



United Way of Kaw Valley

**United Way of Kaw Valley
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENT**

2026

SOCIAL SERVICES

**Community Development Block Grant
& General Fund**

DATE ANNOUNCED: April 14, 2025

DATE DUE: May 27, 2025

THIS FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENT CONTAINS THE FOLLOWING ELEMENTS:

PART 1: APPLICATION INFORMATION

PART 2: TECHNICAL INFORMATION

PART 3: THRESHOLD ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

PART 4: COMMITTEE CRITERIA: REVIEW

PART 1: APPLICATION INFORMATION

Section 1 Available Funds

Approximately \$492,000 will be made available for Social Services Grants in calendar year 2026. The City of Topeka and United Way of Kaw Valley cannot be held to this amount as Congressional allocations and City budget constraints may cause the amount to change. United Way of Kaw Valley and the City of Topeka reserve the right not to allocate all funds available depending on the number and quality of applications received.

Section 2 Funding Mechanics

A. Eligible applicants

For all priority areas, any state recognized non-profit corporation is eligible for these funds. These organizations must make services available to all Topekans, or make services available to a specific group with specialized needs, i.e. the elderly, children, disabled adults, homeless, low-income families/individuals, etc. Funds can be used only to serve persons who reside within the city limits of Topeka. Emergency Services and Preventive/Counseling are defined as follows:

- **Emergency Aid** - Programs which provide assistance given to cover essential needs on an emergency or crisis basis
- **Preventive/Counseling** - Programs which provide services on an ongoing or as-needed basis to help at-risk individuals and families stabilize their lives and avoid or overcome emergencies

The Grantee understands that as a recipient of funds from the city, that grantee must be in compliance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the implementing regulations 28 C.F.R. Part 35 as to all of its facilities and programs.

Resolution 7580 applies to agency eligibility. "No grant or loan or financial assistance shall be authorized or made from funds administered by any city department to any person, firm, partnership, for-profit corporation, not-for-profit corporation, joint venture or other association of persons who owes any debt to the City of Topeka or who owes any delinquent real estate taxes or personal property taxes or special assessments at the time of entering into a contract." Further, the requirements of Resolution 7580 apply to the agency, not to the individuals served by the funded service.

B. Timetable

Request for Proposal (RFP) Issued – **April 14, 2025**

Submission Deadline – **May 27, 2025**

Initial scoring – **Approximately June 20, 2025**

Recommendations developed – **Approximately August 1, 2025**

C. Priorities

Two funding sources are combined to make these grants possible: (1) City General Funds and (2) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds Requirement.

The primary objective of CDBG funding is the development of viable urban communities by the provision of decent housing and a suitable living environment and expanding economic opportunities, principally for persons of low and moderate income. To meet the objectives of the CDBG program, all activities funded with CDBG under this RFP must benefit low and moderate-income persons (Regulations listed here can be found at 24 CFR 570.2 and 570.200 (2)).

Applicant should be aware CDBG will not be available until Congressional appropriations are made and written agreements are executed between HUD and the City, which will likely be well after January 1, 2026.

City of Topeka Priorities

The following categories have been established by the City Council as priorities for 2026, see page 7.

D. Eligible expenses

Expenses eligible for funding under the Social Services Grants include the operating expenses, staff salaries and direct service costs of the program, including, but not limited to: supplies, transportation expenses, child care, health care services, substance abuse services, employment services and recreational services. This also includes lease of a facility, equipment or other property needed for the service. Provision of emergency “income payments” for shelter (rent, mortgage and/or utility payments) is eligible if the payments do not exceed two months and the payments are made directly to the provider of such services. In addition, food is not an allowable expense.

E. Submission format and deadline

Beginning April 14, 2025, the Request for Proposal (RFP) and application are available by accessing the following link: <https://agency.e-cimpact.com/login.aspx?org=18530F>
Applicants may submit multiple applications under this Request for Proposal
Proposals are due no later than 5:00 p.m., May 27, 2025.

F. Application screening process

Request for Proposal responses will be screened for threshold compliance based on the criteria included in Part 3 of this Funding Announcement. Proposals that do not meet minimum standards for submission will not be considered.

United Way of Kaw Valley will provide initial scoring to the City of Topeka Social Service Grant Committee (SSG). The SSG Committee will finalize scoring and develop a funding recommendation for consideration by the City Council. These allocations then become final subject to appropriations by both the city and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Once funding allocations are final, contracts will be initiated based on the approved allocations.

Section 3 Application Development Assistance

A. Technical and Workshop Assistance

For Technical Assistance with e-CImpact, please contact jkatzer@uwkawvalley.org

An “Application Workshop” will be held on April 28th at 10:00am. Please RSVP to

jmcdiffett@uwkawvalley.org

Further questions regarding the funding process should be directed to Brett Martin at

bmartin@uwkawvalley.org

B. Request for additional information

United Way of Kaw Valley reserves the right to request additional information as necessary.

C. Applicant debriefings

Once grant awards have been made final, United Way of Kaw Valley will schedule debriefings for any interested applicants who wish to ask questions regarding the scoring of the applications or to discuss ways to improve next year’s submission. Applicants may request a debriefing by sending their request in writing to Juliet McDuffett at jmcdiffett@uwkawvalley.org.

PART 2: TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Section 1 Conflict of Interest and Disclosure

In awarding and managing contracts to operate youth and social service programs, United Way of Kaw Valley will not engage in and will not condone on the part of contractors any form of undisclosed conflict of interest. United Way of Kaw Valley employees and both the employees and board members of contracting agencies and organizations will not use their positions for any purpose that constitutes or presents the appearance of personal or organizational conflict of interest or gain.

This includes but is not limited to actions that involve the use of contract funds in ways that provide advantage or benefit to United Way of Kaw Valley and contractor employees and their immediate families and/or to the members of boards of directors of contracting agencies and their immediate families in regard to (a) the acquisition of goods and services, space or amenities in any form, (b) employment or consulting services, (c) program and project participation, and (d) the receipt of gifts or gratuities. (Immediate family is defined as legal or common law husband or wife, father, mother, brother, sister, son, daughter, father-in-law, mother-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, son-in-law, and daughter-in-law.)

Any potential or suspected conflict of interest or appearance of conflict of interest must be brought to the attention of the United Way of Kaw Valley officials in writing as part of the application process.

Similarly, any potential or suspected conflict of interest or appearance of conflict of interest that arises after an application is submitted must be brought to the attention of the United Way of Kaw Valley officials in writing prior to any action that might constitute or result in a conflict of interest.

Section 2 Other Information

A. Sub-contracting and delegation of funds

In general, sub-contracting and delegation of funds by applicants submitting successful responses to this request for proposals will not be permitted. However, this may be acceptable if the benefit to the City and City residents is clear and compelling. Applicants interested in sub-contracting or delegating funds should clearly indicate their intention to do so in their request for proposal response. Written confirmation from United Way of Kaw Valley that this is an acceptable option will be required before any sub-contracting or delegation of funds occurs.

B. Program and project budget periods

Program and project budget periods will be one (1) year in length unless otherwise specified in contracts. Expenditures cannot be made before or after any contract period. Extension of any contract period must be requested and approved in writing.

C. Fiscal and program accountability

To meet minimum eligibility requirements applicants must (a) have or acquire the capacity to receive, spend, and account for public funds in a manner consistent with generally accepted accounting principles and practices, and (b) have the capacity to accomplish the program objectives set forth in their request for proposals response.

(a) In the case of agencies and organizations that have been recipients of City, state or federal funds in any combination this fiscal management requirement can be met by providing evidence in the form of certified audits or similar documentation sufficient to indicate to United Way of Kaw Valley that contract funds will be spent and accounted for appropriately. In the case of agencies or organizations that have not received City, state, or federal funds this fiscal management requirement can be met by providing evidence sufficient to indicate to United Way of Kaw Valley that either arrangements have been made to acquire accounting and fiscal management

services from a private firm or non-profit organization that has the capacity to receive, spend, and account for public funds in a prudent manner or that the applicant has in place and is using a financial management system adequate for this purpose.

b) In the case of agencies and organizations that have been recipients of city, state or federal funds in any combination this program management requirement can be met by providing evidence of successful completion of previous performance-based contract obligations. In the case of agencies or organizations that have not previously received city, state, or federal funds this program performance requirement can be met by providing evidence sufficient to indicate to United Way of Kaw Valley that performance-based contract obligations will be met.

Request for proposals responses from applicants that do not meet minimum eligibility requirements will not be reviewed, and these applicants will not be eligible for funding. Applicants that have not met program and financial management obligations under the terms of previous City of Topeka grants and contracts will not be eligible for funding.

D. Reporting & Monitoring

Funded agencies will provide program, financial, and participant information on a quarterly basis online using e-CImpact. Detailed instructions relating to these requirements will be provided separately. In some instances, United Way of Kaw Valley will require more frequent reporting in the interest of prudent contract management.

United Way of Kaw Valley staff will work cooperatively with grantees to ensure successful contract completion. United Way of Kaw Valley activities will include, but will not be limited to, in-depth review of all submissions, on-site visits and consultation, and routine performance troubleshooting. As necessary United Way of Kaw Valley will use progressive sanctions to ensure successful completion of contracts.

E. Audits

Successful agencies will provide financial audits under the terms and conditions included in contracts. In general, the intent will be to ensure that all funds provided by the City are handled and accounted for in a manner that meets generally accepted accounting principles. When appropriate, United Way of Kaw Valley staff may conduct program and project performance audits or arrange for performance audits to be conducted.

F. Applicable federal, state, and City laws and regulations

Individual contracts may involve the use of one or more types of federal, state and City funds that carry special requirements. These requirements will be referenced in contracts as appropriate, and conformance to applicable laws and regulations will be required.

G. Appeal Process

Once grant applications have been received by United Way of Kaw Valley, a review committee will be formed for initial scoring. The scores will be presented to the Social Service Grant Committee (SSG) for consideration. The SSG committee will then make their recommendations for funding. Grant applicants who disagree with scoring may appeal. The application packet must be the basis for the appeal. The request for appeal shall be made, in writing or by email within 7 calendar days, to United Way of Kaw Valley, 1527 SW Fairlawn Road, Topeka, KS 66604. Attn: Juliet McDiffett at jmcdiffett@uwkawvalley.org.

Once all appeals have been received, a meeting will be scheduled with the SSG committee. Each agency will have an opportunity to present justification for their appeal. The SSG committee will consider the request and United Way of Kaw Valley report back to agencies, within 7 calendar days.

PART 3: THRESHOLD ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

TIMELINESS

Yes / No The application was received before the submission deadline.

COMPLETENESS

Yes / No The Request for Applications response are complete in all material respects.
(Legal and governing body information, Program/project information, Outcomes,
Budget information)

CONFLICT OR APPEARANCE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Yes / No The Applicant has identified and addressed any conflict of interest or appearance of
conflict of interest in a manner that insures the ethical and prudent use of and
accounting for public funds.

COMPLIANCE WITH APPLICABLE LAWS AND REGULATIONS

Yes / No The proposed use of funds is consistent with CDBG regulations (when applicable) and
City of Topeka priorities as listed in the RFP Funding Announcement, including
Resolution 7580.

IS THIS AN ELIGIBLE APPLICANT?

Yes / No Reviewers will determine that all answers to the questions above are positive.
(Questionable answers will be up to United Way of Kaw Valley's discretion.)

PART 4: REVIEW COMMITTEE CRITERIA

City of Topeka Social Services Funding Priorities - Year 2026

Mission Statement: Outcome based, quality, cost effective social services to handle our vulnerable citizens with care, minimize victimization and crime, minimize turnover in neighborhoods, and optimize success.

- Senior citizen neighborhood-based programming to include – meals, activities, transportation
- Medical assistance for low-income individuals
- Programs for at-risk youth
- Emergency housing and utility assistance
- Neighborhood and independent living-based services for persons with severe and persistent mental illness

Social Services Grant Detail

Minimum Grant Request Amount \$10,000

Maximum Grant Request Amount \$27,000

- * Two agencies with maximum grant amounts Shawnee Medical Society maximum amount at \$50,000 and Positive Connections maximum amount at \$35,000.

New untested programs Yes No X Set-aside Amount No

- * Agency program must be in operation for 2 years prior to date of application.

Recommended Social Services Funding for Year 2026

Social Services Grant Total:	\$ <u>491,904</u>
• General Fund	\$ <u>424,047</u>
• CDBG	\$ <u>67,857</u>

The City will accept applications for new programs with the knowledge if funding is exhausted on established programs, new programs will not be funded. Applications will be scored and the percentage of their score multiplied by the amount requested will be the total funding allocation. For example: Request for \$27,000 and they score 95%, the agency would receive \$25,650. Once the threshold is met, the funding will be cut off based on ranking.

* The City of Topeka is committed to following all guidelines as set forth in this Request for Proposal. If issues arise, the Social Service Grants committee reserves the right to choose not to recommend any agency or program(s), any new program(s) or may fund programs with provisos.

Social Services Scoring Sheet

Reviewer _____

Agency _____

Need - 15 points

	Project has demonstrated need (Program Narrative Question #1)	15 pts	_____
15	Need is clearly stated and ties directly to the outputs/outcomes of the program		
10	Need is clearly stated, and program somewhat ties to the outputs/outcomes		
5	Need is not clear and/or does not tie to the outputs/outcomes		
0	Need was not defined, and does not tie to the outputs/outcomes		

Issues and Outcomes – 50 points

Outputs are clear and related to identified needs (Services & Outcomes Section Logic-Form Outputs) _____

10	Outputs are described in detail and are achievable.		
8	Outputs are general or vague		
5	Outputs are not described in detail		
0	Outputs are unclear	10 pts	_____

Outcomes are clear and related to identified needs (Services & Outcomes Section Logic- Form Outcomes)

10	Outcomes are strong and measurable and related to identified need.		
8	Outcomes are moderate and measurable and related to identified need		
5	Outcomes are weak and not related to identified need	10 pts	
0	Outcomes are unclear		_____

Plan has been identified to measure outputs and outcomes (Services & Outcomes Section-Logic Form Source Question)

5	Measurements are clear and appropriate		
3	Only some measurements are clear and appropriate	5 pts	
0	No meaningful measurement has been established		_____

Unduplicated services OR any duplication with other services is explained and adequately defended (Program Narrative Question #2)

5	Services are not duplicated, or duplication is justified		
3	Duplication is explained but not satisfactorily justified	5 pts	
0	Duplication is not explained		_____

Applicant has achieved outputs and outcomes on prior grants – per meaningful measures (Column #1 Logic Model)

20	90% of outcomes and goals are met.		
15	75% of outcomes and goals are met		
10	50% of outcomes and goals are met		
5	25% of outcomes and goals are met	20 pts	
0	No goals achieved		_____

Capacity – 30 points

Organization has the resources to produce the proposed outcomes efficiently and effectively (Budget, program narratives, program overview and history capacity)

- 10 Program budget is clear, adequate, and reasonable to accomplish grant outcomes. Expenditures are cost effective and clearly linked to grant activities. Organization shows strong evidence of financial stability and program sustainability.
 - 5 Program budget is complete but may be difficult to distinguish from organization budget. Expenditures are clearly linked to grant activities but may not be adequate, reasonable, or cost-effective. Organization shows moderate evidence of financial stability and program sustainability.
 - 0 Program budget is included in application but seems incomplete or not reflective of actual costs, activities, or outcomes. Organization shows little evidence of financial stability or program stability.
- 10 pts** _____

Organization manages program effectively (Budget, program narratives, program overview and history capacity)

- 5 There is history of effective program management, cost effective and quality service delivery and evaluation/planning.
 - 3 Limited evidence of agency effective program management, cost effective and quality service delivery and evaluation/planning.
 - 0 Program management, cost effective and quality service delivery and evaluation/planning are weak or not apparent.
- 5 pts** _____

Agency has formal process and is using client input (History & Capacity, Question #3)

- 5 Client input is formalized, and input used
 - 3 Client input is not formalized, described in general terms
 - 0 Client input is not addressed in the proposal
- 5 pts** _____

Org. Leadership is strong and maintains community-based representation

- 5 At least 20% is made of racial or ethnic minorities, is less than 70% of one gender, meets regularly with quorum of board members in attendance at least 80% of the time and has a healthy mix of needed skills and resources
 - 3 Three of four criteria have been met
 - 0 Less than three criteria have been met
- 5 pts** _____

Past grant administration is effective (*Reviewers CANNOT answer this question. This score will be prepopulated for the volunteers.*)

- 5 Reporting and invoicing is on time and paperwork is accurate
 - 3 Reporting on time but paperwork is not accurate
 - 0 Grant administration is not effective
- 5 pts** _____

Collaboration & Partnerships – 5 Points

Partnerships (Collaborations & Partnerships Section)

- 5 Meaningful collaboration with 6 or more entities
- 3 Meaningful collaboration with less than 6 entities
- 0 No partnerships

5 pts _____

Total
(Out of 100, _____)

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