



Valley of the Sun United Way Grant Cycle FAQ: Workforce Development

WHAT IS MC2026?

This is the 5-year plan announced by Valley of the Sun United Way March 26 and is built on a year-long community informed input process. The focus is on aligning United Way and community resources to achieve a set of existing bold community goals in the areas of health, homelessness/housing, education and workforce development.

WHAT NONPROFITS AND SCHOOLS WILL BE PART OF ACHIEVING THIS PLAN?

The United Way looks to partner with nonprofit 501c3s and schools whose impact work aligns with the goals in MC2026.

WILL UNITED WAY CHANGE ITS FUNDING APPROACH TO ACHIEVE THIS PLAN? IF YES, HOW SO?

Yes, VSUW will be opening a competitive grant process starting September 1st. We know that we cannot do it alone and need strong community partners to continue doing amazing work. The grant(s) may be renewable.

HOW DOES MY NONPROFIT / SCHOOL APPLY FOR FUNDING?

You can apply for the grant by visiting <https://vsuw.org/about-us/working-with-united-way/apply-for-grant-funding>

WHAT IS THE PROCESS AND HOW ARE DECISIONS MADE?

The grants process will be open starting September 1st and ALL applications are due September 27th. While the application is open, staff is available to support agencies with any technical assistance that they may need. For support please visit ecimpact@vsuw.org. Grant applications will be reviewed by a committee of volunteers that will include VSUW Board Members, experts in the field and individuals with lived experience. After reviewing the applications and rating them, the volunteer committee will convene and make funding recommendations that will be presented to our Community Development Committee for final approval.

WHEN WILL I HEAR ABOUT FUNDING?

Funding decisions will be shared with agencies by December 2021.

WHAT REPORTING IS REQUIRED?

Grant recipients will provide reports at least twice annually. This data will help support United Way's annual community scorecard which will focus on the progress to the goals outlined in MC2026.

WHAT IF MY ORGANIZATION IS CURRENTLY FUNDED, BUT DOESN'T FIT WITHIN THE NEW PLAN?

Please reach out to your VSUW liaison to discuss opportunities.

I AM NOT SURE IF OUR PROGRAM FITS? WHAT SHOULD I DO?

Please reach out to your VSUW liaison to discuss opportunities.

MY ORGANIZATION HAS NEVER BEEN FUNDED BY UNITED WAY. ARE WE ELIGIBLE?

This is an open and competitive process to all 501c3 nonprofits and schools in Maricopa County.

HOW IS UNITED WAY USING THE MACKENZIE SCOTT GIFT? WILL THERE BE MORE FUNDING GOING TO NONPROFITS?

United Way is leveraging the generous MacKenzie Scott gift to align and expand our resources to help achieve our five-year MC2026 goals. One of new five-year goals is to greatly expand our fundraising efforts which will result in more funds available for impact.

WHO IS OUR UNITED WAY POINT OF CONTACT FOR THE FY22 GRANT CYCLE?

- For application and process related questions, please contact: Eileana Gudiño, Director of Community Development, 602-631-4883, egudino@vsuw.org

- For questions related to our Education and Workforce Development priorities, please contact: Melissa Boydston, VP of Community Development, 602-770-0413, mboydston@vsuw.org

HOW MUCH FUNDING SHOULD WE APPLY FOR?

Max funding request is \$100,000.

CAN I APPLY UNDER MULTIPLE STRATEGIES?

Yes. For more information on how do so please contact ecimpact@vsuw.org.

CAN WE APPLY UNDER A NEW PROGRAM?

Yes. For more information on how to do so please contact e-cimpact@vsuw.org.

CAN I APPLY FOR MULTIPLE PROGRAMS?

Yes. For more information on how do so please contact ecimpact@vsuw.org.