



**2026 Community Impact Program
Grants Request for Applications
(RFA)**

Overview

United Way Forsyth & Dawson Counties is pleased to offer **Community Impact Grants** to support high-impact, short-term projects that align with one or more of our four core impact areas:

- **Youth Opportunity**
- **Healthy Community**
- **Financial Security**
- **Community Resiliency**

This funding opportunity is open to nonprofit organizations serving residents of **Forsyth and/or Dawson County**, particularly those working to support **ALICE** households (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed).

UWFD has an open, competitive and inclusive application process to help identify organizations that demonstrate the greatest potential for impact within the greatest community needs.

Community Impact Grants

- Award Range: \$1,000 - \$10,000
- Grant Term: 1 year
- Focus: Targeted initiatives or pilot projects with direct community impact and measurable outcomes.

Eligibility Eligible applicants include:

- Nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations and
- Programs operating within the UWFD regional footprint (Forsyth and Dawson Counties)
- Organization must be committed to serving [ALICE](#) households
- Organization must be committed and able to make measurable improvements for clients in one of the four impact areas.
- Organization must have the capacity to manage grant funds effectively.

Timeline

RFA Release	January 15, 2026
Application Info Session	January 28, 2026
Application Due Date	March 27, 2026
Award Notifications	June 2026
Grant Project Period	July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027

How to Apply

Applications must be submitted via the [UWFD online grant portal](#). An application template is provided below to assist in planning before submission.

Grantee Requirements

All grantees receiving funding from United Way Forsyth and Dawson Counties (UWFD) are expected to adhere to the following partnership and accountability standards:

- **Execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)**
Each grantee will enter into a formal MOU with UWFD outlining mutual responsibilities, funding terms, reporting requirements, and expectations for collaboration and visibility.
- **Submit Progress Reports**
Grantees must provide quarterly reports that document progress toward stated goals, key milestones achieved, challenges encountered, and measurable outcomes. Reporting templates and due dates will be detailed in the MOU.
- **Collaborate with UWFD During Implementation**
Grantees are expected to work closely with UWFD staff throughout the project period to align efforts, share updates, and participate in strategic check-ins or site visits as appropriate.
- **Promote Partnership with UWFD**
Grantees must include UWFD's logo and approved partnership language on all



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public-facing materials related to the funded project, including but not limited to: flyers, press releases, reports, digital content, presentations, and social media posts. UWFD will provide brand guidelines and logo files.

- **Amplify the United Way Mission**

As community ambassadors, grantees are encouraged to actively promote their partnership with UWFD by participating in storytelling opportunities, spotlight features, interviews, or shared community events that demonstrate the collective impact of this work. Grantees may also be asked to contribute content (e.g., photos, testimonials, quotes) for use in UWFD's annual report, newsletters, or campaigns.

Application Template

We recommend drafting your application responses in a Word document before submitting through the online portal.

Organization Name:

Contact Person (Name, Title, Email, Phone):

Organization EIN:

Amount Requested:

Section 1: Organizational Overview

1. What is your organization's mission?
 2. Briefly describe your organization's history and core services.
 3. Which counties/communities do you serve?
 4. Who is your target population (age, income, background, etc.)?
 5. How many years has your organization been in operation?
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Section 2: Project Description

6. Briefly describe the project for which you are applying for funding?
 7. What specific community challenge or opportunity does your project address?
 8. Who will benefit from this project, and how?
 9. What are your main project goals and objectives (include 2–3 measurable outcomes. Think SMART Goals)?
 10. What key activities will you carry out to reach your goals?
 11. Which of the following UW impact areas does your project align with? (Check all that apply):
 - ☐ Youth Opportunity
 - ☐ Healthy Community
 - ☐ Financial Security
 - ☐ Community Resiliency
 12. What is your expected project timeline (start and end dates, major milestones)?
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Section 3: Evaluation

12. How will you know if the project is successful?
 13. What tools or methods will you use to track progress and outcomes?
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Section 4: Budget

14. Please complete and upload the **Community Impact Grant Budget Worksheet** (provided).

Important Notes:

All costs must be **reasonable, necessary, and directly tied to project activities**.

UWFD funds may not be used for construction, lobbying, sponsorship of events, or costs unrelated to the funded project.

Applicants are encouraged to include **in-kind contributions or matching funds**, though they are not required.

15. Please tell us what percentage of your revenue falls under each category

Grants, Donations, Earned Revenue, etc...

16. Please tell us what percentage of your expenses falls under each category:

management and general, fundraising, programs

17. Please tell us what percentage of your board gives to your organization:

1. Attachments

- a) IRS Determination Letter
- b) Letters of Support (if collaborative)
- c) Financials based on the following:
 - **> \$1M in revenue** - most recent financial statements AND most recent audited financials



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- **Revenue between \$500,000 and \$1M** – Most recent financial statements that have been reviewed by an independent CPA
 - **Revenue < \$500,000** – most recent financial statements
- d) Most recent IRS Form 990 or 990 EZ
- e) Board Member List

Questions? Please contact Allison Mayfield at allison@unitedwayforsyth.com or visit <https://www.uwfd.com/grants> for technical assistance or general inquiries.

Rubric – Community Impact Grant

★ Scoring Scale (0–4 Points per Category)

Score	Description
4 – Strong	Fully meets or exceeds expectations. Well-developed, clear, and aligned with United Way priorities. Outstanding level of detail and preparedness.
3 – Good	Meets expectations with a solid plan and thoughtful detail. Some areas could be expanded but the proposal is clearly viable.
2 – Adequate	Meets basic expectations. Some gaps in clarity, feasibility or detail, but still a workable project.
1 – Limited	Key elements are missing, vague or underdeveloped. Needs significant improvement or clarification.
0 – Not Addressed	This category was missing, irrelevant, or fails to address the question or criteria.

Category	Scoring Categories
Organizational Overview (0-4 Points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ 4 – Organization demonstrates strong leadership and a clear mission. Strong service history and deep knowledge of the Forsyth/Dawson community.✓ 3 – Organization is capable and well-aligned but has minor gaps in experience or structure.✓ 2 – Organization appears stable but lacks detail or relevant experience.✓ 1 – Limited capacity or vague description of leadership and services✓ 0 - No evidence of readiness or question was left unanswered
Project Description (0-4 Points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ 4 – Project is clearly defined, feasible, and directly addresses a meaningful community challenge. Target population and timeline are well articulated.✓ 3 – Strong project detail with some minor clarity or detail gaps✓ 2 – Project is generally described but lacks clarity or feasibility in key areas.✓ 1 – Project is vague or lacks key components.✓ 0 – No clear project description provided.

Goals & Outcomes (0-4 Points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 4 – Strong SMART goals and 2-3 clearly measurable outcomes that align with UWFD impact areas. ✓ 3 – Good goals and measurable outcomes with minor issues in clarity or scope. ✓ 2 – General outcomes are included but measurement is weak. ✓ 1 – Goals are vague and not clearly measurable. ✓ 0 – No outcomes or goals included.
Evaluation Plan (0-4 Points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 4 – Evaluation tools and methods are clearly explained and connected to project goals. ✓ 3 – Methods and tools are generally described but could be more specific ✓ 2 – Basic evaluation plan included, but lacks clarity or rigor. ✓ 1 – Weak or vague evaluation strategy. ✓ 0 – No evaluation plan provided.
Budget & Fiscal Responsibility (0-4 Points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 4 – Budget is complete, reasonable, and aligned with project activities. Fiscal background is clear and strong. ✓ 3 - Budget is mostly complete and reasonable, though a few items need clarification or additional detail. ✓ 2 – Budget has inconsistencies. Alignment with goals is not fully clear. ✓ 1 – Budget is vague, misaligned with project, or includes unallowable items. ✓ 0 – Budget not provided or does not align with the project.
Inclusion & Equity Lens (0-4 Points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 4 – Strong focus on serving underserved communities and integrating equity into program design and delivery. ✓ 3 - Equity considerations are present and meaningful, though not fully integrated across all areas of the project. ✓ 2 – Equity is mentioned but is surface-level or not linked to outcomes or engagement strategies. ✓ 1 – Minimal or vague reference to equity or inclusion. ✓ 0 – No mention of equity, access, or inclusion.
Overall Readiness & Community Impact (0-4 Points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 4 – Project is well positioned for success and will clearly benefit Forsyth and/or Dawson County. High potential for impact and readiness to launch. ✓ 3 – Project is viable and impactful with some minor risks. ✓ 2 – Impact is described but may be limited or uncertain. ✓ 1 – Limited evidence of potential community benefit. ✓ 0 – No clear community impact or unclear implementation readiness.

TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS: 28