

Mighty Change



Valley of the Sun United Way FY26 Grant Cycle Frequently Asked Questions

WHAT IS MC2026?

This is the 5-year plan announced by Valley of the Sun United Way March 26, 2023 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 DOES "NARROWING YOUR FOCUS" ON MC2026 GOALS MEAN?

This means that Valley of the Sun United Way has been gathering community feedback and data to identify what is currently needed in our community and best aligned to getting us to meet our goals at the end of MC2026 (our 5-year plan).

WHO WILL BE PART OF ACHIEVING THIS PLAN?

The United Way looks to partner with nonprofit 501c3s and schools whose impact work aligns with the new focus areas to reach our community goals highlighted in MC2026.

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 open January 22, 2025 and ALL applications are due February 20, 2025. While the application is open, staff is available to support agencies with any technical assistance that they may need. For support, please email us at ecimpact@vsuw.org. will be carefully 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.

WHEN WILL I HEAR ABOUT FUNDING?

Funding decisions will be shared with agencies by June 2025.

WHAT REPORTING IS REQUIRED?

Grant recipients will provide a report in mid-July. 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 FOCUS AREAS?

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.

WHO IS OUR UNITED WAY POINT OF CONTACT FOR THE FY25 GRANT CYCLE?

- For questions on VSUW's different impact areas, please contact:

Education

Dawn Gerundo, Director of Community Development and Engagement
602-380-2328, dgerundo@vsuw.org

Health

Gilbert Arvizu, Director of Community Development and Engagement
602-631-4850, garvizu@vsuw.org

Housing & Homelessness

Samantha Jackson, Director of Community Development and Engagement
480-276-9930, sjackson@vsuw.org

Workforce Development

Bertha Tapia, Director of Community Development and Engagement
602-631-4914, btapia@vsuw.org

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

HOW MUCH FUNDING SHOULD WE APPLY FOR?

The minimum threshold is \$10,000. We ask programs request what they need. For agencies not providing an audited financial statement, the maximum request is \$50,000. During our last grant cycle our average award was \$64,000 and awards ranged between \$12,500 and \$185,000.

CAN WE APPLY UNDER A NEW PROGRAM?

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