

Collaboration Planning Grants

Request for Proposals (RFP)

United Way of Snohomish County is excited to announce new collaborative planning grants for cross-sector agencies/organizations to plan for, or strengthen, collaborative partnerships working on issues related to breaking the cycle of poverty for low-income children birth to age 8 (0-8) and their families, specifically those whose mission supports a 2-generational approach. These grants are intended to create an opportunity for partners to assess the feasibility of working together in a formalized "Collaborative," utilizing the conditions of collective impact: shared understanding of the work (common agenda), shared measurement plan (common progress measures), coordinated plan of strategies/activities (mutually reinforcing activities), communication plan between partners (continuous communication), focus on long-term outcomes for low income families with young children.

Award range is between \$1,000-\$5,000 depending on the number and size of collaborative partners and intended use of funds. Depending on the size of grants and number of applicants, United Way anticipates awarding approximately 20 grants. The deadline to submit proposals is April 12th at 5pm. Award announcements will be made by April 21st. Funding is to be used between April 2017 and October 2017 to support collaborative efforts in all stages of formation. We will conduct progress check-in calls the week of June 5th and a one-page final narrative progress report will be due on August 15, 2017.

Funding Eligibility & Criteria

The application must identify a fiscal agent for this capacity building grant. The fiscal agent for this grant does not need to be the official fiscal agent of the collaboration. The fiscal agent does not need to submit any eligibility documentation with their application, however they must be able to meet the following requirements:

- Fiscal agent must have a working board, advisory board or oversight committee that meets regularly
- If requested, fiscal agent must be able to submit a completed audit (for agencies over \$1million), review of financial statements, compilation, OR balance sheets for the most recently concluded fiscal year.
- Previous capacity-building grantees, and previous and current United Way program grantees, are eligible to apply, as are applicants that are new to United Way.
- Agencies/organizations may participate in more than one applying collaboration. One agency may be the fiscal agent for up to 3 collaboration planning grants.
- Agencies must be pursuing a minimum of 5 agency or cross-sector partners to be considered a Collaborative for this funding opportunity (not all partners need to be 501c3 nonprofits).

Application Instructions

Applications must be submitted in the form of a concise letter (max.4 pages) describing how you plan to utilize the grant to bring together cross-sector partners to discuss a collaborative approach. They must be submitted as PDFs via email to amy.franklin@uwsc.org. **Applications are due April 12th at 5pm. No late applications will be accepted.** Letters should be addressed to the Community Investment Committee and clearly address the following questions:

- How do you think working in a formalized Collaborative can address familial poverty-related issues?
- What potential challenges to collaborating will this grant help you answer/address?
- What adult and child outcomes does your Collaborative initially intend to address based on the Aspen Institute's 2-Gen Playbook? (We recommend focusing on 1-2 outcomes per population (adult/child -- this will assist us in helping to connect you with potential partners, if desired)

- What potential partners do you plan to include and what formalized mechanism will you utilize to bring them together?
- Please indicate how much you are requesting and how you intend to use these funds in the development or enhancement of the Collaborative you are requesting funds for.

Decision-Making Process

Funding decisions are made by a committee of United Way investment volunteers, based upon how well the proposal addresses the questions above and meets our funding eligibility and criteria.

Timeline

- **Introductory Info Session: Learn more about the RFP**
March 8th (2pm-3pm) - United Way Board Room; Call-in option available (Dial toll-free 800-566-2245; Enter passcode 744100 when prompted)
- **Networking Mixers: Meet and mix with other organizations thinking about collaborative partnerships and 2-Gen approaches**
March 15th (9:30am-10:30am), Verdant, 4710 196th St. S.W., Lynnwood, WA 98036
March 16th (2:30pm-3:30pm), United Way of Snohomish County, 3120 McDougall Ave, Suite 200, Everett, 98201
- **Proposals Due: April 12th (5pm)**
Please submit proposals via email to amy.franklin@uwsc.org by 5pm on April 12th.
- **Awards Announced:** April 21st
- **Grant Period: April 2017-October 2017**
 - Progress check-in calls: Week of June 5th
 - Final progress report due: August 15, 2017

Applicant Resources

Applicants may find the following resources helpful in developing their project ideas:

- [Aspen Institute 2-Generation Playbook](#)
- [Ascend – The Aspen Institute 2Gen Toolbox](#)
- [Ascend – The Aspen Institute 2Gen Outcomes](#)
- [The Collective Impact Forum – Collaboration Resources](#)
- [UWSC Poverty Resource Page](#)

Questions? Any questions related to the grants process should be directed to Amy Franklin, amy.franklin@uwsc.org or 425.374.5508.