

**United Way of Buffalo & Erie County
2025 Request for Proposal
Frequently Asked Questions**

Below are the answers to the questions that have been submitted to programfunding@uwbec.org. This document will be updated at least once a week, usually on Fridays, throughout the application period, with the most recent responses posted at the top. The final update will be posted by 5 pm on Wednesday, October 22.

10/22/25

As a Catholic school, we are not required by the IRS to file a 990 form. Are we still eligible to apply?

501c3 organizations that are not legally required to file a 990 are eligible to apply. Where the application asks you to upload the 990, please upload an explanation of why you're exempt instead.

Can you please list which zip codes are priority areas for 2025?

We did not use zip codes to determine priority areas this year because there are many areas in the region that are low-income but in a high-income zip code or high-income but in a low-income zip code. We instead used smaller geographic areas called census block groups to highlight the areas with the most need. While still not perfect, we believe the map in the RFP aligns much more closely with community need than does a map using zip codes and are prioritizing our funding using this map.

10/17/25

I see from the FAQ's that indirect costs are allowed. Is there a limit on the % allowed?

We have not set a formal limit on the percent or amount of indirect costs that can be requested. Budgets will be evaluated holistically.

I know the typical award is between \$25 - \$75K. Is \$75K the max for a 3 year award (so 25k per year), or could we ask for a higher per year amount?

We anticipate that a typical one-year award will range from \$25k to \$75K, irrespective of whether the overall request is for one, two, or three years. You should request the amount of funding you need for each year.

It looks like there may be a formula error on the Year 2 Budget Form. It is skipping the equipment supplies line which is bumping everything up. Please advise.

We have addressed the autopopulation issues with the Year 2 budget table. Unfortunately, doing so deleted anything people entered in them. We apologize for any inconvenience, but we suggest double checking your budget tables before submitting because you may need to re-enter your numbers.

A member of our organization has left their position, and they set up our account in the WizeHive system. How can I get approval for my request to join the organization's account?

Typically, the "Program Manager" role is assigned to whoever sets up the account for your organization, so that person should be the one receiving an email to approve adding someone to the organization. We understand that turnover happens, and that sometimes, someone may simply be out of office and unable to make these approvals.

If for whatever reason the person who set up your account with WizeHive is not able to login and approve your request, please reach out to programfunding@uwbec.org, and we'll be able to approve your request to join an organization.

10/9/25

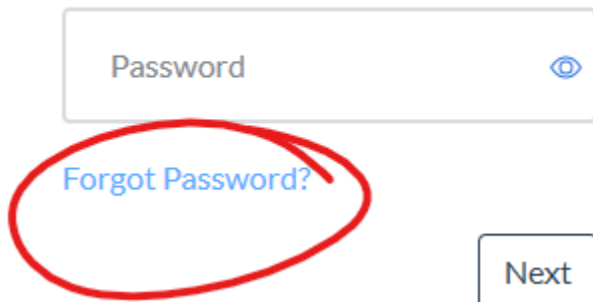
If a program applies for 3-year funding but is not selected for that grant term, will it still be considered for a 2-year award?

Yes, if a program applies for 3-year funding but is not selected for that grant term, they will still be considered for a 2-year award.

I have lost my login information/I don't know my password to get into the WizeHive system. Can you help?

If you try to log in and type the wrong password or forget your password, you can click "Forgot Password?" below where it asks you to enter one and create a new one.

To continue, first verify it's you

A login verification form with a password input field, a "Forgot Password?" link circled in red, and a "Next" button.

Password 

[Forgot Password?](#)

Next

Can I set up a quick meeting with someone on the UWBEC team to discuss our application and ask some questions?

Unfortunately, our staff are unable to meet with individual organizations about grant requests right now. We're answering all questions received via this email and posting the responses in the FAQ section of our funding page at uwbec.org/funding.

Can you explain what you mean by “budget narrative” in Question 12a?

The budget narrative should provide an explanation of each budget line item in the table above (Question 12). For example, if an organization requests money for personnel, they should explain which personnel this is funding and whether these are new hires or existing staff members. If they request money for equipment, they should specify how many of which items they plan to buy.

10/3/25

Is the pool of \$1.2m available annually (i.e., if a multi-year grant is awarded, is it from this \$1.2m or from \$1.2m each year)?

The \$1.2 million has been determined to be spent down this year and will not be used to fund the 2nd or 3rd year of multi-year funding.

Are organizations allowed to submit more than one application if the projects fall under different priority categories?

Organizations are limited to one application per program, however, they can submit applications for multiple programs. So, if you only have one program, choose the priority category that it fits into best.

Can you share more details on the required outcome measurement reporting for school-aged learning?

All programs are required to report either the number of children who improve their performance on a valid and reliable reading, math, or SEL assessment (e.g., IXL, Lexia, i-Ready or MAP) or the number who demonstrate improved school performance (grades, graduation, or attendance).

Can an organization apply if we address holistic health?

Any programs aligned with the strategies and outcomes related to our priority areas are welcome to submit an application. We cannot guarantee that all programs that submit applications will be funded.

If the organization's legal address is in a different county, but the service area includes Erie County, is the organization still eligible?

Yes. Any organization that serves Erie County is eligible to apply.

Is there a funding request cap?

There is not an explicit cap on requests. We plan to award \$1.2 million for the next fiscal year, and anticipate funding 25-50 programs with this money. This will depend heavily on the volume and quality of applications, and the recommendations of our volunteer reviewers, but we anticipate that most awards will be between \$25,000 and \$75,000.

If a single applicant submits more than one application and more than one is chosen for funding, will the applications be fully funded, or will awards be reduced because more than one is being funded?

Each individual program will be awarded funding separately. We cannot guarantee that any programs will be funded in the full amount requested, but the funding of one program will not directly impact funding for another program from the same agency.

Is there a specific dollar amount allocated to each funding category and if there is, what is it?

No. Our total allocation is \$1.2 Million, and all awards will draw down from that total allocation.

When I download an application, where is the “downloads” section in the portal?

To access your "downloads" section in the portal, you'll want to follow the following steps:

First, you will need to have completed the Eligibility section of the application before you will be able to download a copy of your application, so be sure to complete that section and then go ahead and click the download button once that has been completed. If you've already completed these steps, feel free to ignore these steps, and move right along to the next set of directions.

From your application, you're going to want to click on "Main Menu" in the top left hand corner of the screen > Once at the main menu, you should have a "Downloads" section in the bottom left hand corner of your portal > Click downloads, and it should take you to the "downloads" landing page> From there, you should see a downloaded copy your application, go ahead and click the "download" button, under "Actions" next to your application file, this should download a copy of the file to your computer as a PDF.

Is Community Resiliency a funded project category? If not, is there another funding RFP we should be looking at?

Community Resiliency is a platform of UWBEC that will not be included in this RFP. The Community Resilience Fund does not have an RFP out.

We are fiscally sponsored by another 501(c)3. Are we still eligible to apply?

Programs sponsored by another nonprofit are eligible for United Way funding, but the sponsoring organization must be the one to apply for -- and manage -- the funds.

How can I amend the title of the application?

There is no way to change the title of your application, but if you look under the Organization Information tab of the application, the first question should ask you for your Program Name, and you can put a more descriptive title for your Program in that line.

Is there supposed to be a budget table that needs to be filled out in the portal?

The appropriate budget table should autopopulate after responding to question 7, which asks "Would the funds requested be used to start a new program?" and if applicable, question 8 which asks "For how many years of funding are you applying?" After responding to these two questions, the appropriate budget table for your funding request should autopopulate for you to fill in.

Is there somewhere to access your ALICE report with the most recent data?

A wealth of ALICE data is available at <https://unitedforalice.org/key-findings/new-york>. Select Erie County from the drop down box.

Can you give any more examples of the three-year projects you might be interested in?

Programs that address biases or build understanding as a form of prevention to reduce societal problems, inequities, or barriers that prevent individuals or families from thriving.

Can you share if you all have a specific reporting template, or if we can provide our own impact data?

All programs that receive funding will complete an outcomes report via the WizeHive system.

If you submit multiple program applications are you competing with yourself or can you be awarded for multiple applications?

It is possible that an agency may receive funding for more than one program, but each application will be reviewed and evaluated independently; each application will compete against every other application submitted by every other agency.

Can you speak more to the Financial Review requirement, what level of review is required in order to be eligible? Are you ineligible without an independent financial review?

We require some proof of external assessment of each agency's financial health, as well as proof that each applicant agency is up to date with all required IRS filings.

If you are applying for multiple programs do you have to do one at a time or can you have multiple in process?

You may work on multiple applications in the WizeHive system, rather than completing them serially.

Will there be a period where RFP's can be reviewed prior to the submission deadline?

Your application in WizeHive remains in draft until you submit it, so you can take the time you need to review and revise it. Once you have submitted the application, you will not be able to make any revisions, and no applications will be accepted after 11:59 p.m. on Friday, October 24.

Are subawards/partnering with other organizations applicable for this grant?

Yes, partnering with other organizations is encouraged.

Are indirect costs allowable for funding under this program?

Yes, indirect costs are allowable.

Can you explain “first dollar” further? Previously, donor-designated gifts were not restricted, but the grant will now restrict these gifts, is that correct?

First dollar is a widely accepted practice among the United Way Worldwide system. Designations will continue to honor the donor's intent. The agency is free to use those designated dollars for the funded program or for any other agency need. First dollar simply means that funds designated to an agency will be part of any program funding that is 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 comes from the designated gift.