

Investment Guidelines 2022-2024

United Way Partner for Student Success

Request for Proposal Guidelines

The United Way Partner for Student Success seeks to award grants to organizations that meet the requirements of this Request for Proposals.

Areas of Interest:

Our Vision is that every child in our community has the opportunities and support to thrive and succeed from cradle to career. We believe that essential to this vision is the realization that historical and on-going inequities embedded in systems, structures and policies prevent equitable access, accomplishments, and outcomes for Black, Indigenous and Youth of Color as well as Youth living in low socio-economic conditions. The wellbeing of our entire community is harmed by these inequalities, and we strive to unite the community to create equitable environments, opportunities and support so that each child has what is needed to thrive and succeed in school and in life.

UWPFSS invests its grant resources in nonprofit partners that collaborate in **our equity priority focus areas within each of three main goals:**

- (1) Early Childhood – equipped for learning birth to 5
- (2) Student Success K – 8
- (3) College and Career Readiness 9-12 (and beyond)

Organizations apply for one priority focus area in one goal area. We recognize that work may influence more than one priority in a goal area but need to indicate which priority where work aligns most closely. Priority Focus in a RFP means that special attention will be given to projects serving the specified population but does not exclude other youth.

GOAL 1: Early Childhood – equipped for learning; birth to 5

PRIORITY FOCUS RFP AREAS: Each RFP in this Goal area has a Priority Focus on Black Indigenous, youth, families, and individuals of color and/or low income.

A. Strengthen caregiver core skills to increase positive childhood experiences enabling healthy brain development and social emotional skill development.

Priority Focus: BIPOC and Youth and Families Living in Low Socio-Economic Conditions

B. Provide increased access to high quality programs and/or childcare through collaborative and inclusive methods to create support for families using human to human connection and open doors.

Priority Focus: BIPOC and Youth and Families Living in Low Socio-Economic Conditions

Goal 2: Student Success; K-8. Increase student success defined by academic preparedness, social/emotional skills, sense of belonging and a belief in the importance of education.

PRIORITY FOCUS RFP AREAS:

A. Strengthen literacy development for multilingual learners leveraging best practices for multilingual learners and their families through alignment, partnerships, and programming, With priority focus on East African Multilingual youth and families.

Priority Focus: East African, Somali and Multilingual Youth and Families

B. Support positive identity development including a strong sense of personal power, purpose, worth and promise.

Priority Focus: African American Youth and Families

C. Provide increased access and opportunity for in school and out of school caring adult relationships that support youth living in low socio-economic conditions through collaborative school-community partnerships.

Priority Focus: BIPOC and Youth and Families Living in Low Socio-Economic Conditions

Goal 3: Career and College Readiness – 9-12

PRIORITY FOCUS RFP AREAS: Each RFP in this Goal area has a Priority Focus on Black, Indigenous, youth, families, and individuals of color and/or low income.

A. Engage youth and parent/caregiver/adult mentor support in career and education planning Focused on post-secondary readiness by utilizing field trips, speakers, interactive media, skill Strength assessments, partnerships and exploration of career pathways.

Priority Focus: BIPOC and Youth and Families Living in Low Socio-Economic Conditions

B. Involve youth and parent/caregiver/adult mentor in career experience opportunities that Include quality hands on learning, site-based programming and access to internships and Apprenticeships that identify career paths aligned with student interest and skill set.

Priority Focus: BIPOC and Youth and Families Living in Low Socio-Economic Conditions

C. Engage and support youth in community-based programs which have identified and integrated career related soft skills/social emotional skills and create partnerships with parents/caregivers/adult mentors to support youth to develop an awareness of personal soft skills/social emotional skills aligned with possible career paths.

Priority Focus: BIPOC and Youth and Families Living in Low Socio-Economic Conditions

Characteristics of Grant Investments:

- Requests for a variety of grant types within the priority areas will be accepted including: (1) General operating; (2) Program/project; (3) Start-up; (4) Capitol; (5) Capacity Building and (6) Advocacy*.

(*Note: While United Way is prohibited from lobbying, we will consider permissible advocacy activities such as public education campaigns on a given topic, nonpartisan study or research, civic engagement activities and non-partisan election-related activity.)

- Grant requests usually average around \$35,000 and are generally not considered for less than \$10,000.
- UWPFSS makes a two-year commitment to fund organizations. However, grants are annual and will be renewed each year. Grant amounts may vary year to year based on available United Way funds.
- Organizations that receive grants will report annually on outcomes that illustrate impact and progress over time.
- UWPFSS seeks to fund organizations with a strong focus on racial equity and will prioritize these organizations when making decisions about grants.

Limitations on Grant Investments:

UWPFSS awards the vast majority of its grants to charitable, non profit organizations that are recognized by the IRS as 501 © (3) public charities. Occasionally grants may be made to units of government or to foundations. Generally, UWPFSS will not:

- Make grants to individuals or for the benefit of pre-selected individuals
- Provide funds to lobby legislation or provide partisan influence in public elections
- Support animal rights or animal welfare causes
- Promote any particular religious doctrine
- Serve as replacement funding for public program

Timelines:

1. Full grant applications due To apply: Fill out the online application form at https://forms.gle/b6qm8ykdzteK9MiB8	December 21, 2021
2. Site Visits by Investment Teams UWPFSS Investment Team will visit applicants in person or virtually depending on medical guidance and availability.	Week of February 14 – 18, 2022
3. Announcements made to applicants	April 7 and forward

For further information contact Amy Trombley, Executive Director of United Way Partner for Student Success at atrombley@unitedwayhelps.org or at 320-229-3512.