spring cycle request for proposals (RFP)

Early Childhood Education in York County

*United Way of York County recognizes that the Early Childhood Education needs in our community are varied and far-reaching. To make the deepest impact with our grant dollars, and in recognizing the role that our community partners play in supporting the Early Childhood Education ecosystem, UWYC has identified the following role to play in grantmaking to support York County Early Childhood Education:*

We will fund: Unrestricted grants for existing non-profit PA DHS Certified Early Childhood Education Centers serving children ages 0-5, with a Keystone Star 3 or 4 designation, whose service population includes ALICE households.

**Eligibility**

* Eligible organizations must be 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organizations. Organizations without this status must apply under an eligible fiscal sponsor.
* Organizations must be in existence at least two years upon application submission and be able to demonstrate financial and organizational capacity to implement proposed initiatives.
* Eligible organizations must serve those living in York County and any awarded funding should be dedicated to supporting York County residents.
* Early learning centers applying for funding must hold a Keystone STAR 3 or 4 through PA Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL)

**Considerations**

* Organizations whose mission or projects exclude any group of individuals based on race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy, sexual orientation, or gender identity), national origin, or disability will not be considered.
* Preference will be given to solutions that specifically address the needs of one of our priority populations (Children ages 0-5, Single Parents, Older Adults ages 65+, Black & Hispanic households, Veterans).
* Funding will be considered for general operating expenses as it relates to reducing the burden that Early Childhood Education costs incur on ALICE families.
* Capital campaigns, capital projects, endowments, budget shortfalls, or debt retirement cannot be funded through this grant opportunity.
* Proposals must illustrate measurable impact, and organizations must agree to measure and report on defined outputs if funding is awarded.
* UWYC values proposals that demonstrate collaboration. This can include, but is not limited to, partnerships with nonprofits, government, faith-based, and business entities.

**Organizational Viability, Capacity, & Alignment**

Organizations should demonstrate alignment with UWYC’s mission and vision of an equitably thriving York County, as well as financial and organizational capacity to implement proposed solutions.

UWYC will review and consider organizational documents to assess:

* Eligibility for UWYC investment
* The sources and diversity of funding for the organization
* Sound management of resources
* Adequacy of organizational documents
* Financial health
* Mission alignment

Organizations must upload the following documents:

* 501c3 IRS Designation
* Most recent IRS Form 990, if applicable
* Current Bureau of Charitable Organizations certificate, if applicable
* List of current Board of Directors, including service terms and corporate affiliation, if any
* Organizational Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) statement, and/or anti-discrimination statement
* Organizational Budget
* Annual audit, independent financial review, or board-approved financial statements, dependent upon organizational revenue size
* Audit required for organizations with annual revenues greater than $500,000
* Independent financial review required for organizations with annual revenues between $250,000-$499,000
* Financial Statements with narrative required for organizations with annual revenues under $250,000 .

**GRANT APPLICATION QUESTIONS**

**ALIGNMENT**

1. Provide your organization’s mission statement.
2. Please list the URL of your organization’s website
3. What percentage of your Board Members identify as BIPOC \_\_\_
4. Does your organization require the Board and/or staff to complete Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion training?

* Yes, please list trainings offered
* No, please indicate wiliness to attend UWYC United for Equity trainings in 2025

1. Describe your organization’s mission alignment with UWYC’s mission, vision, and Impact Agenda with a specific focus on how the work supports the needs of ALICE households in York County.
2. Total number of households served annually?
3. Does your organization serve households that include any of the following priority populations? If so, what percent of your overall service population do they represent?

* Residents of York County
  + % of total clientele served
* Black and/or Hispanic
  + % of total clientele served
* Individuals 65+ years of age
  + % of total clientele served
* Veterans
  + % of total clientele served
* Children
  + % of total clientele served
* Single Parents
  + % of total clientele served

Applications will be reviewed to ensure the basic alignment and eligibility expectations are met. Organizations that do not meet eligibility criteria will be less competitive throughout the remainder of the application process.

**PROPOSAL**

In this section, organizations should outline how they are best equipped to positively impact one or more of the issues outlined in UWYC’s Impact Agenda.

1. Describe the program(s) or initiative(s) for which your organization is seeking funding.
2. Describe how your organization reduces the burden of Early Childhood Education costs on ALICE families in York County through initiatives, programs and/or services. Explain the organization’s value and benefit to clients and the community.
3. Describe the systems you will put in place, or the systems that may already be in place, to track the following outputs?
4. Who did we help? (Race, gender, age, income)
5. What were we able to accomplish for ALICE? (Increased savings, earnings, peace of mind)
6. Identify new or ongoing collaborations that support ALICE households beyond Early Childhood Education related needs that are part of your program.
7. Describe how your organization **intentionally** serves the populations selected in the previous section, and how you’re working to decrease disparities experienced by these populations.
8. If applicable, describe how community residents and program recipients, especially those experiencing racial/ethnic disparities, have been engaged in meaningful decision making and to inform program activities.
9. Describe your organization’s staff capacity to effectively implement the solution(s) proposed. Include role and responsibilities of key implementation staff and organizational leaders.

**GRANT REQUEST**

How much funding does your organization request to achieve the selected proposal and anticipated outcomes?

*Please note: This is simply to provide UWYC with more context for understanding the scope of your proposal. Organizations are not guaranteed an allocation of the entire request amount.*

**PROPOSAL ENGAGEMENT MEETING**

We request that each applicant who meets basic eligibility criteria agree to a 30-minute virtual or in-person meeting for our review committee to gain deeper insights into your program.

I agree \_\_\_

**IMPACT STORIES**

United Way of York County relies on impact stories to continue our impact work and advocate for systemic change. Please indicate your commitment to connecting UWYC with clients who would be willing to share how UWYC funding impacted their life.

I agree \_\_\_