



Eligibility Criteria

- Applicants must have 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status, be classified as a public entity, or have a qualified fiscal sponsor (i.e. a sponsoring tax-exempt organization).
- Applicants must have submitted progress reports for all prior grants received from United Way.
- All grantees must comply with all federal, state and local laws that may apply regarding discrimination because of race, religion, color, gender, national origin, marital status, familial status, age, source of income, disability, sexual orientation, veteran status, and any other classification protected by such laws.
- All grantees will be required to participate in an evaluation process. If selected, organizations will also be asked to share best practices and shared learning to help leverage funding impact.

Key Definitions:

Award types:

Community Transformation Grant Awards: Community Transformation awards are intended to foster and support strategic, long-term approaches to effecting positive systemic change for children and youth in our community. We aspire to support cross-sector, multi-agency collaboratives which are operating with a common agenda, shared measurements, and a backbone organization.

Community Support Awards: Community Support awards are intended to support projects and organizations that demonstrably increase stability for children and families in Lane County. These awards may be used for programs, activities, or organizational capacity, and can also be used to support collaborative efforts between multiple agencies.

Community Innovation Awards: Community Innovation awards are intended to support local nonprofits and community groups in trying new ideas, challenging assumptions, taking thoughtful risks, and getting outside of “business as usual.” These awards emphasize learning, prototyping, and sharing findings back out to the community.

Collective Impact: An innovative, structured approach to collaboration that brings together key actors from multiple sectors to develop a common agenda and achieve progress on large-scale social change.

Common Agenda: Coming together to collectively define the problem and create a shared vision to solve.

Shared Measures: Agreeing to track progress in the same way, which allows for continuous improvement.

Mutually Reinforcing Activities: Coordinating collective efforts to maximize the end result.

Continuous Communication: Building trust and relationships among all participants.

Backbone Organization: Having a team dedicated to orchestrating the work of the group.

Equity: Each and every community member will be provided with the opportunity and resources they need individually to thrive.

Indicators (or benchmarks): Measures which help quantify the achievement of a result. They answer the question “How would we recognize these results in measurable terms if we saw them?” For example, third grade reading scores help quantify whether children are succeeding in school, and whether they were ready for school three years ago.

Outcomes: A measure of “what changed,” typically including a before-and-after comparison. Outcomes provide a quantitative and/or qualitative description of the level of improvement or change that happened as a result of the outputs. Examples of outcomes include percentage of change on a given goal measured through a pre/post assessment, or self-described changes from clients who participated in a program.

Outputs: A measurement of “what happened,” such as the number of clients served, the number of program hours completed, or units of service delivered. Outputs can be thought of as the activities, services and programs you completed using grant funds.



Strategies: Coherent collections of actions which have a reasoned chance of improving results. Strategies are made up of our best thinking about what works, and include the contributions of many partners. No single action by any one agency can create the improved results we want and need.

Third Party Program Evaluator: Either an individual evaluation consultant or a firm specializing in program/project evaluation. The evaluator is an impartial person/entity who analyzes the data collected about how a grant-funded program meets its objectives and goals.

United Way of Lane County's Commitment to Equity: United Way recognizes and respects all members of our community by embracing and celebrating our unique differences. By using an equity and inclusion lens, we believe this will create better understanding of all people and lead to more effective decision-making and outcomes for all in our community. We strive to embed this value into organizational practices and decisions including: board and staff recruitment, training to promote increased understanding, program funding decisions and advocacy.

United Way of Lane County's Outcome Areas:

1. All families are stable* and healthy*.
2. All children enter kindergarten ready to learn*.
3. All students are successful* in elementary school.
4. All youth gain the knowledge, skills and credentials* to create a pathway to productivity.

Stable: In considering stability, United Way is interested in the key factors associated with children's short- and long-term outcomes, including: family financial/income stability, employment stability, food security, and housing/residential stability.

Healthy: In considering health, United Way takes a broad, social determinants approach that includes: economic development that promotes healthy behaviors, affordable housing, access to healthy foods, early childhood development, preventative health services and healthy workplaces.

Ready to Learn: Children entering kindergarten have the early literacy, early math, social and emotional, and self-regulation skills that research cites as critical to success in kindergarten and subsequent academic years.

Successful (in elementary school): United Way is particularly interested in improving third grade reading proficiency and associated factors (such as behavioral, physical, and oral health), as research has shown this to be a powerful predictor of high school graduation rates.

Knowledge, Skills and Credentials (to create a pathway to success): United Way defines this as graduating high school on time and being provided with connections to a variety of supports and opportunities that lead to success in life, including career and technical education, career connected learning, rigorous and relevant course work, and/or dual credit opportunities that motivate a student to pursue an Associates Degree, Bachelors Degree, Certificate, etc..

United Way of Lane County's Priority Populations: Families navigating poverty, families living in rural communities, children with disabilities and/or developmental delays, and racial/cultural/ethnic historically underserved populations.