2027 Community Impact Grants Expression of Interest (EOI)

Frequently Asked Questions

This FAQ document is updated weekly or as new questions are submitted throughout the EOI process.

Change Log

Last Updated	Changes Made
November 9, 2026	New (✚) and revised (✎) questions and responses since publishing
October 22, 2026	FAQ Published

General

✚ Why has United Way decided to issue an open call for funding?

An open call gives organizations outside our existing funding relationships an opportunity to apply and allows us to consider a wider range of approaches to meeting community needs. This process aligns with our three new impact areas, giving both existing and new partners an opportunity to demonstrate how their work contributes to these priorities. This will provide a more open and transparent process that balances continuity with broader access and will support aligning future funding with the greatest impact in our community.

✚ Will the 2027 Community Impact Grants replace the programmatic or collaborative multi-year funding our organization currently receives from United Way, or would it be in addition to the current funding we receive through that stream?

The 2027 Community Impact Grants will replace the programmatic and collaborative multi-year funding stream. This is not an additional funding stream. For currently funded organizations, the 2027 Community Impact Grant process will begin with their EOI submission as the first step to be considered for funding in this stream.

✚ Would funding through the 2027 Community Impact Grants replace or impact funding our organization currently receives through one of United Way's Signature Initiatives?

No, the 2027 Community Impact Grants are separate from and do not impact the funding an organization receives through one of United Way's Signature Initiatives.

✚ Is this a multi-year funding opportunity?

Yes, contracts are expected to begin October 1, 2027, and span 21 months to June 30, 2029.

United Way Calgary and Area

Eligibility

Who is eligible to submit an EOI?

Registered Canadian charities and eligible non-profit organizations that are incorporated under the Alberta Societies Act or the Canada Not-For-Profit Corporations Act and be able to support United Way's documentation and accountability requirements.

Who is not eligible to submit an EOI?

United Way will not fund unincorporated groups, for-profit businesses, hospitals, political parties, or individuals.

Are municipalities eligible?

No. Municipalities are not eligible as the lead applicant for this EOI. They may be involved as partners where deemed appropriate, provided the lead applicant meets United Way's eligibility requirements.

+ Can public sector institutions with charitable status, such as school boards, apply?

No. Public sector institutions such as school boards are not eligible as the lead applicant for this EOI. They may be involved as partners where appropriate, provided the lead applicant meets United Way's eligibility requirements.

✎ Can universities or academic institutions apply?

No. Universities and academic institutions, including primary and secondary schools, are not eligible as the lead applicant for this EOI. They may be involved as partners where appropriate, provided the lead applicant meets United Way's eligibility requirements.

+ Would a research project be considered?

A research project could be considered if the research question aligns with one of United Way's three Impact Areas and the lead applicant meets all other eligibility requirements.

Can faith-based organizations apply?

Faith-based organizations may be eligible if they otherwise meet the organization-type, geography, budget, and social-sector requirements, and if the proposed work does not include religious activities. A faith-based organization is a non-profit organization affiliated with a religious group, church, or spiritual belief system that operates to serve charitable, educational, or social purposes.

Can organizations that have never received or are not currently receiving United Way funding submit an EOI?

Yes, if they meet the eligibility requirements and their proposed work fits with United Way's Impact Areas: Economic Stability, Healthy Kids and Thriving People, and Connected Communities.

Are current United Way partners required to submit an EOI to be considered for funding?

Yes. Current and previous partners (unless informed otherwise) must complete an EOI to be considered for funding.

Can we apply as a partnership or collaboration?

Yes. A collaboration may apply if the lead applicant meets eligibility requirements and can take responsibility for funding, accountability, documentation, and reporting.

Is there a minimum organizational size requirement to apply?

Yes. Organizations must have had an annual operating budget of at least $200,000 in each of their two most recently completed fiscal years to be eligible for this process. Organizations that do not meet this threshold may be eligible to apply for other funding opportunities in the future.

+ What financial documentation is required to verify an organization meets the minimum organizational size requirement?

At the EOI stage, applicants are not required to submit documents verifying annual operating budgets. Organizations successful in advancing to the second stage may be required to submit year-end financial documents such as financial statements and balance sheets showing a minimum of $200,000 in operating expenses over the last two completed fiscal years later in the process.

Is the EOI only open to organizations in Calgary?

Yes. This EOI is open to eligible organizations whose proposed work is based in and focused on populations in Calgary. Organizations based in and serving Chestermere, Cochrane, High River, Okotoks, Strathmore have separate funding processes through Area Community Partnerships agreements and are not eligible for this specific EOI.

Budget and Eligible Expenses

What expenses are ineligible for United Way funding?

United Way funds cannot be used for capital expenditures, deficit funding, religious activities, and expenses for work based in communities outside Calgary.

Are staffing and operational expenses eligible for funding?

Yes. Staff salaries, volunteer honoraria, and operational expenses such as rent, utilities, insurance, and reasonable administrative fees are eligible.

Do we need matching funds?

No. Matching funds are not required. It is helpful to share other confirmed or anticipated funding sources.

+ Can we apply to other funders to help support the same work we are applying to United Way for?

Yes. Other funding is not required; however, we do encourage diversified revenue streams for proposed work.

How much budget detail is needed?

At the EOI stage, a high-level or estimated annual amount and a general description of how funds would be used are enough. More detail may be requested in the second stage.

Can funding support existing work?

Yes. Applicants may propose existing work, work that is being adapted, work that is expanding, or new work, as long as it fits the eligibility and strategic focus of the process.

How much funding is available for this grant call or for each Impact Area?

The amount of funding available is dependent on campaign revenue. The number of organizations and the amounts funded for this call is dependent on the number of applications and the amounts requested. We expect demand to exceed available funding. We anticipate distributing a similar amount of funding for this stream as currently.

Application Process

Why is United Way using a 2-stage application process?

The 2-stage process, beginning with the EOI, is intended to open a respectful conversation about shared priorities, community strengths, emerging needs, ideas, and opportunities for partnership.

Is the EOI a funding application?

No. The EOI is the first step in a staged process. It helps United Way and community organizations understand whether there may be a good fit before organizations are invited to provide more detail in the second stage. Funding decisions happen later in the process.

What information will be requested in the second-stage application compared to the EOI?

The second-stage application will request more detail on implementation plans, budget, projected outcomes and how they will be measured, organizational capacity, risks, and partnerships.

How do we submit our EOI?

EOIs must be submitted online via Microsoft Forms using this link:

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The deadline for applications is Friday, November 27, 2026 at 4:00 pm MT.

Can we submit more than one EOI?

Yes. An organization may submit one EOI per Impact Area. A separate EOI can be submitted for other Impact Areas if the proposed work is distinct. Applicants should choose one primary Impact Area that best fits each submission.

EOI Decision Process

What happens after the EOI is submitted?

United Way will screen applications for eligibility. Submissions that pass the eligibility screen are then reviewed according to specific criteria. The process is primarily managed internally with support from external reviewers. United Way may contact applicants if clarification or

further information is needed. Only selected applicants will be invited to complete a second-stage application.

What criteria will United Way use to review EOIs?

United Way will assess EOIs based on the following criteria: alignment with United Way Impact Areas; community need, opportunity, or issue; evidence, learning, and community input; proposed approach and rationale; organizational fit and capacity; funding request and budget fit. Scoring on these criteria is one input into decision-making. United Way may also consider funding availability, portfolio balance, impact-area mix, geography, populations served, and strategic learning.

When will we know if our EOI is selected to move to the next stage?

EOI decisions are expected to be communicated February 1, 2027. Successful EOI submissions will receive additional details about the second-stage application at that time.

What are United Way's impact and evaluation expectations for funded organizations?

Projects are expected to track key client level and program level outcomes. Further guidance, templates, and ongoing supports around evaluation will be provided to successful applicants.