



Innovation Fund Grant

Statement of Purpose

The Innovation Fund is a collective impact grant that can address existing gaps in service, or new and evolving needs in Collier County by funding innovative, problem-solving projects and programs.

What is “Innovation”?

Applications should outline the potential to effect positive change in our community. Successful applications deemed innovative may address a new paradigm, look at existing problems from new perspectives, or exhibit other uniquely creative solutions or qualities.

Eligibility

There are many phases involved when developing a project or program, especially if an organization engages with the community and works collaboratively with other organizations to minimize duplication of services and maximize resources. A project or program may be at any stage of development including, but not limited to, identification of need, coalition or taskforce work to build shared understanding of the issue, or implementation. Regardless of stage of development, proposals must be grounded in data and present a clear strategy. Competitive proposals will demonstrate how the project or program could scale and grow, whether directly or in partnership, if successful.

The following requirements must be met for a project or program to receive funding through the Innovation Fund Grant.

- 501(c)(3) organization;
- Grantee organization must be able to provide annual audited financials and IRS 990;
- Project or program concentrates its efforts within Collier County;
- Project or program addresses one or more of the United Way of Collier County’s three impact areas: 1). Education, 2). Health, or 3). Financial Stability.



Funding Guidelines

- UWCC values programs that are non-duplicative, emphasize collaboration, and leverage dollars from other donors;
- If funding permits, it may be possible to receive support beyond the first year of a funded project or program. The maximum allowable award will be 50% of the original award amount;
- Funding requests have a \$10,000 minimum;
- Grant funding **can** be used for:
 - New projects or programs;
 - Stated operational, administrative, staffing, and supply expenses required to support the program;
 - Capital improvements (plans, building, renovation, etc.);
- Grant funding **cannot** be used for:
 - Individuals
 - Organizations with religious or membership affiliations unless the program or project is open to the entire community, without regard to religious beliefs or membership status. Additionally, faith-based organizations must separate explicitly religious activities (religious worship, instruction, proselytization, etc.) from a funded program or project.
- Agencies selected for an award will be required to submit an interim progress report and final report on project or program outputs and outcome indicators. United Way of Collier County reserves the right to request interim financial information and interim site visits. It is the responsibility of grantees to remember and adhere to reporting deadlines and requests. Grantees are further subject to the written policies in the Agency Agreement, including without limitation, recoupment or “clawback” of payments made under this award for non-compliance.

Reporting Requirements

The total community impact of United Way of Collier County and all our funded partner agencies is much greater than any single organization alone. Donors are increasingly interested in seeing how local organizations are working together to change lives in our community, and the collective impact that results. To accomplish this, UWCC and our partners must work together to effectively measure and consistently communicate our shared value to the community.

I. Program Outcome Indicator Measures

Applicants will be required to complete outcome indicator measurement planning. Chosen outcome indicators assist with initial, and for grantees, ongoing program evaluation.



II. Program Outputs

Applicants selected for an award will be required to report the following program outputs:

- a. Total number of unduplicated individuals served by the program
- b. Total number of unduplicated households served by the program
- c. Demographics of clients served by the program
 - o Age, sex, race/ethnicity, and household income
- d. Total number of volunteers
- e. Total number of volunteer hours

Application and Review Process

Applications are by invitation only and will be accepted on a rolling basis until available funds have been expended. You may be invited to apply by contacting Lauren Branson at lauren.branson@uwcollier.org with subject line “**Innovation Fund.**” All applications are to be submitted online through Community Force which can be accessed at uwcc.communityforce.com.

No incomplete submissions will be accepted; no appeals process for entire grant process.

All applications will be reviewed by UWCC staff at the end of each month. If accepted, applicants will be invited to enter a due diligence process where a one-on-one presentation and interview will be held.

Applicants who perform satisfactorily in the due diligence phase will proceed to a decision panel. The decision panel is comprised of Agency Relations Committee members, UWCC leadership, and community volunteers who will evaluate the application, receive staff recommendations, and make final funding recommendations.

If selected for an award, funds will be disbursed within one month of official notification. The Innovation Fund is a competitive and transparent grant allocation process wherein submissions are not judged solely on their merit, but against all applications. Awards are the result of a thorough review process that seeks to maximize community impact with limited funds



Application Rubric

Applications not meeting a minimum threshold of 70 points are automatically ineligible.

Rating Scale: 1 = 0%, 2 = 25%, 3 = 50%, 4 = 75%, 5 = 100% of possible points

Criteria	Rating (1-4)	Possible Points
I. Organizational Health		15
Agency has strong organizational management practices		5
Agency has strong board governance practices		5
Agency has strong financial management practices		5
II. Alignment with United Way of Collier		15
Program aligns with United Way of Collier’s impact areas		10
Program serves the ALICE population		5
III. Program Need and Design		15
Identifies the root cause of an issue; program bridges identified gap(s)		5
Application adequately documents need utilizing pertinent data		5
Outcome indicator measures are clearly defined and make sense		5
IV. Collaboration		20
Agency and program(s) demonstrate active partnerships and collaboration		5
Program is not a duplication of existing services		15
V. Impact		25
Program is likely to make a significant, sustainable, and scalable impact		25
V. Grant Request		10
Program for which funding is being requested is clearly outlined and demonstrates what X dollars will accomplish		5
Budget is realistic and appropriate		5
Total Points		/ 100