

Mighty Change

Grant Application Agency Orientation



Valley of the Sun
UNITED WAY

Grant Program Overview

- Valley of the Sun United Way brings together public, private and social sector partners to improve the quality of life for all Maricopa County residents.
- We focus on the issues of **education, health, housing and homelessness and workforce development** to ensure that those in need have a better life and future.



Valley of the Sun United Way Overview

We achieve impact through:

- Investment in Community-Based Solutions through Organizations
- Volunteer Deployment
- Policy and Systems Change
- Convening and Collective Impact
- Civic Engagement and Action
- Public Awareness and Education
- Results-Based Direct Programming



Key Aspects of the Grant Process in FY26

- Opening the grant application to all nonprofits and schools operating in Maricopa County, making the process competitive
- One year funding from a July 2025 – June 2026 timeframe
- Applications will be reviewed by a dedicated committee of subject matter experts comprised of VSUW staff and industry professionals, all highly knowledgeable and experienced in their respective impact areas
- Funding recommendations will be presented to our VSUW leadership and Board of Directors final approval



Grant Guidelines

- The grant will operate on a 12-month cycle (July 2025 – June 2026)
- Additional cycles may open throughout the year
- Each funding area will be aligned with the MC2026 Five-Year Plan and areas of focus for funding to support Education, Health, Housing and Homelessness and Workforce Development
- Programs may only apply to one impact strategy
- Once submitted, program staff at United Way may respond with questions or clarifications prior to the final decisions being made
- We currently do not provide funding for capital campaigns or endowments



Program Funding Impact Areas: Education

Close opportunity gaps to ensure children read at grade level by 3rd grade and youth are prepared for educational success and employment.

Goal #1: Increase 3rd grade reading proficiency by 25%

STRATEGY

Work with schools and nonprofit partners to build and strengthen literacy capacity in early learning environments.

- To ensure alignment with the 3rd Grade Reading proficiency goal, programs should:
 - Be an evidence-based practice.
 - Utilize a delivery model that adheres to established best practices. This includes a clearly articulated dosage (frequency and duration) of program delivery, a commitment to continuous quality improvement, the use of robust measurement tools to track progress, and participation in professional development opportunities to ensure program efficiency and fidelity to the evidence base.



Program Funding Impact Areas: Education

Close opportunity gaps to ensure children read at grade level by 3rd grade and youth are prepared for educational success and employment.

Goal #1: Increase 3rd grade reading proficiency by 25%

Target population:

- **Title I Schools** serving income low communities in Maricopa County
 - Schools that are 25% below the state average ELA score
- Program serving **children/families that qualify for Free and Reduced Lunch** or fall within the following categories:
 - Schools that have a FRL of 80% or higher
 - Special education
 - English language learners
 - Living in foster care or experiencing homelessness



Program Funding Impact Areas: EDUCATION

Strategy:

- **Early Education and Reading** to Build and Strengthen Literacy Capacity in Early Learning Environments

Data Requirement: Build & Strengthen Literacy Capacity
of unduplicated individuals served
of individuals indirectly impacted
of literacy resources provided
#/% of individuals completing professional development activities
of participants being tutoring and/or academic assistance
of tutors
of hours of tutoring delivered or academic hours provided
#/% of participants who implement/demonstrate an increase in knowledge and skills
of individuals showing growth based on assessment, report card grades or benchmark data



Program Funding Impact Areas: Education

Close opportunity gaps to ensure children read at grade level by 3rd grade and youth are prepared for educational success and employment.

Goal #2: Increase youth ages 16-24 engaged in education and employment opportunities by 38%

STRATEGY

Work with schools and nonprofit partners to support and enhance youth engagement in both educational and/or career settings.

- To ensure alignment with youth engagement and employment opportunities, programs should:
 - Include a comprehensive approach that directly addresses the needs of youth, parents, families, and caregivers to enhance engagement in both educational and/or career settings
 - Demonstrate a clear focus on increasing youth, parent and family support with the goal of keeping the youth engaged in schools and or employment
 - Focus on positive adult relationships, socioemotional support, safe out of school environments, as well as college and career exposure



Program Funding Impact Areas: Education

Close opportunity gaps to ensure children read at grade level by 3rd grade and youth are prepared for educational success and employment.

Goal #2: Increase youth ages 16-24 engaged in education and employment opportunities by 38% proficiency by 25%

Target population:

- **Title I Schools** serving income low communities in Maricopa County
 - Schools that have a 10-15% or higher dropout rate than the state average
- Program serving **children/families that qualify for Free and Reduced Lunch** or fall within the following categories:
 - Schools that have a FRL of 80% or higher
 - Special education
 - English language learners
 - Living in foster care or experiencing homelessness



Program Funding Impact Areas: EDUCATION

Strategy:

- **Student and Family Support** to Increase Academic Success, Learning and Access to Socio-Emotional Services Through Mentoring and Parent Education Classes

Data Requirement: Learning & Socioemotional Support
of unduplicated individuals served
of individuals indirectly impacted
of socioemotional and online learning resources provided
of mentoring hours
of participants that were provided intentional 1:1 mentoring
of participants in life skills trainings/workshops
of participants served in a safe learning environment
#/% of participants completing professional development activities
#/% of participants who implement/demonstrate an increase in knowledge and skills
#/% of participants developing a positive adult relationship
#/% of participants demonstrating an increase in protective factors

Program Funding Impact Areas: Health

Remove barriers to ensure everyone in our community is healthy, with a focus on access to food and healthcare.

Goal #1: Decrease food insecurity by 50%

STRATEGY

Strengthen and support the emergency food system to reduce hunger.

- To ensure demonstrable progress towards our strategic objectives, it's crucial to maintain focus on achieving short-term, measurable goals such as the number of individuals receiving emergency food, assisting with SNAP, and meals supplied
- This approach allows for course correction and adjustments as needed while we work towards long-term aspirations like improved education and nutrition outcomes
- Target population:
 - Home-bound older adults and households in the Northwest Valley facing food insecurity
 - Food desert communities in West Phoenix and South Phoenix along the I-17 and S-60 corridors
 - Blue zone “informed” ZIP codes 85003, 85004, 85007, 85040, 85041, 85042



Program Funding Impact Areas: HEALTH

Strategy:

- **Food Access** to Strengthen and Support the Emergency Food System and home-delivered meals that to reduce hunger in families and Seniors.

Data requirement: Food Access
of unduplicated individuals receiving emergency food
of meals supplied to individuals
of congregate meals
of home delivered meals
of other meals served (snack packs, supplemental or senior food boxes, etc.)
of individuals enrolled for SNAP benefits



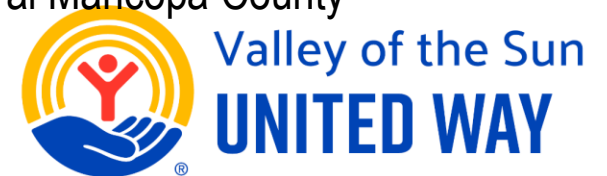
Program Funding Impact Areas: Health

Remove barriers to ensure everyone in our community is healthy, with a focus on access to food and healthcare.

Goal #2: Increase access to affordable health care by 100,000 individuals

STRATEGY

- Reduce barriers to accessing healthcare through outreach and services that increase participation in healthcare programs
- Continue to address barriers to healthcare access, including transportation limitations, social determinants of health, trust concerns, and cost burdens
- This strategy will be further enhanced through the expansion of outreach services, ultimately leading to increased participation rates
- Target population:
 - High health disparity communities in West Valley, downtown Phoenix, South Phoenix and rural Maricopa County
 - Individuals experiencing homelessness
 - Adults 50+



Program Funding Impact Areas: HEALTH

Strategy:

- **Comprehensive Healthcare Access (Physical, Mental, Behavioral)** to reduce Access Barriers (ex Transportation, Social Determinants, Cost, Lack of Trust) through Culturally Appropriate Outreach and Services to Increase Participation in Comprehensive Healthcare Services.

Data requirement: Healthcare Access
of unduplicated individuals served
of individuals that participated in comprehensive medical/mental health services
of individuals that increased knowledge of how to overcome barriers to access
of transportation rides provided (medical/mental health services)
of individuals screened for medical/mental healthcare benefits
of individuals enrolled for medical/mental healthcare benefits
of individuals connected to a community resource for basic family needs

Program Funding Impact Areas: Housing & Homelessness

Ensure all can have a safe home to call their own.

Goal #1: Reduce homelessness by 50%

STRATEGY

Increase support to programs that target the root causes of homelessness and prioritize wraparound support services to achieve housing stability and prevent homelessness.

- To optimize program effectiveness, the Housing & Homelessness strategy will provide a more holistic focus on preventative measures that help households avoid becoming unhoused
- Bolster programs that prioritize social determinants and address access to aid
- Target population:
 - Seniors
 - Youth
 - Families
 - Justice-involved individuals



Program Funding Impact Areas: HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS

Strategy:

- Increase Investments in Services and Program that Prioritize Prevention and Support Services/Programs that Decrease Housing Insecurity through targeted Investments of Rent/Utility Assistance, Housing Navigators, and Eviction Prevention

Data requirement: Prevention and Assistance
of unduplicated individuals served
of individuals diverted
of diversion services secured for individuals seeking assistance
of unduplicated assessments for government benefits administered (excluding social security and medical/mental healthcare)
unduplicated clients working with a navigator/case manager
of individuals moved to safe and stable housing because of a navigator / case manager
of referrals for Permanent Housing
of individuals enrolled for medical/mental healthcare benefits
of utility assists
\$ amount mortgage/foreclosure prevention assistance
\$ amount rental assistance
of mortgage/foreclosure prevention assists
of individuals/families who increase income enough to no longer need emergency aid
of individuals who received legal aid regarding an eviction
of housing navigators
of rental assists
of units of transportation assistance



Program Funding Impact Areas: Workforce Development

Open pathways to better paying jobs.

Goal #1: Increase achievement of higher paying employment by 20%

Goal #2: Increase preparation for a living wage job by 33%

STRATEGY

Connect business and education to increase exposure to work-based learning, apprenticeship, and job opportunities that will raise income and create sustainable careers.

- To streamline program offerings and enhance program effectiveness, Goal #1 and Goal #2 will be merged into a single, comprehensive Workforce Development (WFD) strategy
- Focus on a broader scope of upskilling and educational opportunities tailored to propel individuals towards secure, higher-paying employment
- Target population:
 - Black, Indigenous, People of Color
 - Economically disadvantaged
 - At-risk of, or, experiencing homelessness
 - Individuals with less than a high school degree
 - Justice-involved



Program Funding Impact Areas: WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Strategy:

- Increase resources to assist individuals to obtain job opportunities which will increase their income and create sustainable careers. Support Business and Education Alignment to Increase education opportunities for students through Hands-on work-based learning, apprenticeship, and mentoring experience.

Data Requirement: Workforce Pathways through Education
of unduplicated individuals served
of individuals who access resources
of individuals receiving 1:1 mentorship
#/% of individuals who complete a job training/workshop program
#/% of individuals who complete certification/licensing requirements for employment
#/% of individuals that complete a 2-Year or 4-Year degree program
#/% of individuals that self-report an increase in skills/knowledge
#/% of individuals who complete apprenticeship
#/% of individuals who complete internships
#/% of individuals who obtain employment
#/% of individuals who maintain their employment status for at least 3 months
#/% of individuals/families with increased income



FY26 Grant Application Timeline

- **January 22, 2025– Grant Applications Released on e-CImpact**
 - Staff Available to provide Technical Assistance
- **Week of January 20th – Grant Application Orientations**
- **February 20, 2025– Grant Application Due, by 5 p.m.**
- **March/April– Internal Review of Grant Applications**
- **May 2025– Funding Recommendations Determined**
- **May 2025 – Funding Recommendations Approved by VSUW Board**
- **June 2025– Award and Decline Letters sent to Agencies**
- **July 2025 – Grant Awards Begin, Payments Paid Out**



FY26 Grant Process Application



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Agency Level Prescreening

- **Are you a nonprofit 501(c)3 or school? Y/N**
 - If yes, applicant moves forward
 - If no, applicant does not move forward
- **Will VSUW funding be used to serve Maricopa County residents? Y/N**
 - If yes, applicant moves forward
 - If no, applicant does not move forward
- **Agency EIN#**
- **Agency Arizona Corporations Commission Entity ID**



Agency Overview

- **Agency Name: (Pre-populated and Hard Coded)**
- **President/CEO/Executive Director Name, Pronouns, Phone; Email: (Drop Down Box)**
- **Primary Agency Contact Name, Title, Pronouns, Phone; Email (Drop Down Box)**
- **Contract Signer Name, Title, and Email (Text Boxes)**
- **Agency Primary Address: (Drop Down Box)**
- **Agency Description: (Text Box-750 Characters)**
 - Briefly describe the agency in a short statement. This description may be used in VSUW brochures, summary reports and general information provided to the public. This is limited to 750 characters.
- **Agency Mission Statement: (Text Box-500 Characters)**
 - Share the Agency Mission Statement. This is limited to 500 characters.



Agency Diversity, Equity, Access, and Inclusion

- **Does your organization have, and outwardly communicate and post on your website, a stated commitment to equity and/or an equity vision, and/or equity, diversity, inclusion, and access statement?**
Y/N
 - 1b. If Yes, provide statement and direct url. (Text box – 500 Characters)
- **Is your agency led by a Black, Indigenous, and/or People of Color (BIPOC) ED/CEO? (Check Box)**
- **What is your organization's commitment to DEAI? Provide your organization's DEAI statements or definitions, metrics that track DEAI, and/or any steps your organization has taken to advance DEAI within the culture of your organization and in its programs.**



Agency Diversity, Equity, Access, and Inclusion

- **To what extent are targeted populations engaged in shaping and leading the work of your organization?** (Text box – 1,000 characters)
- **Does your organization recognize cultural relevancy? If so, how do you incorporate, or plan to integrate, it into your daily operations?** (Text box – 1,000 characters)



Compliance Documentation FY26 Grant Application



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Program Overview

Program Name: (Hard Coded)

Alignment: (Drop Down Box) Based on impact area chosen

Strategy: (Drop Down Box) Based on strategy chosen

Amount Requested: (Text Box)

- List the amount of funding being requested from VSUW for FY2025-2026. This amount should be the same amount being listed in the Program Budget section, Line 1a. VSUW Funding Request.

Primary Program Location: (Drop Down Box)

Primary Program Contact Name, Title, Pronouns, Phone, Email: (Drop Down Box)

Brief Program Description: (Text Box-300 Characters)

- Briefly describe the program in a short statement. This description may be used in VSUW brochures, summary reports and general information provided to the public.

Tell us how your program contributes to VSUW's Mighty Change goal based on your strategy alignment .(Text box – 1,500 Characters)



Program Narratives

Program Narrative/Strategies

Provide a brief but substantive synopsis of the program, and its services and activities.

- Specific alignment to the selected impact area/strategy
- Desired outcome(s)
- How equity and inclusion are integrated into program goals, strategies, activities, and intended results
- How the program addresses the needs of the target population(s) served
- How the target population accesses services
- Any/all follow-up activities with the target population designed to help ensure success and/or connect them to additional resources

This section allows for population – limited to 3000-character spaces.



Program Narratives

Target Population

Provide information about whom this program serves.

- Direct and indirect participants
- Demographics: provide disaggregate data, if tracked
- Unique characteristics including, but not limited to, specific gaps or disparities, and service to hard-to-reach/historically disadvantaged and/or disenfranchised populations
- Service area location/s (e.g., Maryvale, South Phoenix)

This section allows for population – limited to 3000-character spaces.



Program Narratives

Theory of Change/Program Design

Provide detail on the program approach and strategies. Consider using casual statements, “If we ____, then ____ will result.” based on evidence-based practices and/or research.

For each statement, provide:

- Evidence-based (proven impact) sources and/or third-party statistics that support the rational for program services. Prioritize using community-level sources and statistics (your service area, and/or Maricopa County).
- An explanation of how equity and inclusion are incorporated into the program strategies or plans to further consider equity and inclusion in programs
- Description of what will be different in community, in the organization, and in programs through DEAI, and particularly a more equitable approach

This section allows for population – limited to 3000-character spaces.



Program Narratives

Program Inputs/Resources

Describe the resources required to successfully deliver the program and its services and activities to your target population including, but not limited to, employees, volunteers, office space, vehicle(s), equipment, tools, skills, and knowledge. Are program staff reflective of the community that you serve*? Your response should correspond with the target population and program narratives, as well as the program budget.

This section allows for population – limited to 3000-character spaces.



Program Narratives

Outcome Measures

Collecting and monitoring data regularly from program participants can inform you of their goals, aspirations, and priorities, the outcomes that they experience and value, and if your program is achieving its goals and measures. Please describe the following:

- Processes and data reporting you have in place that examine program impact on the target population, and on those experiencing the greatest gaps/disparities
- How you use data (both aggregated and disaggregated) to support continuous improvement, ensure accountability, and demonstrate equitable change; this should include your continuous quality improvement plan
- How your agency collects and shares client success that is not captured in VSUW data

This section allows for population – limited to 3000-character spaces.

What support does your agency need to develop capacity and knowledge on tracking VSUW prescribed outcome measures?



Program Narratives

Budget Narrative

Provide additional information that will assist in understanding the program budget and/or the requested amount of funding. Provide specific information on how VSUW funding will be used. This narrative will tie directly into the program inputs and activities. Provide an explanation for any amounts listed on budget line items “In-kind”, “DEAI” and “other” for both income and expense budgets. Explain the nature of any amount entered as Expense Budget, e.g. Salaries (FTEs covered), Specific Assistance to Individuals, etc.

This section allows for population – limited to 3000-character spaces.

Share if you have experienced any decrease in funding that has impacted your organization’s capacity to deliver programming.

If this is an existing program in your agency, what was the total program expense?



Outcome Measures

Agencies will fill in FY 2025-2026 Goals. These are measures based upon the strategy chosen by the agency. There may some strategies that do not include indicator measures. Some strategies may not have indicators, like Housing/Homelessness and Health. The indicator table includes both participation and achievement data. The % Achieving cells will auto-calculate when agency “Saves” the page.

Output Measurement Table	FY 2025-2026 Goals
Output 1	
Output 2	
Output 3	
Output Etc.	

Indicator Measurement Table		FY 2025-2026 Goals
Indicator 1	Total # Participating	
	Total # Achieving	
	Total % Achieving	Auto Calculate
Indicator 2	Total # Participating	
	Total # Achieving	
	Total % Achieving	Auto Calculate
Indicator Etc.		



Program Budget

Revenue	Program Budget FY 2025-2026 Proposed	VSUW Portion of the FY 2025- 2026 Budget
1a. VSUW Funding Request		Auto Calculate
*1b. VSUW Other Funding		
2. Other United Ways		
*3. Gov. Funding		
4. Contributions / Donations		
*5. Special Events / Fundraising		
6. Legacies / Bequests		
*7. Foundation & Corporate Support		
*8. Program Service Fees & Reimbursements		
9. Investment Income		
*10. In-Kind Support		
*11. Other Income		
Total	Auto-calculate Column revenue: lines 1a-11	Auto-calculate Column revenue: lines 1a-11



Program Budget

Expense	Program Budget FY 2025-2026 Proposed	VSUW Portion of the FY 2025-2026 Budget
12. Salaries		
13. Employee Benefits and Taxes		
14. Employee Education and Training		
15. Professional Fees and Contracts		
*16. Specific Assistance for Individuals		
17. Communications (phone, fax, modem, postage)		
18. Supplies/Equipment Rental and Maintenance		
19. Occupancy (rent, utilities, building & grounds)		
20. Advertising/Printing & Publications		
21. Travel / Meetings / Conferences		
22. Membership Dues/Support to Affiliate Org.		
23. Evaluation		
24. Non-Payroll Insurance		
25. In-Kind Expense		
*26. Other Expenses		
Total	Auto-calculate column expenses: lines 12-26	Auto-calculate column expenses: lines 12-26

27. Surplus / Deficit	Auto-calculate column: revenue total minus expense total	Auto-calculate column: revenue total minus expense total
28. VSUW Percent of Program	Auto-calculate column: line 1a divided by revenue total	



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Evaluation Criteria



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Evaluation Criteria

The FY 2025-2026 Agency Applications will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

Criteria	Points Possible
Agency Capacity	10
Program Design	40
Program Performance	40
Budget	10



Evaluation Criteria

Evaluation Criteria	Prompts	SCORE
<p><u>Agency Capacity (Agency Overview/DEAI):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The agency mission and description is aligned to VSUW's Mighty Change 2026 five-year strategic plan The DEAI section provides a clear plan for more cultural relevancy as it relates to Diversity, Equity, Access and Inclusion (or in agency's own DEI related language) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Clear mission that aligns to Mighty Change 2026 five-year strategic plan ➤ Clear understanding of what the agency does as a whole ➤ Clear understanding of how the agency is planning to create a more diverse, equitable, accessible and inclusive environment within itself ➤ Clear information provided on agency's cultural relevancy ➤ Agency understands its gaps in representation of communities and has a plan to address those gaps 	<p>10 Points Total</p>
<p><u>Program Design (Program Narratives):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The program narratives aligned to selected Mighty Change impact area and strategy The narratives provide a comprehensive and clear overview of the program goal and activities, and paint a picture of a strong program design that would lead to client success 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Clear understanding of population served; <i>a population or area in need- data and/or disaggregated data is provided.</i> ➤ Clear understanding of the resources needed and activities for a success program ➤ Clear understanding of why this program is important and/or any evidence-based studies tied to the program's effectiveness ➤ Clear programmatic results that tie to the resources and activities ➤ The agency was able to provide data, preferably disaggregated data, to describe and define the community/issues it serves ➤ The agency is able to describe how targeted populations are involved in program design. 	<p>40 Points Total</p>

Evaluation Criteria

<p><u>Program Performance (Outcome Measurements) *:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The measurements strongly align to Program Narrative • The program has well-articulated results achieved through funding <p><i>*Please note that programs are not required to report on all prescribed metrics</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Meaningful client-focused outcomes ➤ Explanation of participation ratios and assessment of number ➤ Additional metrics included to measure programmatic success ➤ Agency identifies equitable outcomes for communities either through quantitative data or qualitative data (for example: narratives or storytelling) 	<p>40 Points Total</p>
<p><u>Program Budget:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The budget demonstrates capacity to deliver the program. • Resources are aligned to achieve stated program results. • The program request is reasonable based on the size, scope and scale of the program. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Braided funding ➤ Request is reasonable and expenses are fully and clearly explained ➤ It is clearly explained how VSUW funding will be utilized ➤ Details on use of DEAI funding 	<p>10 Points Total</p>
<p>Total Program Evaluation Score:</p>		<p>100</p>

e-Clmpact Demonstration



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Questions?



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VSUW Contacts

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For e-CImpact questions please email us at
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**Thank you for
joining us!**