

**Success in life begins with a quality education**, yet, too many children and youth lack the support they need to strengthen their literacy and stay on track in school. United Way of Goodhue, Wabasha & Pierce Counties is fighting to shift the odds so tomorrow's leaders can build a better foundation today. With a whole-learner approach to education, we're ensuring every child gets a strong start in life.

**United Way of Goodhue, Wabasha & Pierce Counties (United Way-GWP)**

announces its

**2022 Education Community Investments  
Request for Proposal (RFP) application**

for nonprofits providing direct services aligned with UW-GWP's Education Goal

opens on

**January 3, 2022 and closes on February 3, 2022**

The Education goal of United Way-GWP is to support work that seeks to promote and support a whole-learner approach to education and youth development by addressing gaps of opportunity in our communities.

*A whole-learner approach embraces a diversity of learning experiences and teaching techniques. Grounded in the science of brain development and learning, the whole-learner approach transitions away from a focus on narrowly defined academic achievement to one that incorporates a broader view of the skills and knowledge that all children must develop for long-term success.*

Funding under the RFP:

- **Is flexible, general operating funds** with a requirement for grantees to track outcomes over the grant period.
- **Provides an opportunity for a three-year commitment to fund organizations**, with the opportunity to renew grants annually based on nonprofit outcomes and available funding.
- **In addition to funding**, nonprofits will have the opportunity to share their work and story with a large audience of donors and community members, inform United Way's advocacy agenda, participate in networking, and more.

Several community stakeholders provided insight, input and feedback into the Community Investments funding opportunity. United Way of Goodhue Wabasha & Pierce Counties would like to extend a special thank you to the Community Advisory Group that helped develop this Request for Proposal.

Jessica Seide – Red Wing  
Maggie Cichosz – Red Wing  
Kathleen Kelly – Red Wing

Tammy Fiedler- Lake City  
Emily Durand - Wabasha

## United Way of Goodhue Wabasha & Pierce Counties

### Community Investments in Education - Request for Proposal Guidelines

**Summary:** United Way of Goodhue Wabasha & Pierce Counties seeks to award grants to organizations that meet the requirements of this Request for Proposal.

Applicants new to UW-GWP process should verify that the program applying for funding is eligible for funds by calling the United Way office at 651-388-6309. To submit: Email completed application and requested documents to [stacy.coyle@uw-gwp.org](mailto:stacy.coyle@uw-gwp.org)

#### Key Dates for Applicants:

- Application Opens: January 3, 2022 (Please visit [www.uw-gwp.org](http://www.uw-gwp.org) to download application form.)
- Applications Due: February 3, 2022 at 4:00 pm - No late applications will be accepted.
- Virtual Site Visits Held: February 7th – 18th, 2022
- Applicant Virtual Presentation Dates: February 22, or Thursday Feb. 24, 2022
- Notification of Final Decision: March 23-25, 2022
- Grant Term Begins: April 1, 2022

For more information contact: [maureen.nelson@uw-gwp.org](mailto:maureen.nelson@uw-gwp.org) or call 651-388-6309

United Way of Goodhue Wabasha & Pierce Counties exists to fuel lasting change toward our vision of a community where all people thrive regardless of income, race, or place. Our mission is to improve people's lives by mobilizing the caring power of our communities.

This Request for Proposal (RFP) seeks to fund programs advancing greater racial equity in education through direct services that align with the goals set forth by our board of directors.

Specifically, the RFP will prioritize programs led by organizations that hold a clear vision for a more equitable and just future for those they support. Programs must meet the UW-GWP goal to seek to promote and support a whole-learner approach to education and youth development by addressing gaps of opportunity in our communities.

A whole-learner approach embraces a diversity of learning experiences and teaching techniques. Grounded in the science of brain development and learning, the whole-learner approach transitions away from a focus on narrowly defined academic achievement to one that incorporates a broader view of the skills and knowledge that all children must develop for long-term success.

#### Funding Opportunity Overview

- United Way-GWP will provide up to 3 consecutive annual grants for programs working within our service area in our Focus Area of Education. Grant amounts may vary year to year based on available United Way-GWP funds.
- Renewal of grants is based on a review of each programs required year-end report and compliance with the terms of our grant agreement. Standard grant agreement will be available on our website with applications. Please review agreement form before applying for funding.
- Grants are unrestricted, general operating funds with a requirement for grantees to track outcomes over the grant period. Grant funds may not be used for lobbying and capital improvements.

- Organizations that receive grants will report annually on a mix of required and grantee- determined outcomes that illustrate impact and progress over time toward United Way-GWP goals.
- Grant awards will be no more than 50% of program’s budget. Grant awards will be dependent on total funds available and total number of applicants. In past funding cycles, most grants ranged from \$5,000 to \$20,000 annually.
- United Way-GWP seeks to fund organizations with a strong focus on non-discrimination and equity and will prioritize these organizations when making decisions about grants.
- United Way-GWP seeks to fund organizations concentrating on education for ages birth through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and will prioritize these organizations when making decisions about grants.

**Organization Eligibility Requirements**

- Your organization must be a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization OR a fiscally sponsored group by an organization that is classified as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization, a government organizations, educational institutions or faith-based organization that offers programs or services to the public and do not restrict access to their program based on religious affiliation or require participation in religious activities.
- Your organization must be able to demonstrate a commitment to non-discrimination, diversity, equity, and inclusion throughout the organization (employees, volunteers, board of directors, clientele, etc.).
- Your organization provides direct services to individuals.
- For organizations required to complete an audit, your most recent audit opinion is not qualified and free of material weaknesses. For any special considerations related to these criteria, please contact us to determine your eligibility
- Eligible organizations must also comply with Federal anti-terrorism laws.
- Funded programs must serve people who reside within one or more communities within united Way of GWP’s assigned zip code service area.

**Goodhue County, Minnesota**

55027 Goodhue, Bellechester	55066 Red Wing	55983 Wanamingo
55992 Zumbrota	55946 Kenyon	55009 Cannon Falls,
55956 Mazeppa,	55026 Frontenac	

**Wabasha County, Minnesota**

55968 Reads Landing	55981 Wabasha	55964 Plainview
55945 Kellogg	55041 Lake City	

**Western Wisconsin**

54014 Hager City	54723 Bay City	54750 Maiden Rock
54761 Plum City	54769 Stockholm	

\*Note on Financial Review: Your organization must pass review by United Way of GWP’s Finance Committee based on a review of your financial documents in order to receive funding. You will be asked to upload financial documents as part of this application.