**Letter of Intent to Apply for United Way of the Lakeshore Community Investment Grants for 2024 –2026**

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United Way of the Lakeshore is now inviting Letters of Intent for grants for **all** **programs** for grant cycle July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2026. Letters of Intent will be accepted for new programs from potential agency partners and existing partner agencies until midnight on **January 15, 2024**. Programs aimed to assist ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, and Employed) individuals and families who struggle to meet their basic needs will be considered. Interested parties are encouraged to visit United Way of the Lakeshore at: unitedwaylakeshore.org/grants for more information on submitting a Letter of Intent. Agencies will be notified by February 2, 2024, of whether they will be invited to submit a full grant proposal.

***To complete a Letter of Intent, continue by hitting the red NEXT button at the bottom of the screen.***

## **Impact Areas & Program Priorities:**

**ALICE EMPHASIS:** After a series of community conversations held in Fall 2015-Spring 2016, United Way of the Lakeshore learned from the Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed (ALICE) individual and families that although barriers existed to their security in key United Way priority areas of health, education, and income stability, several barriers emerged as trends that posed limits to many. The **Agenda for Change** shares areas of emphasis related to our grant-making at United Way of the lakeshore.

To address these barriers, the United Way of the Lakeshore Board of Directors is inviting specific Letters of Intent for the following:

**Childhood Success:** Education is vital to help kids be successful in school and careers and to help build a skilled and educated workforce. United Way’s ultimate goal of Childhood Success is to ensure that children are developmentally and academically prepared for secondary education. Without question, it takes entire communities working together more collaboratively than ever before to co-create community-based, comprehensive solutions that support children and students along the education continuum from birth through elementary school.

***Priority Areas for Childhood Success funding consideration include programs that serve children ages 0-3 in school readiness, Early Literacy Support, and Childcare Support Services.***

**Youth Success:** Education is vital to help kids be successful in school and careers and to help build a skilled and educated workforce. United Way’s youth success goal is to ensure that youth gain the knowledge, skills and credentials so that they are prepared for the workforce and able to obtain family sustaining employment. For youth, ages 10-21, this requires achieving key milestones along the way: successful experiences in and transitions from elementary to middle and high school; on-time secondary school graduation; and completion of some form of post-secondary education, credentialing, or training.

***Priority Areas for Youth Success funding consideration include programs that address Chronic Absenteeism and Family Engagement.***

**Economic Mobility:** United Way’s economic mobility goal is to ensure that individuals and families improve their socioeconomic status. Economic mobility, or the ability of an individual or family to change their financial status, can have a multi-generational, positive impact on overall well-being by increasing access to financial products and services, improving housing options, and broadening educational opportunities.

***Priority Areas for Economic Mobility funding consideration include programs that address Housing, Financial Coaching, and Transportation.***

**Healthy Families:** United Way’s health goal is to enable individuals and families to improve their health. This requires increasing access to health care and health insurance, but also creating healthy communities, increasing physical activity and access to healthy food, and ensuring that children and families get off to a healthy start.

***Priority Areas for Healthy Families funding consideration include programs that address Access to Care (both physical access and resource education), Mental Health, Domestic Violence, and Healthy Lifestyles.***

### **Agency Criteria for Consideration for Grant Funding:**

* The agency is a health of human service 501(c)(3), or similar organization qualified to receive tax deductible contributions under the Internal Revenue Code.
* The agency affirms non-discrimination.
* The agency maintains responsible management with a qualified board of unpaid directors which meets at least four times per year.
* The agency must have a favorable annual financial statement audited by an independent certified public accountant. If the agency’s annual revenues are less than $500,000, a financial review prepared by a Certified Public Accountant is acceptable.
* The agency must provide services to the residents of Muskegon, Newaygo, or Oceana County beyond a PO box number or a toll-free telephone number.
* The agency agrees not to promote designations to itself.
* The agency agrees to honor the Supplemental Fundraising Policy as set forth by the United Way of the Lakeshore Board of Directors.
* The program does not duplicate existing efforts in the community.
* The agency has no indebtedness or liabilities that in the event of membership approval may become the responsibility of United Way of the Lakeshore.

# **Organization Information:**

**Organization Name:**

**Organization Address:**

**Tax ID or EIN:**

**Name of Fiscal Sponsor (If Applicable):**

**Fiscal Sponsor EIN (If Applicable):**

**Executive Director/CEO Name:**

**ED Email:**  **ED Phone:**

**Application Contact Name:**

**Application Email:** **Application Phone:**

**Brief Organization Description (Agency Background) | Please provide years of operation, current target population served, etc.**

**Please list all counties that your organization serves:**

**Does your organization / agency have a diversity, equity, and inclusion statement? (Y/N)**

**If yes, please list statement here:**

**How does your organization ensure serving our communities equitably?**

**Organization Website:**

# **Program Specific Information:**

**What County(ies) are you requesting UW funding for? (Check all that apply)**

**Muskegon | Newaygo | Oceana**

**Funding Area Focused On: (Check All That Apply)**

**Childhood Success** **Youth Success** **Economic Mobility** **Healthy Families**

**Please select program priority area:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Childhood Success:**Child Development Ages 0-3Early Literacy SupportsChildcare Supports | **Youth Success**Chronic Absenteeism Family Engagement | **Economic Mobility**HousingFinancial CoachingTransportation | **Healthy Families:** Access to Care (Physical or Resource Education)Mental HealthDomestic Violence Healthy Lifestyles |

**Program Title**

**Program Description (Please describe your program and/or initiative for which you are requesting funding).**

**Funding Request and Narrative (Please specify the total funding request with a brief explanation as to how the funds will be used)**

**Has your program been in operation for the last two years or longer? (Y/N)**

**What would you like our team to know about the success of the program?**

# **Agency Certification Checklist:**

**Does your organization have the following (check all that apply):**

* **Affirmation of Non-Discrimination**
* **Agency Budget**
* **Agency/ Organization Annual Report**
* **IRS 990**
* **IRS W-9**
* **License to Solicit**
* **IRS Determination Letter**
* **Recent Financial Audit**
* **Auditor’s Management Letter**
* **Current List of Board members and their employer**