

SUCCESSFUL PARENTING INITIATIVE

Deadline: 4:00 pm ET, September 30, 2024

Grant Funding Available: Total of \$30,000 to be awarded; Maximum requests of \$10,000

Introduction

United Way of the Wabash Valley pursues a long-term bold goal for the community of moving 10,000 households out of financial struggles and into stability. In the United Way service area (Clay, Parke, Sullivan, Vermillion and Vigo Counties in Indiana and Clark County in Illinois) more than 33,000 households are considered to be asset-limited, income-constrained, and employed, or ALICE (see www.uwv.org/ALICE). The UWWV Success by 6 impact council (UWWV SB6) will positively impact the ALICE population by investing in programs and initiatives that increase access to high-quality early learning experiences. The UWWV SB6 believes that children who receive high-quality care have the foundational skills needed to succeed in kindergarten, school, and life.

Issue Background

From birth to age five, a child's brain develops more, and more rapidly, than at any other time in life. And while genetics plays a significant role, scientific research has made clear that the quality of a child's experiences in the first few years of life – positive or negative – helps shape how their brain develops. These early experiences have a lasting impact on a child's health and ability to learn and succeed in school and in life. (Firstthingsfirst.org)

The most important influences on a child's development are their relationships with the adults in their life. Loving relationships with warm, responsive, dependable adults are essential to a child's healthy development. Parents are their baby's first teachers, and all parents want to do the best they can to support the healthy development of their young child. Yet parents don't receive a "how-to" manual to guide them through the often challenging and overwhelming responsibilities in the first years of their child's life. While resources exist to support Wabash Valley parents, often parents aren't aware of them, don't know how to access them, or have other barriers that prevent them from connecting with help that can be beneficial to their young family.

Grant Goals

To support new parents, UWWV SB6 is introducing the Successful Parents Initiative. The goal of this initiative is to connect parents to community resources that will help them gain the knowledge and skills they need to promote the optimal early development, learning and health of their children. Qualified applicants may request funds to support creative initiatives that will increase parent knowledge of early childhood development and improve parenting practices, including language, cognitive, social-emotional and motor domains; provide early detection of developmental delays and health issues; and increase children's school readiness and school success.

Grant Funding Available

The UWWV SB6 Impact Council is making available a total of \$30,000 to be provided over 18 months from grant start date. Applicants may apply for up to \$10,000 for investment in 2025-26; however, awards exceeding \$10,000 will be considered for truly innovative proposals.

Expected Program Outcomes

United Way of the Wabash Valley is committed to bringing our community together to pursue a bold goal to move 10,000 households out of financial struggles and into stability. The organization will use the biennially produced ALICE Project report to measure progress toward this long-term outcome. For its part, the Success By 6 Impact Council will measure contributing outcomes that improve kindergarten readiness. To contribute to success in these outcomes, this grant requires the following output through this grant:

- To increase the number of parents connected to resources that help them gain the knowledge and skills they need to promote the optimal early development, learning and health of their children.

Applicants seeking funds to expand existing programs must demonstrate growth in the number of parents currently served/enrolled.

Grant Timeline

There are no exceptions to any deadlines for the applicant; however, UWWV reserves the right to change the dates, with proper communication to potential applicants. All times provided below are in Eastern time.

| Milestone Activity | Date |
|--|------------------------------------|
| Grant announcement | July 10, 2024 |
| Introductory meeting to learn about the investment and the application process. Attendance is strongly encouraged for application submission. Please RSVP to Dorothy Chambers @ 812.235.6287 or dchambers@uwwv.org | July 30, 2024 at 5:00 pm ET |
| Grant application period | July 10-September 30, 2024 |
| Full application electronic submission due to the UWWV by 4:00 PM | September 30, 2024 |
| Review of applications | October - November, 2024 |
| Notification of awards | November 2024 |
| Funding period begins | January 1, 2025 |

Eligible Applicants

United Way's Success By 6 invites applications from

- nonprofit or for-profit entities;
- or a unit of local government;
- or faith-based and community-based organizations

The applicant must be based in or operating a facility or programs in Clay, Parke, Sullivan, Vermillion or Vigo Counties in Indiana or in Clark County, Illinois.

Applications will be accepted for new or existing initiatives. For existing programs, grant funds must be used to expand the current offering or to develop a new component to the current offering.

Application Overview

The grant application will require the following content to be completed and submitted online by the applicant:

1. Applicant Organization General Information
2. Program/Initiative Proposal General Information
3. Project Narrative (see explanation below)
4. Project Workplan (see explanation below)
5. Project Budget and Budget Narrative (see explanation below)
6. Additional Documents (at discretion of applicant)

Items 1-3 will be a series of online forms and text boxes; items 4-6 will be PDF attachments to be uploaded to the online application. The following instructions provide details for the completion of each section of the proposal.

Project Narrative

This RFP is seeking projects that will connect parents to resources in the Wabash Valley. The project narrative should provide a detailed description of what the applicant intends to do with this grant money. The narrative should also describe how the funds will help the program achieve the required outputs/ outcomes referred to in this Request for Proposals.

Project Workplan

The applicant shall develop a detailed work plan that will outline all activities described in the project narrative. The workplan should be laid out as a table and contain the following minimum elements:

- **Activities:** All activities should be included in the workplan as line items.

- **Responsible Party:** For each activity in the workplan, identify the organization and/or staff member responsible and/or involved in the activity.
- **Timeline:** Outline the specific time period, with start dates and end dates, during which each activity will occur.

The workplan should contain all required elements to fully implement the proposed program and achieve the required outputs/outcomes including key meetings, development time, identified milestones, reporting requirements, target outputs/outcomes achieved, etc.

Project Budget & Budget Narrative

The Project Budget and Budget Narrative should be combined into a single document. The applicant may choose the format, making sure the financial content and associated narrative explanations are easy to review and understand.

The budget should provide the details for each budget line item for the proposal, listing the total cost of each with the associated narrative explaining how such items were calculated. For example, costs for personnel should show the annual salary rate and the percentage of time devoted to the project for each employee that may be paid with grant funding. The budget should present—as completely as possible—an itemization of all proposed costs for the length of the project.

If the applicant is requesting funding to support or expand an existing program, the budget narrative should include details on how the funds will be used, and the budget should represent the entire program as well as highlight the use of the grant funding.

Finally, the budget narrative should also provide details on how the budget will allow for sustainability of the program.

Stewardship Package Requirements

Applicants will also have to submit the following documents to show they meet the minimum criteria for applying for this grant funding:

1. Current fiscal year budget for the applying organization
2. Proof of financial oversight/organization's financial review
3. Board of directors roster and recent board meeting minutes (as applicable)
4. Stated policies of nondiscrimination and compliance with all the requirements of state and federal laws and regulations on nondiscrimination and equal opportunity
5. Certified compliance with U.S. Patriot Act including recommended counterterrorism measures
6. IRS Determination Letter

Selection Process and Criteria

UWWV staff members do not make selection decisions for grant applications. Rather, UWWV recruits volunteers to participate in the evaluation process. As the manual describes, volunteers are trained to use the “Best Investment Criteria” to make their decisions. “Best Investment Criteria” refer to the programs that most clearly demonstrate:

- **ALIGNMENT:** Connection between program goals, UWWV Impact Council metric(s), and the Bold Goal for our community
- **IMPACT:** Effectiveness of programming as reflected by evaluation efforts and evidence-based outcomes
- **RESOURCES:** Access to the resources (staff, experience, financial, etc.) to successfully implement the program

The following additional considerations are not required criteria but are recommended so that applicants may enhance their submittal based on these most basic evaluation criteria.

Organizational Capacity

- The applicant has provided a clear explanation of its mission, vision, and goals.
- The applicant’s budget is consistent in terms of current and proposed fiscal years, and acceptable accounting practices are used.
- The applicant possesses the staff, space, equipment, and general organizational capacity to implement the outcomes.
- The applicant demonstrates the knowledge required to successfully provide programs of the quality proposed in this initiative through past experience or existing programs.
- Evidence of community engagement and partnerships is preferred.

Achieving Results/Program Evaluation

- The application clearly describes how the new investment will be evaluated for effectiveness.
- The application confirms how results data will be collected and reported.

Program Budget & Expenditure Detail

- If the program is current or existing, the proposal adequately describes current funding sources.
- The grant request amount seems adequate to support the proposed initiative/program.
- The application adequately describes how the requested grant funding will be used.

Sustainability

- The application describes a plan to ensure the sustainability of the program after the grant period ends and grant funds have been expended.
- The application includes information on additional resources or community partnerships that could be drawn upon, if necessary, to ensure sustainability.

The UWWV Community Impact Staff is the primary point of contact during the application process, from the issue date of the RFP until selection of the successful applicant(s). The Community Impact Staff for this RFP is: Dorothy Chambers, 812.235.6287, dchambers@uwwv.org

From the issue date of this RFP until announcement of the successful applicant(s), all questions, requests for clarification, and suggested changes may be addressed only to UWWV staff. UWWV assumes no responsibility for verbal representations made by its officers or employees unless such representations are confirmed in writing (electronic accepted). In addition, the UWWV written responses to questions will not be considered part of the RFP.

UWWV reserves the right to amend or provide clarifications to the RFP at any time. If the amendment occurs after the closing date for receipt of applications, UWWV may, in its sole discretion, allow applicants to amend their applications.

UWWV may request clarification from applicants in order to resolve ambiguities or question information presented in the applications. Clarifications may occur throughout the application review process. Clarification responses shall be in writing (electronic accepted) and shall address only the information requested. Responses shall be submitted to UWWV within the time stipulated with the request.

UWWV acknowledges that selected applicant(s) may contract with third parties for the performance of any of the applicant's obligations. The UWWV reserves the right to provide prior approval for any subcontractor used to perform services under any contract that may result from this RFP.

The application shall be received by the UWWV Community Impact Staff by the time and date specified in the grant timeline. The UWWV will not waive this requirement. Any application received after this deadline will not be considered. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that the application is received online prior to the deadline.

All programs that are awarded funding through any collective impact grant issued from any UWWV impact council will be required to sign a grant recipient agreement. This agreement will confirm that grant recipients understand all stipulations of the grant and all requirements for abiding by them, in order to receive the full designated funding over the grant period. Failure to abide by the stipulations of the grant recipient agreement will result in forfeiture of remaining funds and may prevent the organization from applying for future funds. An example of a grant recipient agreement is included as Attachment E in the UWWV Investment Strategies and Partnership Requirements Manual.