healthcare treatment                  # of adults that completed their GED                  # of individuals and families that maintained affordable housing                  # of individuals served who increased disposable income by accessing benefits and/or reducing costs                  # of individuals served that gained employment</p>

Failure to meet the above benchmarks could result in failure to receive future grant funding. Grantees have 30 days to submit grant reporting to UWMI electronically at [grants@liveunitedm-i.org](mailto:grants@liveunitedm-i.org) or in person.

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**Application Process**

Step 1 – RFP: Review UWMI Request for Proposals (RFP) to determine if your program aligns with our Impact Areas (outlined on pages 1-2).

Step 2 – RFP Meeting: **Attend (1) MADATORY Q & A** Anyone wishing to submit an application must attend at least one meeting of your choice.

Step 3 – Apply: Online grant applications will be accepted **between December 7, 2018 and December 20, 2018 at 12:00 pm (noon).**

**Application Timeline**

<b>November 16, 2018</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Request for Proposals (RFP) published on the <a href="http://www.liveuntiedm-i.org">www.liveuntiedm-i.org</a> website</li> <li>Email notice sent to all current United Way Funded Partners</li> </ul>
<b>December 7, 2018</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grant Applications can be submitted to United Way Montcalm – Ionia Counties</li> </ul>
<p><b>MANDATORY</b></p> <p><b>December 4, 2018</b>  <b>(8:30 – 10:30 am, Tuesday)</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">or</p> <p><b>December 7, 2018</b>  <b>(1:30 – 3:30 pm, Friday)</b></p>	<p><u>Q &amp; A Grant Informational Sessions</u>  <b>Must attend one session</b></p> <p>Tuesday, December 4, 2018, 8:30-10:30 am</p> <p>Friday, December 7, 2018, 1:30-3:30 pm</p> <p><i>All Informational Sessions will be held at United Way Montcalm – Ionia Counties’ office.  10260 S. Sheridan Road, Fenwick, MI 48834</i></p> <p>Grant applications will only be accepted from organizations that attend one of these meetings.</p>
<b>December 20, 2018</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Completed Grant Applications due by 12:00 pm.</b></li> <li><b>Grants must physically be received in our office on December 20, 2018 at 12 pm with all the necessary copies.</b></li> <li><b>Grants received from 12:01 pm and after will not be accepted</b></li> </ul>
<b>January 28, 2019 - February 15, 2019</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community Impact Grant Review Process to be completed by UWMI.</li> </ul>
<b>February 2019</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Slate of recommended grant awards approved by United Way Montcalm Ionia Counties Board of Directors</li> </ul>
<b>March 2019</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community Impact Grant Funding announced</li> <li>Attendance at mandatory check presentations and media opportunities begin. (Dates to be determined.)</li> </ul>
<b>October 31, 2019</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Six-month progress reports due</li> </ul>

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<b>March 31, 2020</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• End of the year one reporting due</li></ul>
<b>October 31, 2020</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Eighteen-month progress report due</li></ul>
<b>March 31, 2021</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• End of year two final report due</li></ul>

**Grant Review Process**

Community Impact Grant Review Panels are composed of various community members and volunteers who understand the needs of the community, will review all grant applications. The grant reviewers will consider the unique assets and needs in the local community and evaluate all applications utilizing the following three key criteria:

1. Financial and program accountability
2. Impact on the community needs
3. Collaboration with other organizations

The Community Impact Grant Review Panels will make funding recommendations to the United Way Montcalm Ionia Counties Board of Directors. The Board of Directors will make the final decisions on grant awards.

**FAQs and Technical Assistance**

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and detailed application instructions will be available on the UWMI website in December. Technical assistance related to the RFP and the application process can be requested via email at [grants@liveunitedm-i.org](mailto:grants@liveunitedm-i.org).

**We at United Way Montcalm- Ionia Counties appreciate your leadership in creating a stronger community.**