



United Way of Douglas County

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS 2022

ANTI-POVERTY GRANT & FAMILY STABILIZATION GRANT

Applications Due:
Wednesday, May 18th, 2022

Grant Period:
July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022

For more Information:
Grants@UnitedWayDgCo.org
<https://www.unitedwaydgco.org/grant-opportunities>





2022 GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

The United Way Douglas County (UWDGCO) is accepting proposals for **Anti-Poverty and Family Stabilization projects for a July 2022-June 2023 grant period**. Agencies can apply for both grant opportunities. United Way makes investments in measurable progress toward increasing access and reducing barriers for low-income Douglas County community members, prioritizing people who are low-income, Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC), and others experiencing systemic marginalization and oppression. Because anti-poverty projects are bolstered by basic-needs funding, organizations with adequate capacity and reach can also complete a supplemental request for direct service funds.

ANTI-POVERTY MISSION

At United Way, we are focused on one singular cause: reducing poverty. Poverty determines a child's access to quality educational experiences, healthcare, nutrition and even life expectancy, trapping generations of families in poverty. In Douglas County, it is the single greatest issue that we face, but together we can break the cycle of poverty.

This anti-poverty work is informed by and aligns with the following local data sources and plans. The data below is specific to Douglas County and the reports were created by the Lawrence Douglas County Public Health Dept., Douglas County Coalition for Human Services, and the University of Kansas:

- [The Douglas County Community Health Plan](#) (2019)
- [The Douglas County Community Health Plan to Reduce Poverty](#) (2021)
- [LDCHD Data Dashboard](#)
- [Poverty Reduction Community Survey Report](#) (2020)
- [Healthy Communities Initiative Assessment on Barriers to Employment](#) (2019)
- [Douglas County Health Equity Report](#) (2021)

Drawing from local data on the factors and conditions that perpetuate cycles of poverty, this funding aims to **foster equitable systems-based solutions to reduce poverty and discrimination. Funded projects should expand access to opportunities so all can participate, prosper, and reach their full potential.**

The 2021 Health Equity Report shows:

The average median income for BIPOC households is \$18,399 lower than white households in Douglas County.

BIPOC citizens in Douglas County experience poverty at a rate that is 12.5% higher than their white neighbors.

22% of BIPOC children in Douglas County live below the poverty line vs. 7.5% of children who are white.

SHARED OBJECTIVES

- Meaningful and measurable progress toward equity for all -

In addition to increasing numbers served, strategies could include:

- Building internal capacity and infrastructure and taking strategic risks to advance equity.
- Fostering partnerships to build power and engage in social justice movements.
- Working across the system to develop a shared ownership for equity.

Measurable progress could be assessed through an increase in service numbers for underrepresented groups, professional development to build equity knowledge and capacity for staff and board members, internal investments through offering a living wage to all staff positions, tracking equity metrics across all projects and activities, and committing time and funding to connect and collaborate with outside partners.

- Broad adoption of trauma-informed practices -

Trauma is nearly universal; most people are familiar with the sudden and sometimes terrifying experience of tragedy, loss, and crime. For more than 20 years, evidence has shown that trauma informed care is an effective strategy to serve public good. The healing effects of trauma-informed practices can have significant impact on improving health, well-being, and cognitive growth.

INVESTMENT STRATEGIES

Grant investments will be prioritized for whole-family approaches with an emphasis on BIPOC families with minor children. A successful proposal will acknowledge that a child's development and an adult caregiver's needs are interconnected. Successful services must benefit both the child and the adult(s) in their lives. The [Aspen Institute](#) offers information and resources to build a multigenerational approach.

The complexity of poverty makes it nearly impossible for any single agency to make significant progress alone. **Investments will prioritize projects that embrace the spirit of the Collective Impact framework.** This simply means acknowledging the importance of collaboration, dedication to shared goals, reducing duplication, and identifying ways to maximize impact.

The United Way’s anti-poverty investments are focused on **4 goals: Equity, Education, Health, and Financial Stability**. Successful proposals speak to these goals and use local data to inform their approach.

GOALS:	EQUITY	EDUCATION	HEALTH	FINANCIAL STABILITY
Definition:	A just, equitable, & inclusive community for residents of all racial & ethnic backgrounds in Douglas County.	All youth in Douglas County have equitable opportunities to achieve their full potential through quality education.	Equitable access to services & resources to foster physical, mental, emotional, & social well-being for everyone in Douglas County.	Equitable access to stability and independence through housing, just wages, & the opportunity to build generational wealth for everyone in Douglas County.
Project Focus/Goal Examples:	Affordable, equitable & accessible jobs training and placement programs, including mentorship and education for BIPOC entrepreneurs.	Increase access to quality & equitable early education.	Provide coordinated multigenerational supports related to mental health and trauma.	Decrease the number of Douglas County low-income BIPOC families with children who are spending more than 10% of their income on childcare.

GRANTMAKING PHILOSOPHY

Anti-poverty work is broad and requires an understanding of multiple sectors and systems. A Collective Impact approach connects the systems-level supports to the front-line efforts to do the most good. The United Way is committed to reducing the burden on grantees by identifying best practices and opportunities for collaboration. Resources are shared on the Coalition for Human Services Listserv. Applicants and agency staff should subscribe [here](#) to stay connected to our partners in service.

Every nonprofit seeks to leave the most positive impact possible on their community and every funder sets out to do the same. The grantmaking system often hinders the progress of funded partners through burdensome grant processes, power dynamics, and a lack of trust. The United Way of Douglas County is on a journey to build a grantee-centered, relationship-based approach into our community investments. In this spirit, we invite your feedback, questions, and ideas to help us become a trusted partner and ally in our shared work.



GRANT ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Service Area:

Our service area includes all of Douglas County, including Lawrence, Baldwin City, Lecompton, Eudora, and unincorporated townships. Funded projects should serve every community in Douglas County, unless the project is designed to specifically serve one geographical community that is traditionally underserved, in order to advance equity.

Organization Status:

Organizations receiving grants greater than \$5,000 must be tax-exempt under IRS Section 501c3 as a charitable nonprofit organization, or fiscally sponsored by a 501c3. Community organizations without 501c3 status are eligible to receive grants of up to \$5,000 without fiscal sponsorship.

Non-Discrimination Policy:

Organizations cannot discriminate on the basis of age, race, ethnicity, sex, religion, national origin, (dis)ability, gender identity and/or sexual orientation in employment practices or policies and procedures concerning services. Organizations also must meet local, state, and federal regulations related to non-discrimination, wage and hour laws, workplace safety, licensing, protection of confidential information, and other laws and regulations that apply to staff, clients and consumers.

Equity, Diversity & Inclusion:

Equity is a central tenet in United Way's grantmaking. All applicants must demonstrate a commitment to ongoing growth through the integration of diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) principles into both their external programming or services and internal structures and operations. Grantees must demonstrate a commitment to equity, diversity & inclusion through services that are accessible to all individuals inclusive of (dis)ability, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, national origin, citizenship status, and/or language proficiency; demonstrate cultural responsiveness and humility in policies, procedures, outreach, and the built environment. Programs and services should be designed to equitably serve and prioritize populations that experience systemic oppression and face the highest disparities in income, education, and health outcomes, including people with disabilities, immigrants/refugees, Black, Indigenous, and People of Color, and LGBTQIA2S+ community members.

Services for Low-Income Individuals & Families:

The primary work of the funded project must be to serve people and families with low-incomes in Douglas County, as reflected in the mission, vision, or in primary programs and services.

Trauma-Informed:

An organization that is trauma-informed (1) realizes the widespread impact of trauma; (2) recognizes the signs and symptoms of trauma in clients, families, staff, and others involved; (3) Responds by fully integrating knowledge about trauma into policies, procedures, and practices; and (4) Seeks to actively resist individual and institutional re-traumatization.

Experience & Community Standing:

Have experience in delivering services to achieve the community goals, has trusted relationships within the community that is being served, and develops collaborations to effect change.

Fiscal Health & Management:

Maintain financial records in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. Be in good financial standing, and have organizational capacity to meet goals and regularly report on outcomes. Organizations with operating budgets above \$1m must obtain an annual audit by an independent certified public accountant each fiscal year.

Meaningful Collaborations:

Programs should leverage collaborative partnerships from an array of stakeholders, including private businesses, government agencies, and other non-profit organizations. These partnerships should not just be “good on paper,” but should be constructed to genuinely bring complementary efforts together for the ultimate benefit of the program participants and achieve desired outcomes. Collaborative efforts and coalitions are eligible and encouraged to apply provided the primary applicant organization meets other eligibility criteria.

Leverage and Sustainability:

Programming is supported by consistent fundraising efforts to secure additional funds and other resources sufficient to ensure strong service delivery and sustain efforts beyond UWDGCO funding.

Quality Improvement:

Use of assessment tools designed to evaluate program quality and create plans to enhance the delivery of high quality services. Information should be used by staff to design and operate the best possible services for clients served.

Maintain ethical standards:

Ethical programmatic and organizational standards include accountability for financial, programmatic, and outcomes results, and a demonstration of integrity through a commitment to ethical principles, honesty, trustworthiness, and reliability. Maintain ethical relationships with individuals being served, working to reduce barriers and maintain human dignity.

INELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING

- Support for services outside of Douglas County, KS
- Government programs
- 501c3 organizations designated as a private foundation and organizations whose primary purpose is grantmaking
- Public, private, or charter schools, including public or private university programs
- Businesses or business associations
- 501c3 nonprofits designated as a church or religious organization

APPLICATION & REVIEW PROCESS

HOW TO APPLY

Applications are due via email to grants@unitedwaydgco.org, no later than **May 18, 2022 at 11:59pm**. Late submissions will not be accepted. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed. Alternative submission formats will be accommodated as needed. Please reach out to Mandy Enfield, menfield@unitedwaydgco.org / 785-843-6626 x1001 to coordinate a drop-off or troubleshoot technical issues.

APPLICATION REVIEW

All completed applications will be assessed through an equitable and compassionate process by United Way staff, board members, and Community Impact Committee volunteers.

PROPOSAL SCORING

UWDGCO invests in partners that align with our strategy, show promise, and meet the grant eligibility criteria. UWDGCO seeks partners that demonstrate organizational capacity for equity impact, deliver client centered, trauma-informed, low-barrier quality services, and are trusted by the people they serve.

The accuracy and completeness of your application is critical to the grant reviewer's ability to conduct a fair and thorough review. Programs that serve those most impacted by poverty and discrimination will be identified through a thorough a standardized review process so that all applicants are evaluated on common criteria. The scoring matrix is included with the application materials below.

For questions or more information, please email Grants@UnitedWayDgCo.org

ANTI-POVERTY GRANTS

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The complexity of poverty makes it nearly impossible for any single agency to make significant progress alone. **Investments will prioritize projects that embrace the spirit of the Collective Impact framework.** This simply means acknowledging the importance of collaboration, dedication to shared goals, reducing duplication, and identifying ways to maximize impact.

Proposals must align with one of the United Way's anti-poverty goals: Education, Financial Stability, Health, and Equity. Successful proposals speak to these goals and use local data to inform their approach.



RANGE OF FUNDING

Projects are funded up to \$50,000.

Family Stabilization and Anti-Poverty grants share the same eligibility criteria and application and review processes.

FAMILY STABILIZATION GRANT

Food, housing, and other basic needs are a key part of the equation for ending generational poverty. While systems change and upstream program design to address root causes is central in achieving our goal of ending generational poverty, basic human needs must always be met, and provide the building blocks for family stabilization.

Family Stabilization funds are meant to provide direct assistance to low-income families to stabilize a financial crisis to prevent homelessness, utility shut-offs, the use of pay day lenders, and/or abusive or unsafe environments. Administrative and programming expenses directly related to these funds should be included in the request to ensure proper outreach, navigation, and distribution.

2022-2023 Family Stabilization Funds will be invested to increase the success of anti-poverty work through low-barrier access to basic needs like:

- Food pantries & food banks
- Served hot meals
- Mobile food delivery
- Transportation for healthy food access
- Rent and mortgage assistance
- Utilities assistance
- Direct client financial supports to secure and stabilize housing
- Emergency and safe shelter
- Transitional housing
- Permanent supported housing
- Permanent affordable housing

RANGE OF FUNDING

Projects are funded up to \$25,000.

Family Stabilization and Anti-Poverty grants share the same eligibility criteria and application and review processes.