



Valley of the Sun
United Way



Grassroots Funding – Basic Needs and Operational Support

Overview

Engaging and supporting locally diverse grassroots organizations, small 501c3 non-profits and schools.

VSUW's MC2026 plan includes implementing and supporting Diversity, Equity, Access and Inclusion (DEAI) across our Maricopa County community. This Grassroots Fund is designed to identify and support small organizations making a critical impact in our local communities through a DEAI lens. VSUW recognizes the potential of a largely untapped resource for community vitality, resilience and justice in grassroots organizations and looks to build more support with this fund. We know that investing in grassroots groups provides a mechanism for activating a critical missing ingredient in more traditional community development strategies – the knowledge, passion, commitment and enduring presence of people who in live in a community.

Grant Guidelines

- Open to all 501c3 nonprofits and schools
- Funding will be given to organizations addressing individuals, families and community needs through a DEAI lens and aligned to MC2026 focus areas in Maricopa County with special focus on the following areas:
 - Basic Needs Support (ex. food, water, shelter, clothing, shoes, etc.)
 - Operational Support (ex. office supplies, technologies, printing, etc.)
- Once grant is submitted, program staff at VSUW may respond with questions or clarifications prior to funding decisions
- Organization must have an annual revenue of \$250,000 or less
- The maximum request is \$5,000

Program Funding Priorities

Funding priorities for organizations that provide support to individuals, families and communities in Maricopa County and support the following:

- Engaging and advancing all voices within a community
- Connecting with disadvantaged segments of the community
- Supporting local community through basic needs and education

Timeline

- The application will be open during a three-week period starting on March 24, 2022 - April 14, 2022. This will allow us to respond quickly and review all agencies at the same time with an equitable lens.
- Review of Applications: April 14, 2022 – April 28, 2022
- Grant Approval Notifications: May 3, 2022
- Funds will be distributed to organizations within 30 days of completed documentation

Application Process

Due to the nature of this grant, a streamlined application, review, and reporting process has been implemented to allow for rapid review and awarding of grant funds and to minimize the administrative burden placed on grant applicants. A simplified application comprised of the following questions has been established:

- Request amount not to exceed \$5,000.00
- What community and/or organizational need will you address with these funds? Please share specifics.
- Describe the programs and or activities you will implement or are currently implementing to address need. Please provide specific examples.
- What specific expenses will these funds be used for?
- Have you requested funding from other sources? If so, please list the sources and request amounts. Please note if funding is pending or secured.
- What additional support may we provide to you and your organization?
- Describe how you will track your community and/or organizational success.
- Number of individuals to be served with these funds:

Review Process

- Grant requests will be reviewed and notified of an award by May 3, 2022.

Reporting

- In lieu of submitting a report, we will conduct an on-site visit after program implementation and have a conversation about your community and/or organizational needs, success and opportunities.
- The Grantee shall provide VSUW with copies (if available) of any press releases, photographs and published material about the grant money and the work it made possible.