

LIVE UNITED



United Way of King County

United Way of King County Financial Stability Funding Announcement

Contact: Lauren McGowan, Director, Financial Stability

Lmcgowan@uwkc.org

Overview:

More than ten percent of people in King County live in poverty. Thousands of others get by with only slightly more. These families are in a precarious state, often only a paycheck or accident away from hunger, a utility cut-off, or even homelessness. United Way invests in a set of proven strategies that will lift 50,000 people out of poverty by 2020. We do this by connecting low-income people with public benefits, income supports, employment, and other community resources that help increase their incomes above the poverty level. A signature effort is leveraging millions of public dollars that would otherwise be left on the table.

United Way will make funding available to support the emergency food system and strategies that effectively reduce poverty by eliminating barriers to increasing income and strengthening financial stability.

Programs currently supported under Emergency Food System (investment area 2101 and some 2011 investments) and Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Systems Support/Access (except Red Cross and Crisis Clinic) (investment areas 2303, 2304, 2306, 2308, 2309, 2311, 2312, 2010, 2415) must reapply to be considered for funding.

Funding for financial stability investments will be more competitive than in previous years due to a higher number of applicants for a reduced amount of available funding. We cannot guarantee that those who have been funded continuously in the past will continue to receive funding.

Funding available: Approximately \$3 million is available in Financial Stability for services in the following two areas:

- Emergency food system (\$1,000,000)
- Reduce poverty by eliminating barriers to increasing income and strengthening financial stability. (Up to \$2,000,000)

Applicants may apply for funding for services in more than one area.

Award range: Emergency Food systems grants will be in the \$30,000-100,000 range. Poverty reduction funding awards will range from \$50,000 - \$200,000 annually. Funding outside this range may be considered if appropriate, based on the level of service being provided.

Funding period: Initial awards will be made for a one-year period from July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018.

Timeline:

January 13, 2017	Applications available in eImpact
January 17, 2017, 2:00-4:00pm	Application information session 1: United Way of King County, 720 2 nd Ave, Gates Rm, Seattle WA
January 24, 2017, 11:00-1:00pm	Application information session 2: The 2100 Building, 2100 24th Ave S, Seattle WA
January 27, 2017, 1:00-3:00pm	Application information session 3: Green River College, 417 Ramsay Way, Ste 112, Kent WA
February 24, 2017	Applications due
March 2017	Interview for Poverty Reduction finalists
April 30, 2017	Applicants notified if approved for funding
July 1, 2017	Contracts begin
January 16, 2018	Progress report due
July 23, 2018	Year-end report due with demographics

Please note that poverty reduction grantees will be required to participate in regular convenings and more frequent reporting. Details will be further outlined during the RFP process.

Application Information Sessions:

There will be three sessions (agenda repeated for each) held to answer any questions about the application process. Please RSVP for the information sessions [here](#).

<i>Emergency Food System</i>

Overview:

There are people living in King County struggling to get by due to underemployment, low wages and rising costs of living. As a result, many children and adults do not get the meals they need to thrive. We support the emergency food system to get nourishing food to people in need. Many King County residents are one job loss or medical crisis away from food insecurity – but some people, including children and seniors, may be at greater risk of hunger than others.¹ African Americans and Latinos are disproportionately affected by poverty, food insecurity and unemployment. At the same time, we also seek to help the people we serve build a path to a brighter, food-secure future. **Programs currently supported for “Emergency Food System” (investment area 2101 and some 2011 investments) must reapply to be considered for continued funding.**

Funding

A total of \$1,000,000 is available in Financial Stability for the emergency food system.

Strategies/Services

We support food banks, food pantries and meal programs serving families, children, seniors and others at risk of or experiencing food insecurity or hunger. We will invest in programs that make access to

¹ [Feeding America](#)

nutritional food easy for the clients they serve. We are especially interested in reaching populations at greater risk of hunger than others, including children, seniors, households in rural areas, African American and Latino households. To support people moving to a food-secure pathway, we are requiring connection of food bank and meal participants to public benefits, income supports, employment, and other community resources, either offered directly or through partnerships.

Examples include:

- Connecting food bank participants to other income supports, such as SNAP, summer meals or other programs.
- Food banks, food pantries and meal programs serving people at risk of hunger
- Home-delivered meal programs, brown bag programs
- Programs that distribute food to emergency food providers

Services NOT eligible include:

- Congregate meal programs

Focus Population:

We are especially interested in reaching populations at greater risk of hunger than others, including older adults, children, rural, African American and Latino.

Additional Requirements

Funded agencies will be required to report the number of people connected to other income supports.

Poverty Reduction

Overview:

Many events can hurtle an individual or family into crisis, from a job loss or illness, to the breakup of a relationship or an act of violence. United Way stands with people at times of such vulnerability by supporting the 2-1-1 information and referral system, disaster relief agencies, and a variety of counseling and shelter services for domestic violence survivors. United Way also partners with school districts, housing authorities, and community based organizations to connect students experiencing homelessness with resources that reduce school mobility and increase academic success.

In fiscal year 2018 we will focus our investments on strategies that lift people out of poverty. Programs currently funded for Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Systems Support /Access (except Red Cross and 2-1-1) (investment areas 2303, 2304, 2306, 2308, 2309, 2311, 2312, 2010 2415) must apply to be considered for funding. **All existing contracts will end June 30, 2017.**

Funding

Up to \$2 million is available to reduce barriers to attaining jobs, housing, income supports (e.g. public benefits) and financial stability through proven poverty reduction models. **Funding will only support programs that can clearly demonstrate the potential to increase client income above 100 percent of the federal poverty level¹ and measure the impact of increased income (e.g. wages, income supports or public benefits). All grantees will participate in a learning circle. Grantees will work collaboratively throughout the grant period to share learnings, address barriers to success, design new approaches and develop partnerships.**

We are interested in funding innovative strategies that have the potential to reduce poverty for vulnerable people. We encourage applicants to use this application process as an opportunity to think about ways to improve or scale anti-poverty programs, test innovative ideas, weave together programs that operate in silos, and improve data collection and evaluation. While we are eager to fund proven anti-poverty programs, we are also interested in learning about new ideas and approaches with high potential.

Programs that utilize AmeriCorps National Service Members or are interested in scaling a program launched by National Service members are encouraged to apply.

Applicants are encouraged to review the United Way website or email staff to learn about current strategies and opportunities for alignment with programs, including our Free Tax Preparation Campaign, Ready and Resilient Program, and Fuel Your Future. For more information, contact Lauren McGowan at Lmcgowan@uwkc.org, (206) 461-6973.

Examples of strategies we may fund include:

- Navigation services that help people increase income or income supports
 - Programs that help students complete degree or credential programs by reducing barriers to meeting basic needs.
 - Employment navigators that help low income people access jobs or increase wages
 - One stop centers that provide coordinated access to income supports
- Community Action Agencies or Multi Service Centers interested in implementing coordinated access to anti-poverty programs
- Programs that incentivize work or savings
 - Programs that provide a cash transfer or grant to increase income
 - Programs that provide a match/incentive for emergency savings accounts
- Systems or policy level work that increase access to income
 - Initiatives to increase the effectiveness of government supports in lifting people out of poverty e.g. TANF, EITC
 - Programs that connect able bodied working adults to workfare sites or employment
- Civil legal aid that reduces barriers to attaining income or financial stability
- Collaborative partnerships that mobilize public and private partners to implement anti-poverty initiatives are strongly encouraged

Services NOT eligible include:

- Programs or projects that cannot directly measure an increase in income above the federal poverty level; a proxy or projected measure may be acceptable if a grantee is unable to directly collect income data
- Child Savings Accounts
- Initiatives that lift fewer than 50 clients annually out of poverty
- Programs that focus on clients with incomes above 100% of federal poverty level
- Employment and training programs (United Way makes a significant investment in this area)
- Programs focused primarily on SNAP/Basic Food outreach (United Way makes a significant investment in this area)

Focus Population:

United Way of King County will invest in projects that serve clients currently living below 100% of the Federal Poverty Level. We are especially interested in reaching under-served populations, including domestic violence survivors, immigrants, refugees, English Language Learners (ELL), and people of color. We are interested in funding community-based organizations with the ability to work with the identified populations, and organizations with experience in serving the target populations in South King County will be prioritized.

Racial Equity

United Way of King County has a goal of reducing racial disparities. People of color in King County are dramatically more likely to face difficulties in meeting basic needs. King County’s African American, American Indian/Alaska Native, and Latino populations, and some subpopulations in the Asian/Pacific Islander community are affected by poverty at three times the rate of the white population.

Successful applicants will demonstrate the capacity to deliver effective, culturally competent services that have the potential to reduce identified racial disparities. We will also give higher priority to organizations with experience in serving the focus populations in South King County.

Reporting

Quarterly reporting as well as a year-end final report are required, providing a summary of goals/milestones met to date including narrative descriptions of highlights, successes and challenges encountered and resolved.

Specific indicators to be measured are under development and will be available with the application.

Additional Requirements

Grantees will also be expected to meet on a regular basis to share learnings and identify opportunities for collaboration. Convening schedules will be developed in partnership with grantees.

Application Process

Applications will be available on January 13, 2017 and must be submitted through [eCImpact](#), our online application system. If you need help logging into or navigating e-CImpact, email communityservices@uwkc.org, or contact Damian Spence at 206-461-8511 or Sue Wyss at 206-461-3778. Technical assistance may be limited near the submittal deadline. Please don’t wait until the last minute to complete your application in e-CImpact.

The following guideline figures represent annual income.

2016 Poverty Guidelines for the 48 Contiguous States and the District of Columbia

Persons in family/household	Poverty guideline
1	\$11,880
2	16,020
3	20,160
4	24,300
5	28,440
6	32,580
7	36,730
8	40,890

For families/households with more than 8 persons, add \$4,160 for each additional person.