REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
Collective Action to Drive Systems-Level Change

Schedule of Events

Application Release: Monday, December 9, 2019

Mandatory Bidder’s Conference: Friday, December 13, 2019, 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

UWTC Arlington, 401 W. Sanford Street, Suite 2600, Arlington, TX

Monday, December 16, 2019, 1 p.m. – 2 p.m.

UWTC Board Room, 1500 N. Main Street, Suite 200, Fort Worth, TX

Application Deadline: Friday, January 31, 2020, 3:00 p.m.

Notice of Funding: Wednesday, April 1, 2020

Funding Period: July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021

<<<This is a one-year grant opportunity. Multi-year funding is not guaranteed.>>>}

Questions related to the RFP should be directed to

Chris Alvarado
Vice President, Community Investment
United Way of Tarrant County
817-258-8115
Chris.Alvarado@unitedwaytarrant.org
A. Background and Introduction

United Way of Tarrant County (UWTC) is pleased to invite your coalition to submit a full proposal for funding to support collective action resulting in systems change. Systems change involves approaches that target the root causes, or determinants, of social problems and provides effective activities and funding to solve the problem. UWTC is interested in providing temporary financial support to coalitions, task forces, or strategic partnerships that have a common agenda and purpose that are working to create systems change in at least three of the following:

- Tracking and measuring progress toward meeting common goals
- Sharing of data across sectors and between organizations
- Changing policy at the local, state or federal level
- Increasing the number of implementation sites
- Developing tested, easily scalable and replicable programs (e.g. evidence-based programs)
- Measuring return on investment

Funding requests may not include provision of services resulting in individual-level outcomes only. Requests may not include funding to form a partnership or coalition.

Funding will be available to existing coalitions, collaboratives, or strategic partnerships having been formed prior to January 2018 and working to affect change in Tarrant County. While the funding opportunity is open to coalitions in various stages of their formation, strong applicants will likely have several of the following:

- Mission statement
- Bylaws or “Rules of the Road”
- Steering or Governance Committee
- Clearly identifiable backbone organization
- Strategic Plan
- Demonstrated ability to write and manage a grant collectively as a single entity
- Multi-sector buy-in and participation

B. Community Investment

United Way has adopted a new model to affect change: systems change. This focuses on addressing the root cause of problems and investing funds to find universal solutions for issues that reoccur. This RFP is specifically targeting the issue of intergenerational poverty in Tarrant County with an emphasis on addressing equity gaps in these areas:

1. Affordable Housing, emphasis on families at risk, episodically, and/or chronically homeless
2. Education, emphasis on quality childcare, early childhood education/literacy, college/career/workforce readiness, and/or college completion.
3. Health, emphasis on physical, behavioral, emotional, and/or mental health.
4. Transportation, emphasis on transit to medical appointments, employment, and/or school.
5. Financial Stability, emphasis on financial health/capability, access to emergency funds, and/or career/workforce development.

The significance of grantee performance cannot be overstated. We encourage all applicant organizations to be forthcoming about foreseen and unforeseen challenges, aggressive in methods of outreach, conservative in budgeting, proactive in diversifying funding for sustainability and efficient in business practices that lead to achieving performance targets and program outcomes.
As UWTC focuses its investment, it expects that each funded entity will also make a financial investment to ensure sustainability now and in the future. Funding requires a **20% minimum cash match**.

### C. Important Information

#### DEADLINE

1. Applications are due **Friday, January 31, 2020 by 3:00 p.m.** Late submissions will not be accepted.

#### WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

2. Coalitions, collaboratives, or strategic partnerships formed prior to January 2018, based and conducting proposed efforts in Tarrant County, and attend one of the mandatory bidder’s conferences.

#### CASH MATCH

3. Applicants must provide a minimum of 20% cash match. Leveraged funding may be used to meet the cash match requirement. Additional in-kind is also expected.

#### EVALUATION AND REPORTING

4. Funded strategies will be required to track and report progress towards goals. Failure to submit timely reports may result in suspension or loss of funding.

#### CO-BRANDING AND RECOGNITION

5. All proposals funded fully or in part by UWTC must recognize United Way funding in appropriate printed materials and online platforms.

#### FUNDING CRITERIA

6. Applicants receiving first year funding are eligible for up to 100% of their funding request. Second-year applicants are eligible for up to 60% of their funding request from the prior year for continued funding of the same effort. Third-year applicants are eligible for up to 30% of their original funding request from first year for continued funding of the same effort.

7. The following collective impact criteria should be incorporated into your proposals:

   - Address targeted root cause(s) – Statement of Need; Strategy
   - Breadth and depth of partnerships – Background
   - Common agenda and vision among partners – Background
   - Data driven with shared measurements – Evaluation
   - Vision for change – Background
   - Leveraged funding opportunities – Budget; Sustainability
   - Fiscal viability/sustainability – Sustainability

#### SUBMISSION

One electronic copy of this application is due to **UWTC no later than Friday, January 31, 2020 by 3:00 p.m.** Submit electronic copy to Chris.Alvarado@unitedwaytarrant.org.

Late proposals will not be accepted.
PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

FORMATTING AND PAGE LIMIT
The application should address the following items in no more than 8-10 pages in 12-point font, 1-inch margins, and double-spaced (not including attachments). Please repeat the section headers in your proposal.

Statement of Need (10 points)
1. Provide a data-rich description of the current situation and trend lines for the issue(s) the coalition is seeking to address. Include references / data sources.
2. Describe current priorities in terms of targeting particular subpopulations as it relates to equity.

Background (10 points)
1. Describe the coalition’s background/history. (Clarify if a fiscal agent is applying on your behalf.)
2. What is the coalition’s mission statement or vision?
3. What was the date of the coalition’s first official meeting?
4. Briefly describe the coalition’s structure.
5. Describe qualifications of the coalition leadership/staff.
6. What are the goals of the coalition?
7. Does the coalition have previous success with systems change? If yes, please describe.
8. Describe 2-3 of the coalition’s greatest strengths and how they align with proposed efforts.

Strategy (30 points)
1. Describe which of the five aforementioned critical issue(s) your coalition will target that address the intergenerational cycle of poverty through a cross-systems approach, as well as the specific type of systems change(s) your coalition will work toward in connection to the funding request, e.g. shift culture, philosophy, policies or laws; expand access to services; improve integration and coordination of services; track and measure progress toward meeting common goals; share data across sectors and between organizations; develop tested, easily scalable and replicable programs (e.g. evidence-based programs).
2. Describe the coordinated activities, programs and initiatives proposed to respond to the statement of need and the extent to which the efforts focus on systems change via an equity lens approach (i.e., How does the system need to change to decrease inequities and increase equity?)
3. Describe specific activities that will support the strategies, cite evidence that shows they are effective, and how data will be used to drive program activities and decisions.

Evaluation (20 points)
1. Identify the three ways you are working to create systemic change and describe how change will be tracked and/or measured.
2. State the specific outcomes you hope to achieve during this funding period.
3. Estimate how many individuals will benefit from the systems change after 12 months of funding.
4. Identify any indicators that you will have significant challenges tracking.
5. Describe the shared accountability across your community for making progress towards the identified goals.

Timeline (10 points)
1. Provide a detailed timeline of events/activities that will be conducted if funded. Include all significant planning, programmatic, evaluation, and budgetary milestones.

Budget (10 points)
1. Use the budget template to provide a 12-month budget. Indicate all other funding sources by name, amount and whether funding is secured or pending and expected date of notification. Specifically show the required 20% cash match.
2. Include a concise narrative that explains how funds will be expended in addition to sources and amounts of matching or in-kind funds.
Sustainability Plan (10 points)
1. Describe how the coalition has previously blended and/or leveraged various funding streams to better serve a shared population. Provide specific examples.
2. What steps will be taken to ensure confidence that this effort will have broad-based support, capacity and resources to succeed and endure?
3. How do you envision the initiative becoming self-sustaining over time?

Required Attachments
1. Cover page template (Appendix A)
2. Bylaws or “Rules of the Road” (if available)
3. Coalition structure (org chart)
4. Logic Model or Theory of Change (if available)
5. List of coalition partners and funders (if applicable)
6. Copies of minutes for last two coalition meetings
7. Budget Form including contract schedule and salary schedule for initiative-related personnel (Appendix B)
8. Letter of support from fiscal agent and/or backbone organization (if applicable)

Other attachments – Please limit additional attachments to no more than 5 pages. Additional pages may be removed at the discretion of UWTC staff.

Submission
Email your proposal to Chris.Alvarado@unitedwaytarrant.org no later than Friday, January 31, 2020 by 3:00 p.m.

Contact Information and Questions
Should you have questions related to this announcement please contact:

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Vice President, Community Investment
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