



Lakes Area United Way

Application for Partner Program Funding, FY 2026-2027

Each year, Lakes Area United Way raises funds from the community and reinvests those funds in local non-profit programs making a positive impact in the health, education, and financial stability of Lakes Area community members. We invite eligible programs to come alongside the United Way in our work as a funded Partner Program for our next fiscal year of 2026-2027.

Successful applicants will meet the following minimum requirements:

- Operate as 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization.
- Operate under written Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws, other written documents or statutes that define the applicant's purposes, membership, management and operation.
- Operate on a non-discriminatory basis in employment, recruitment of volunteers and delivery of services.
- Demonstrate effective program community impact, financial responsibility, and accountability.
- Operate or provide service within Crow Wing, Aitkin, and/or Cass counties in Minnesota.
- Must have been in operation for a minimum of one year from time of application.
- The program must have a minimum of one year of continuous operation before applying for funds.
- Certify that Lakes Area United Way funds and donations will be used in compliance with all applicable anti-terrorist financing and asset control laws, statutes and executive orders.
- Funding must provide for services or activities that align with the Lakes Area United Way's priority areas of education, health, and/or basic needs/financial stability.

The following basic operating guidelines shall apply:

- Funds shall be used solely for the allocated purpose. Funded activities shall commence in a timely manner. Funds not expended shall be returned to Lakes Area United Way.
- No funds will be given for any purpose that would jeopardize the tax-exempt status of the Lakes Area United Way or the applicant organization.
- All funding applications will be reviewed by a team of community volunteers (Vision Council) who will make a recommendation on proposed funding to the Lakes Area United Ways Board of Directors.
- All funding shall be approved by the Board of Directors of the Lakes Area United Way.
- Organizations will receive written notification of the Board's decision no later than July 1st, 2026.

Expectations of selected Partner Programs:

- Submit progress reports every 6 months documenting measurable impact made in the community because of United Way grant dollars.
- Acknowledge Lakes Area United Way in promotional materials, activities, and programs funded with money allocated by United Way.

Submission Requirements:

- Funding applications are due **March 23, 2026** to Lakes Area United Way.
- Application forms are available via our website: www.unitedwaynow.org/grants
- **Email completed packet in PDF format to:** lucy@unitedwaynow.org



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2026 – 2027 Impact Agenda

Education: Helping People Achieve Their Potential Through Education

- 1) Helping children enter school developmentally on track and ready to succeed.
- 2) Key initiatives improving access to educational opportunities.
- 3) Educational growth opportunities, including literacy.
- 4) Support high-quality child care, after-school programs, healthy habits, and mentoring.
- 5) Support all levels of educational opportunities from young to elderly.

Basic Needs/Financial Stability: Promoting Financial Stability and Independence

- 1) Helping families move toward financial independence.
- 2) Helping increase income levels.
- 3) Increasing accessible financial education resources.
- 4) Increasing financial literacy and stability.
- 5) Helping stabilize families and helping them to succeed in the workforce.

Health: Working to Ensure Everyone Has Access to Affordable and Quality Care

- 1) Support programs that increase health and wellness.
- 2) Access to basic health care and prevention programs.
- 3) Reduction of risky behaviors for both youth and adults.
- 4) Reduce and prevent child abuse and neglect.
- 5) Maternal health and infant well-being.



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Program Funding Checklist

Please complete and sign application by March 23, 2026.
No grant application will be considered if submitted after the deadline.
If all fields/questions are not completed, the application is considered incomplete and will not be considered for funding.

Please submit the following:

- 1) Organization Information Form _____
- 2) Program Funding Application _____
- 3) Program Narrative _____
- 4) Organization’s Current and Last Fiscal Year Budget _____
- 5) Program Budget (if not specifically outlined in Organizational Budget) _____
- 6) 501(c)3 Letter with Federal ID number (or Tax Exempt Letter) _____
- 7) Current Board Roster, Contact and Meeting Information _____
- 8) Formal policy of non-discrimination _____
- 9) Copy of By-laws and/or Constitution _____
- 10) Unbound copy of most recent Audit or financial review _____
- 11) Copy of most current IRS 990* (may share link if available online) _____

*If you are not required to file a 990, you are still required to fill out the front page of the form and submit it with your application packet in order to be considered for funding by the Lakes Area United Way.