



2026 FUNDING APPLICATION INFORMATION AND PROCESS

ELIGIBILITY

- Agency must provide human services
- Agency must be either a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization or must be a public school, college, or university
- Agency must have a presence and be active in Lee and/or Harnett County, NC
- Agency must not discriminate on the basis of race; ethnicity; color; national origin; language; ancestry; religion; sex; familial status; age; gender identity or expression; LGBTQIA+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning, etc.) status; marital status; domestic or sexual violence victim status; veteran status, sensory, mental, or physical disability; or any federally protected class in its employment practices or program service delivery
- Agency may be faith-based, but clients must be able to opt out of faith-based messaging and content when applying for or receiving services

EXPECTATIONS OF FUNDED AGENCIES

- Agency will provide data-backed program outcomes in addition to outputs
- Agency will sign a Memorandum of Agreement and will fulfill all requirements detailed in the MOA.

APPLICATION PROCESS

- 2026 funding priority areas are housing/homelessness, food, and transportation.
- United Way funds program expenses only. It does not fund general operating expenses or capital projects/expenses. Program staff salaries may be included in the grant request.
- Agencies may apply for traditional United Way funding, United Way [Barrier Busters](#) funding, or both
- United Way uses a 2-step application process. Any eligible agency may submit a Letter of Intent, due on February 6.
- Submitting a Letter of Intent does not guarantee that you will be invited to submit a full application.
- The United Way Board of Directors will invite selected agencies to submit a full funding application.
- A link to the full application will be sent to selected agencies in mid- to late February.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS FOR FULL APPLICANTS

- 501(c)(3) tax-exempt letter (if not a public school, college, or university)
- Charitable Solicitation License (if required to have one)
- Audited (budget \$500K or greater) or reviewed (budget less than \$500K) financial statements
- Description of internal controls if no audit is performed
- Current bylaws
- Current budgets for organization and program
- List of current board members
- Mission statement of organization
- Anti-discrimination statement that applies to employees, clients, and volunteers.