



PROGRAM INVESTMENTS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

Application Due Date | October 24, 2025 by 11:59 pm



UNITED WAY
Buffalo & Erie County



THAT SPIRIT OF INNOVATION AND RESPONSIVENESS IS EXACTLY WHAT OUR COMMUNITY NEEDS.

A message from our President & CEO

Dear Partners,

We're excited to share our 2025 Request for Proposals (RFP) – and even more excited about what this next chapter means for our work together.

The nonprofit community here never ceases to amaze me. Together, we've met challenges head-on, adapted to change, and created solutions that truly make a difference—from life-changing resources like the Family Justice Center to innovative programs like GO Buffalo Mom. That spirit of innovation and responsiveness is exactly what our community needs, especially as more of our neighbors are living in financial hardship (ALICE has grown from 40% to 42% in Erie County).

Our coalitions bring together dozens of nonprofits doing incredible work. Together, we've built strong programs, but we also know that the systemic issues we're tackling aren't going away anytime soon. That's why we're making sure we're financially ready to support both the work we know is making a difference today and the new ideas that will help us move the needle tomorrow.

You'll notice a few updates in this year's RFP to help us do just that. I won't go into all the details here - you can read more in the full RFP - but these changes are all about making sure our funding process is flexible, focused, and ready to meet the moment.

Thank you for the work you do every day to create lasting change in Buffalo & Erie County. We can't wait to see what you bring to the table this year.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Trina Burruss', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Trina Burruss
President & CEO
United Way of Buffalo & Erie County

SECTION 1: RFP OVERVIEW

KEY TERMS, ELIGIBILITY, FUNDED PROGRAM EXPECTATIONS, HOW TO APPLY & TIMELINE

KEY TERMS

Below are a few key terms about UWBECE's focus and funding:

- **Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed/ALICE:**

Households whose incomes are above the federal poverty level but who are still struggling financially to afford basic household necessities. For more information refer to our website at uwbec.org/our-work/alice.

- **Baseline Data:**

An initial set of measurements or information used as a reference point to track changes or progress over time. Financial hardship Households whose income falls below the ALICE threshold, including those with incomes below the federal poverty level.

- **First Dollars:**

In UWBECE will include funds designated by donors to an agency as part of any program funding awarded. For example, if your agency receives \$1,000 in donor designated contributions through United Way and is awarded \$10,000 in program funding, the first \$1,000 of that funding will come from those designations.

- **Focus Areas:**

United Way's four focus areas, which provide the structure for this RFP:

- **Healthy Community:**

Helping people overcome barriers to good health by improving access to maternal and child health.

- **Financial Security:**

Helping hardworking families make ends meet while connecting them with services that will empower them to create a more secure future for themselves and their loved ones.

- **Youth Opportunity:**

Helping young people realize their dreams through early childhood education, literacy development, and high-quality K-12 education and enrichment opportunities.

- **Community Resiliency:**

Laying the groundwork for a more secure future for all through crisis response and strengthening the nonprofit sector.

- **UWBECE:**

The abbreviation for United Way of Buffalo & Erie County.

ELIGIBILITY

This RFP is open to nonprofit, 501(c)(3) health and human service agencies with established programs that serve Erie County residents and meet specific outcomes in focus areas of Healthy Community, and Financial Security. **All applicants will be required to submit the following documents/attestations as part of the application:**

- Proof of current 501(c)(3) status.
- Attestation (via check box in the application) that you have reviewed the Program Funding Agreement, that funds received will be used for charitable purposes only, and that your organization is in compliance with all counter-terrorism laws.
- Most recent IRS Form 990 AND either most recent audited financial statements or Independent Accountant's Report according to the requirements of the New York State Attorney General Charities Bureau.
- Board of Directors roster with officers listed (current list as of October 2025).
- Attestation (via check box in the application) that the organization for which you are applying for funding has been operational since at least **December 31, 2023**; for multi-year funding applications, additional attestation that the program for which you are applying has been operational since at least **December 31, 2023**. Applications from organizations that began operations after **December 31, 2023** will not be considered.
- Attestation (via check box in the application) that your organization requires and monitors that all program staff have the legally required certifications for their roles.

EXPECTATIONS OF FUNDED PROGRAM PARTNERS

Programs that are awarded funding will be required to sign a program funding agreement, which will be required to be reviewed as part of the application process and will be included with the award package if awarded funding. Some key provisions of that agreement which is posted at [uwbec.org/fnding](https://www.uwbec.org/fnding).

- Funded programs will be required to submit interim and final outcome reports. The timing and frequency of these reports will be dependent on the grant term (1, 2, or 3 years) and will be specified in the award letter and funding agreement for each program. Baseline data will be required to show improvement in program outcomes where applicable.
- Agencies receiving UWBECE funding must apply that funding only to approved programs and deliver programs and services as outlined in the funding application request.
- Agencies receiving UWBECE funding must operate without discrimination to beneficiaries of services based on age, race, religion, gender, economic status, marital status, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation, culture, national origin, or other status protected by law.
- Any substantial changes to program operations or staffing must be shared with UWBECE in a timely manner (30 days prior to the change or as appropriate). Proposed changes in budget expenditures must be reviewed and approved by the relevant UWBECE Community Impact Director in order to receive continued funding.
- **MARKETING/CO-BRANDING REQUIREMENT** - Any use of UWBECE's name or logo in any public-facing communication must be review and approved by the VP of Marketing & Communications.
- All agencies receiving UWBECE funding are required to maintain an up to date, accurate profile on [211WNY.org](https://www.211WNY.org).
- Compliance with all applicable government regulations, including Patriot Act and Anti Money Laundering certifications.

HOW TO APPLY

- Applications must be submitted through UWBECE's online system. The link to the application is posted at uwbec.org/funding. **Applications submitted by any other method (e-mail, fax, hand delivery, etc.) will not be accepted.**
- Applications are due by **11:59 pm on Friday, October 24**. No applications will be accepted after this date and time.
- Currently funded programs must re-apply in order to be considered for continued funding. If you have used a different name for the program in past UWBECE funding cycles, please include this information.
- Organizations may apply for funding for more than one program, but must submit a separate application for each program.
- There will be time for a **virtual Q&A** during the information session on **Wednesday, October 1, 2025, 9:30-10:30 am**. Registration is required; the link to register is posted at uwbec.org/funding. After that point, all questions regarding this RFP or the application process must be submitted via e-mail to programfunding@uwbec.org. The answers to all questions will be posted on our website at uwbec.org/funding at least twice per week throughout the application period, to ensure that all applicants have access to the same information. **All questions must be received by Monday, October 20, 2025 at 5:00 pm**, and the answers to all questions will be posted on our website by **Wednesday, October 22 at 5:00 pm**.
- We anticipate awarding a total of \$1.2 million through this investment process.
- UWBECE will not fund capital expenditures or direct payments to individuals (such as scholarships).
- Organizations may request funds for one year or multiple (two or three) years. Most programs will be awarded one or two years of funding. Only a few well-established programs with strong evidence of impact will receive three years of funding.
 - Programs that are newer or responding to an emergency need in the community should generally apply for one year of funding.
 - All other programs should apply for multi-year funding. Most will be awarded two-year grants. Programs that show clear evidence of working toward "systems change" (i.e., addressing the root causes of financial struggle) will receive priority for three-year grants.
- If your application is incomplete or if all required documents are not included, it will not be considered for funding.
- Applications for funding for programs delivered by United Way (Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, Work/Life Solutions, etc.) will not be considered.
- If your application is not selected for funding, you will have an opportunity to meet with UWBECE staff to discuss your score and receive feedback.



A regularly updated Frequently Asked Questions will be posted on our website at uwbec.org/funding. Applicants can submit questions to programfunding@uwbec.org up until **5:00 pm on Monday, October 20, 2025**.

TIMELINE

RFP Release Date	September 22, 2025
Information Session (virtual) Zoom link posted at uwbec.org/funding .	October 1, 2025 9:30-10:30 am
Final date for questions	October 20, 2025 by 5:00 pm
All responses to questions posted at uwbec.org/funding	October 22, 2025 by 5:00 pm
Applications Due	October 24, 2025 by 11:59 pm
Application review/scoring process	November-December, 2025
Notification to non-funded applicants	February 2026
Site visits to finalists	February-March 2026
Final funding decisions communicated	Mid-May 2026
Program funding begins	July 1, 2026

PLEASE NOTE: Although the application will be open through **11:59 pm on Friday, October 24**, all questions on this RFP must be e-mailed to programfunding@uwbec.org no later than **5:00 pm on Monday, October 20**. Answers to questions received will be posted on our website at uwbec.org/funding throughout the RFP open period, with the final answers posted by **5 pm on Wednesday, October 22**. This is to ensure that all applicants have access to the same information as you prepare your application.

SECTION 2: UWPEC FOCUS AREAS

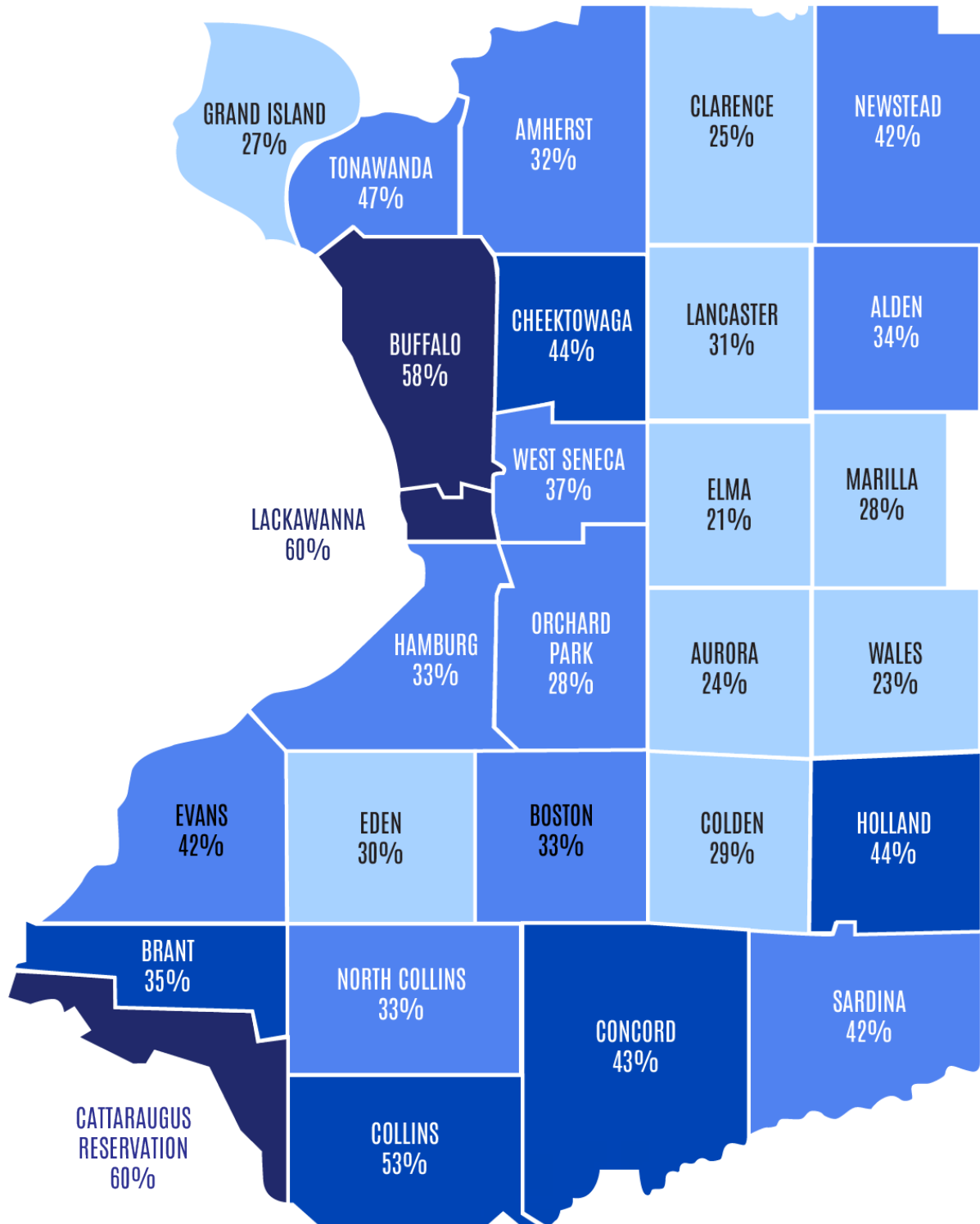
UWPEC's primary focus is **ALICE** - people or households who are Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed. A map showing the concentration of ALICE households in Erie County is below. We support ALICE households through the lens of our four focus areas: Healthy Community, Financial Security, Youth Opportunity, and Community Resiliency. Through this RFP, we are seeking to fund programs that work in at least one of the following areas:

- **Youth Opportunity** - programs that address early learning and development and/or school-age learning.
- **Financial Security** - programs that address employment and workforce development, financial capability and asset building.
- **Healthy Community** - programs that address maternal and infant health.
- **Community Resiliency** - programs and initiatives that address immediate crises, facilitate access to community resources, and build our community's capacity to weather future challenges.

UWPEC is not funding programs in this area through this RFP.

A description of each focus area, including the strategies we prioritize to achieve our focus area goals and the outcome measures for each focus area, follows in the next section.

ALICE IN ERIE COUNTY



ERIE COUNTY FUNDING PRIORITY AREAS

You can access an online version of this map through the link posted at uwbec.org/funding.

YOUTH OPPORTUNITY

A: Early Learning (Children 0-4)

Our goal: To help students in Erie County perform at grade level by the time they reach third grade by supporting early education and childcare programs that improve children's outcomes.

Children who are below grade-level proficiency by the time they reach third grade are much less likely to graduate from high school than their counterparts. Children who grow into adults without a high-school degree tend to face higher barriers to employment and earn lower wages. This is even more true for children of color. In Buffalo Public Schools, 22% of third-graders scored proficient on state ELA tests and 26% scored proficient on state math tests. 17% of economically disadvantaged students scored proficient in ELA (vs. 55% for non-disadvantaged students) while 22% scored proficient in math (vs. 50% for non-disadvantaged students). However, there are stark differences across districts. Districts in wealthier areas tend to have higher proficiency rates, while districts in lower-income areas tend to have lower proficiency rates. We know that to help children reach grade-level proficiency, they need to receive targeted interventions focused on not only literacy and math, but also their social-emotional and mental health from educators who are receiving vital training about how to support children. Learn more about grade level proficiency by viewing the NYS Education Department data page at data.nysed.gov.

We will give preference to programs that can help achieve school-age learning goals through the following strategies:

- Enhance the quality of a childcare/early education program.
- Empower parents by engaging them in literacy development with their children.
- Support training for teachers and/or administrators to improve childcare for young children.

Programs funded in early learning and development are required to choose at least one of the following measures on which to report:

- Programs that improve their QualityStars NY rating.
- Children who improve their performance on a developmental screening tool (e.g., ASQ), valid and reliable reading, or math assessments (e.g., PPV).
- Number of teachers or other professionals who earn a nationally recognized credential in preschool education (e.g., CDA).

In addition to one of the above, programs may also choose up to two of the following measures on which to report:

- Parents who participate in literacy development with their children.
- Administrators and childcare providers attending professional development about how to improve childcare/early education outcomes.
- Number of children who complete a validated developmental screening.
- Improved home literacy practices (e.g., frequency of reading to child).
- Improved attendance of childcare/early education.
- Improving the Quality Stars NY rating or similar measurement of quality of an early childhood program.

B: School-Aged Learning (Students in Grades K-12)

Our goal: To help Erie County students graduate from high school career and college ready by supporting programming that boosts the academic performance of K-12 students.

Currently 89% of students in Erie County graduate from high school. However, there are large variations in the graduation rate based on key demographics. English language learners have the lowest graduation rates, at 63%. 77% of Hispanic or Latino/a/x students graduated on time while 83% of Black students did, compared to 92% of White students. We know that to help students graduate from high school, they need to receive targeted interventions focused on not only literacy and math, but also their social-emotional and mental health from educators who are receiving vital training about how to strengthen student learning. Learn more about high school graduation by viewing the New York State Education Department dashboard for Erie County at <https://data.nysed.gov/profile.php?county=014>.

We will give preference to programs that can help achieve school-age learning goals through the following strategies:

- Developing targeted literacy and math interventions for students based on assessment data.
- Developing targeted social-emotional and mental health interventions for students with the goal of ultimately improving academic performance.

Programs funded in early learning and development are required to choose at least one of the following measures on which to report:

- Children who improve their performance on a valid and reliable reading, math, or SEL assessment.
- Children who demonstrate improved school performance (grades, graduation, or attendance).

In addition to one of the above, programs may also choose up to two of the following measures on which to report:

- Staff completing professional development/training/mentor focused on targeted interventions, restorative practices, or other focused on improving student outcomes.
- Children who improve social-emotional learning skills on a validated assessment.
- Youth participants complete leadership training.
- Students who attend at least 80% of program sessions.

FINANCIAL SECURITY

A: Employment and Workforce Development

Our goal : To reduce barriers and connect people who are unemployed and underemployed in Erie County with well-paying, stable jobs.

While the unemployment rate in Erie County is about the same as pre-pandemic levels, there are still many people looking for work. The most recent data available, from 2023, show large racial disparities in the unemployment rate: 7.8% of Black residents and 7.2% of Hispanic residents experienced unemployment in Western New York, compared to 4.8% of white residents. There are also underemployed workers; these are workers whose skills, education, and training exceed the work they are currently doing. We know that helping potential workers increase their skill sets and connect with job placement and retention programs are important ways to help those who are looking for work find good paying jobs.

We will give preference to programs that can help achieve workforce development goals through the following strategies:

- Supporting individuals with necessary education & training credentials and/or job skills training.
- Connecting and securing interested individuals with employment.

Programs funded in Employment and Workforce Development are required to choose at least one of the following measures on which to report:

- Individuals who secure employment.
- Individuals who maintain employment for six months or more.

In addition to one of the above, programs may also choose up to two of the following measures on which to report:

- Individuals who complete a high school equivalency program.
- Individuals who complete job readiness training.
- Individuals who complete vocational/career and technical employment training.

B: Financial Capability and Asset Building

Our goal : To help families in Erie County build financial assets.

In the United States, about 16% of families have zero or negative net worth, meaning they have no wealth or their debt is greater than their assets. However, zero net worth is much more common among households of color; 21.2% of Black households, 15.5% of Hispanic households, and 8.4% of white households had zero net worth in 2022. Read more in this Census Report. Financial education is one critical method which helps families learn how to reduce debt and secure assets like a vehicle or a home.

We will give preference to programs that can help achieve our financial capability and asset building goals through the following strategies:

- Helping individuals improve their money management skills to build assets.
- Helping individuals secure and/or maintain a home or (micro/small) business.
- Offering free tax preparation services.

Programs funded in Financial Capacity and Asset Building are required to choose at least one of the following measures on which to report:

- Individuals who increased their savings or net assets.
- Individuals who received tax credits.
- Individuals who started or operated a small or micro business for six months or more.

In addition to the above, programs may also choose up to two of the following measures on which to report:

- Individuals who created a credit repair plan and improved their credit score.
- Individuals who purchased a home.
- Individuals who developed and utilized a money management plan to address financial crises for 6 months or more.
- Individuals who established a bank or credit union account.
- Individuals who made rent or mortgage payments for six months or more.
- Individuals who received financial education (in a classroom setting or one-on-one coaching).
- Individuals who received free tax preparation services.

HEALTHY COMMUNITY

Healthy Birth Outcomes

Our goal: To reduce the premature birth rate in Erie County and strengthen maternal and infant health.

Babies born prematurely are at a higher risk of serious disability or death. In Erie County, 10.7% of babies are born prematurely, higher than the New York State average. In Erie County, the preterm birth rate among Black women is 44% higher than the rate among white women (13.9% vs. 9.9%, according to NYS statistics). We know that helping pregnant people attend medical appointments, meet their health-related social needs and breastfeed after the baby is born are three important ways to help strengthen maternal and infant health. See the March of Dimes NYS Report Card for more.

We will give preference to programs that can help achieve birth outcomes goals through the following strategies:

- Helping attend medical appointments pre- and postnatal for the pregnant parent and/or baby with caregiver.
- Increasing the number of pregnant families access to safe housing and reliable transportation, which are both health-related social needs that reduce risk factors contributing to premature births.
- Offering support for lactating people to breastfeed their babies for at least six months.

Programs funded in Healthy Birth Outcomes are required to choose at least one of the following measures on which to report:

- Newborns who were born at term.
- Increasing the number of lactating people who breastfed regularly for the first six months of the baby's life.
- Birthing caregivers who did not experience pregnancy-related complications leading to long-term consequences.

In addition to the above, programs funded in Healthy Birth outcomes may also choose up to three of the following outcome measures on which to report:

- Pregnant people who initiated first trimester prenatal care.
- Babies who attended recommended number of well baby visits in the first two years of the baby's life.
- Caregivers who gained access to consistent, reliable transportation.
- Caregivers who gained access to safe and affordable housing.

SECTION 3: APPLICATION & SCORING RUBRIC

The following information is required as part of the application. Please note that there may be minor wording differences between what is on these pages and what is in the application in WizeHive.

Eligibility Questions:

You must be able to answer “Yes” to each question in order to apply for funding.

- Is your organization a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit? **(Yes/No)**
- Does your program serve residents of Erie County, NY? **(Yes/No)**
- Has your organization been operational since at least December 31, 2023? **(Yes/No)**
- Have you reviewed our program funding agreement, including the section regarding Charitable Status and Anti-Terrorism Compliance, and do you agree to abide by its terms if awarded funding? You can access the funding agreement at uwbec.org/funding. **(Yes/No)**
- Have you filed IRS Form 990 AND do you have either audited financial statements or an Independent Accountant’s Report according to the requirements of the New York State Attorney General Charities Bureau? **(Yes/No)**

Required Attachments:

You must upload the following documents in the space provided in order to apply for funding.

- Proof of nonprofit 501(c)(3) status (e.g., IRS determination letter)
- Most recent IRS Form 990
- Most recent audited or reviewed financial statements. If your organization does not have reviewed or audited financial statements, you may upload your most recent independent accountant’s report prepared according to the requirements of the New York State Attorney General Charities Bureau.
- Current Board of Directors list, with officers/titles listed.

Additional Unsourced Questions:

- Aside from funding, in what other ways could UWBECE support your program (e.g. volunteer projects)?
- Briefly describe your organization, including your mission and organizational goals.

PROGRAMMATIC QUESTIONS

The following information is required. The rubric for all questions that will be scored by reviewers is below each question.

Briefly describe the structure of your program. What does a typical day look like for staff and participants?

BEST:

Thorough description of the mechanics of a compelling program that seems very likely to positively impact the community.

BETTER:

Solid run-through of a program that seems likely to positively impact the community.

GOOD:

Brief outline of program aligned with organizational mission and goals.

NO SCORE:

Response does not adequately answer the question.

Briefly describe the population served by your program. Who are the people you serve, and how many people have you served in recent years?

BEST:

In-depth description of population served, including detailed analysis of numbers served.

BETTER:

Solid description of population served and numbers served.

GOOD:

Brief outline of population served, with some indication of numbers served.

NO SCORE:

Response does not adequately answer the question.

Briefly describe the goals of your program. What need does the population you serve have, and how does this program address that need?

BEST:

Thorough description of thoughtful, mission-aligned goals and detail on a compelling community need.

BETTER:

Solid description of goals that align with meaningful community needs described.

GOOD:

Brief description of goals and needs.

NO SCORE:

Response does not adequately answer the question.

Briefly describe past program successes and evidence that the program has positively impacted the community or will do so in the future. (This could include internal observations, external evaluations, research on best practices, etc.).

BEST:

Program compellingly describes successes relative to focus area goal using specific programmatic details.

BETTER:

Program describes successes relative to focus area goal using general terms.

GOOD:

Program identifies successes, but unclear how they relate to the focus area goal.

NO SCORE:

Response does not adequately answer the question.

PROGRAMMATIC QUESTIONS CONT'D

Describe any partnerships your program has with other agencies to meet program participants' needs. (Examples include referral networks, interventions, joint programming, or being part of a one-stop model).

BEST:

Program is administered through collaboration with multiple partner organizations.

BETTER:

Program is administered through collaboration with one partner organization.

GOOD:

Program is administered by a single organization.

NO SCORE:

Response does not adequately answer the question.

29: Does your program currently partner with any UWBECE grants or initiatives? If yes, please describe the partnership with UWBECE.

YES:

Partners with UWBECE.

NO:

Does not partner or response does not adequately answer the question.

Would the funds you are requesting be used to start a new program? If yes, you are only eligible to apply for one year of funding.

If applying for three years of funding, does your program: (a) pursue systems change, or (b) have an exceptional track record of proven impact verified by external evaluation?

Describe how your program is pursuing systems change. Which systems are you aiming to change, and how would the world look different if you succeed?

BEST:

Clear and compelling plan to address root causes by dramatically changing underlying systems.

BETTER:

Solid description of a plan to address root causes by working to alter underlying systems.

GOOD:

Brief description of a plan to try to address root causes.

NO SCORE:

Response does not adequately answer the question.

Please upload your most recent external evaluation(s) here. (only applicable to those applying for 3 years of funding)

BEST:

External evaluation offers clear and compelling evidence of program success with multiple rigorous methods and large impacts.

BETTER:

External evaluation offers moderate evidence of program success with multiple methods and moderate impacts.

GOOD:

External evaluation offers weak evidence of program success with only observational methods or very small impacts.

NO SCORE:

Attached document is not an external evaluation.

BUDGET QUESTIONS

Are you applying for funding to start a new program? If yes, you are eligible to apply for only one year of funding. For how many years of funding are you applying?

What is the total amount requested in Year 1? What is the total amount requested in Year 2 (if applicable)? What is the total amount requested in Year 3 (if applicable)?

Using the chart below, identify and explain your overall annual program budget.

YEAR 1	\$ Total	\$ Requested From UWBEC	\$ From Other Funding Sources
Personnel			
Fringe Benefits			
Travel			
Equipment/Supplies			
Contractual			
Other			
Assessment/Evaluation			
Total			

YEAR 2	\$ Total	\$ Requested From UWBEC	\$ From Other Funding Sources
Personnel			
Fringe Benefits			
Travel			
Equipment/Supplies			
Contractual			
Other			
Assessment/Evaluation			
Total			

BUDGET QUESTIONS CONT'D

YEAR 3	\$ Total	\$ Requested From UWBEC	\$ From Other Funding Sources
Personnel			
Fringe Benefits			
Travel			
Equipment/Supplies			
Contractual			
Other			
Assessment/Evaluation			
Total			

BEST:

Budget clearly aligns with narrative and need.

BETTER:

Budget mostly aligns with narrative and need.

NO SCORE:

Budget does not align with narrative or need described.

Using the chart below, list your largest sources of funding for this program, including grants, donations, fee-for-service revenue, agency operating budget, or other funding sources.

Funder	Amount of Funding	Status (Requested, Pending, Confirmed)	Length of Funding

BEST:

Funding sources demonstrate a comprehensive strategy to sustain the program.

BETTER:

Adequate response that outlines some additional sources of funding.

NO SCORE:

Response does not adequately answer the question.

BUDGET QUESTIONS CONT'D

Describe strategies for sustaining funding for your program through at least the end of the grant period. Please address (Minimum 100 words):

- (1) Status of other funding proposals and their length;
- (2) Proposals you intend to submit and their planned length;
- (3) Percentage of program budget supported by your agency's operating budget;
- (4) Whether your program has fee-for-service or other continuing program revenue.

BEST: <i>Clear, specific and detailed funding plan with 50% or more of funding secured for at least 2 years AND some program support funded through agency operating budget.</i>	BETTER: <i>Clear funding plan with 50% of funding secured for at least 1 year with or without program support funded through agency operating budget.</i>	GOOD: <i>Less than 50 percent of funding secured for 1 year with no program support funded through agency operating budget.</i>	NO SCORE: <i>No specific funding plan; No response given; Response does not adequately answer the question.</i>
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Can your program operate if awarded less than the requested amount? If so, what changes would you make to the program and grant budget? (Minimum 5 words)

In which focus area is your program applying?

- Youth Opportunity - Early Learning (0-4)
- Youth Opportunity - School-Aged Learning (K-12)
- Financial Security - Employment and Workforce Development
- Financial Security - Financial Capability and Asset Building
- Healthy Community - Healthy Birth Outcomes

OUTCOMES

Below are rubric scoring used for each focus area in application:

Which strategy will your program utilize? (pick at least one from list provided)

Which of these priority outcomes will you track? (pick at least one from list provided)

Which of these additional outcomes will you track? (pick up to two from the list provided)

OUTCOMES CONT'D

[Primary Outcome] For each outcome selected, what assessment(s) or measurement tool(s) will you use to track this?

BEST:

Valid and reliable assessment or measurement tool that will precisely measure progress toward the selected outcome.

BETTER:

Solid assessment or measurement tool that will provide solid insight as to progress toward the selected outcome.

GOOD:

Mediocre assessment or measurement tool that will provide some insight as to progress toward the selected outcome.

NO SCORE:

Assessment or measurement tool does not align with outcome.

[Primary Outcome] For each outcome selected, where is your program currently on this outcome?

BEST:

Established baseline using previously collected data from assessments or evaluation that can be sustained during the grant period.

BETTER:

Some evidence of current state using data similar to what application says will be used during the grant period.

GOOD:

No formal baseline, but a reasonable estimate based on circumstantial evidence.

NO SCORE:

No baseline or reasonable estimate.

[Primary Outcome] For each outcome selected, where do you hope your program will be at the conclusion of the grant?

BEST:

Clear idea of an appropriate goal based on previous use of the assessment that will be used during the grant period.

BETTER:

Solid idea of an appropriate goal, based on some previous evidence.

GOOD:

Rough idea of an appropriate goal, based on circumstantial evidence.

NO SCORE:

No reasonable goal.

DATA COLLECTION

**Describe your plan for data collection to track these outcomes. What tools/assessments will you use, from whom will you collect data, and how often?
Will you collect data yourself or have an external partner help?**

BEST:

Thorough plan to regularly collect data aligned with outcomes, using validated assessments when appropriate.

BETTER:

Thoughtful plan to regularly collect data mostly aligned with outcomes, often using validated assessments.

GOOD:

Cursory plan somewhat aligned with outcomes above, using mostly informal or in-house assessments to evaluate program.

NO SCORE:

Plan does not align with outcomes described above.

**Who will be in charge of collecting and analyzing program data?
What are their qualifications?**

BEST:

Evaluation is conducted by an external, third-party expert evaluator.

BETTER:

Evaluation is conducted by staff or volunteers with formal research training.

GOOD:

Evaluation is conducted only by staff without formal training in data analysis.

NO SCORE:

Response does not adequately answer the question.

Describe ways in which you ensure that your program is accessible to clients, including with respect to operating hours, geographic availability, and language access. (Minimum 50 words)

BEST:

Program is accessible along all three criteria.

BETTER:

Program is accessible along two criteria.

GOOD:

Program is accessible along one criteria.

NO SCORE:

Program is not accessible along any of the three criteria; No response; Response does not adequately answer the question.

How do your clients provide input into this program's design?

BEST:

Thorough description of clear efforts to regularly and formally adjust the program based on client input.

BETTER:

Solid description of some meaningful efforts to take client input into account.

GOOD:

Brief description of cursory efforts to take client input into account.

NO SCORE:

Response does not adequately answer the question, or clients are not asked for input. estimate based on circumstantial evidence.

DATA COLLECTION CONT'D

Enter data into the table provided in the application form. Approximately what percentage of your clients are living in financial hardship?

BEST:
75-100%

BETTER:
50-75%

GOOD:
25-50%

NO SCORE:
0-25%

Approximately what percentage of your clients live in UWBECE identified priority funding areas? Explain how you are defining financial hardship and measuring this for your clients. (e.g., intake forms, percent below poverty, percent eligible for free and reduced price lunch, or percent below another threshold)

BEST:
75-100%

BETTER:
50-75%

GOOD:
25-50%

NO SCORE:
0-25%

Approximately what percent of the following groups identify as members of each of these races/ethnicities? Enter data into the table provided in the application form.

BEST:
*Very representative
of client base.
(score of <50)*

BETTER:
*Moderately representative
of client base.
(score of 50-99)*

GOOD:
*Somewhat representative
of client base.
(score of 100-199)*

NO SCORE:
*Not at all representative
of client base.
(score of 200)*

This image shows a full page of blank white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, typical of notebook or legal stationery. There are no margins, text, or other markings present.



UNITED WAY

Buffalo & Erie County

United Way of Buffalo & Erie County

742 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, New York 14209

www.uwbec.org

    @uwbec