



Request for Letters of Interest for Community Investment Grants

Funding Period July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2010

United Way of Thurston County brings diverse people and resources together to address vital needs in our community. We implemented a Community Investment process to help realize our mission *to strengthen our community by connecting people and resources to meet identified human needs*. We focus our strategic efforts and funding priorities on four specific Impact Areas: Helping Kids Succeed, Meeting Basic Needs, Promoting Self-Sufficiency and Supporting Health and Wellness.

For the 2008-2010 funding cycle, any qualified Thurston County nonprofit organization may submit a funding request for a new or continuing program that aligns with one of our four Impact Areas. Requests should be for the amount needed for **one year (not two)**. If program outcomes are successful and funds are available, a second year of funding will be awarded for the program. United Way Community Investment grants do not support capital projects, endowment funds or equipment.

Eligibility Requirements (see accompanying checklist):

- 501 (c) (3) organization.
 - Program provides services to Thurston County residents.
 - Program provides services that are open to all without regard to age, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, national origin, religious affiliation or presence of a disability.
 - Grant request is \$5,000 or greater. (For the 2008-10 grant cycle, United Way of Thurston County will award grants between \$5,000 and \$40,000.)
 - Organization is willing to host a site visit, if requested (late March – May) during the first year and an evaluation visit during the second year (late March – May).
 - Request aligns with one of United Way's four Impact Areas.
 - Organization's Executive Director and Board President agree to sign United Way of Thurston County's Memorandum of Understanding and the USA Patriot Act "Anti-Terrorism Compliance Measures" form.
- Note:** To view a copy of the above-mentioned documents, please go to www.UnitedWay-Thurston.org and click on Funding Information.

Letter of Interest

Before completing a grant application, a Letter of Interest is required to determine eligibility. Please submit a 1-2 page letter with the following information:

1. Name, address, phone number and email address of the organization and key contact person.
2. Brief description of the organization's mission.
3. The Impact Area under which your proposal will be considered (*see page 2 for descriptions*).
4. A summary of the program(s) which grant funds will support.
5. The intended purpose of the grant and how it will address an Impact Area's stated goals.
6. The amount requested.
7. Signature of organization's Executive Director and Board President or Chair.
8. **Attachment:** Signed Eligibility Requirements Checklist for Community Investment Grants

Letters of Interest and checklists are due at United Way of Thurston County no later than 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 24, 2008. Letters may be submitted by:

- Mail to UWTC, Attn: Ami Forsberg, 312 Fourth Avenue E, Suite A, Olympia, WA 98501-1107
- Fax to (360) 943-2777, Attn: Ami Forsberg

Notification Process

United Way of Thurston County Community Investment volunteers will screen letters of interest and invite qualified organizations to submit a full application for funding. All applicants will receive notification of the outcome of their Letter of Interest in February 2008. Those invited to formally apply may attend free application trainings on **(TBD)**. Full applications are due on February 29, 2008. Organizations who submit full applications will receive notification of funding decisions in June 2008.

Impact Area Information

For the 2008-2010 funding cycle, United Way of Thurston County invites Thurston County nonprofit organizations to join us in improving community conditions. Our Impact Areas focus on four critical areas: 1) Helping Kids Succeed, 2) Meeting Basic Needs, 3) Promoting Self-Sufficiency and 4) Supporting Health and Wellness. Grant funding is based on a program's ability to align with our stated Impact Areas' visions, goals and community outcomes and its ability to achieve results based on outcome measurement standards.

Description of Impact Areas

1) Helping Kids Succeed Impact Area

Vision Statement:

We envision a Thurston County where all children are safe, nurtured and valued and are provided the opportunity to succeed as individuals and in school to develop life skills.

Goals:

1. Increase the rate of young children accessing early learning programs where they will learn, grow and enter kindergarten ready to succeed.
2. Increase the number of children served through child care programs.
3. Increase youth involvement in community service.
4. Reduce high school drop-out rates.

Community Outcome:

To ensure the healthy social, cognitive and physical development of infants, children and youth (birth-18).

2) Meeting Basic Needs Impact Area

Vision Statement:

We envision a Thurston County where all individuals and families have adequate food, clothing, and shelter.

Goals:

1. Reduce the number of families, individuals, and children who are homeless.
2. Increase access to basic needs services.
3. Reduce hunger and food insecurity.

Community Outcome:

To ensure that a coordinated and collaborative safety net of services exists so that basic needs of individuals are met.

3) Promoting Self-Sufficiency Impact Area

Vision Statement:

We envision a Thurston County where all individuals have the ability to be self-sufficient and live as independently as possible through increased long term economic stability.

Goals:

1. Increase access to job training, literacy, and career development programs that improve long-term employment opportunities.
2. Increase the rate of seniors and people with disabilities who maintain independent lives.
3. Increase access to services that help individuals increase income, build savings, and/or sustain assets.

Community Outcome:

To increase the ability for people in Thurston County to live independently.

4) Supporting Health and Wellness Impact Area

Vision Statement:

We envision a Thurston County where all individuals are safe and have access to basic health care and wellness services.

Goals:

1. Increase access to affordable medical, dental, mental health, and wellness services.
2. Reduce the rate of domestic violence and child abuse in Thurston County.

Community Outcome:

To improve the general health, wellness and quality of life of Thurston County residents.

Questions?

Please contact Ami Forsberg

(360) 943-2773 x 13 or aforsberg@UnitedWay-Thurston.org