



## 2026-2027 Community Impact Grant Guidelines

Livingston County United Way (LCUW) has opened its new cycle for Community Impact Grants. We are excited to partner together with organizations that share the same passion for improving the communities where we live. Below you will find the Community Impact Grant Guidelines to give you a brief picture of who LCUW is, what matters to our organization, how we assess your application, and what being an LCUW Community Partner is all about. United is the Way we positively change our communities.

### About LCUW

**Our mission:**

Empowering and uniting the community, Livingston County United Way is dedicated to fostering positive change by collaboratively addressing human service needs, promoting education, supporting health initiatives, and advancing financial stability. Through strategic partnerships and compassionate engagement, we strive to build a resilient and thriving community where every individual had the opportunity to lead a fulfilling and meaningful life.

### Eligibility

Applicants must meet all the following criteria. United Way encourages nonprofit organizations of all sizes that meet these criteria to apply:

1. Is a registered 501c3 not-for-profit organization or has a similar tax-exempt status.
2. Has been registered as a Charitable organization with the State of Michigan for at least one year and is currently in good standing.
3. Holds a valid license to solicit as required by the Charitable Organizations and Solicitations Act (Act 169 of 1975) [or exemption letter].

4. Complies annually with the USA PATRIOT Act.
5. Does not engage in discrimination because of race, color, national or ethnic origin, age, religion or creed, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal or state law in the delivery of services.
6. Has an active board of directors.
7. Prepares financial statements, at least quarterly, which are reviewed and approved by the board of directors.
8. Files a Form 990 with the Internal Revenue Service annually and;
9. Submits to United Way the most recent audited or reviewed financial statement.

LCUW values programs that are non-duplicative, collaborative, large in scale, promote equity, and leverage funding from other donors. Grants will not fund individuals, endowments, capital campaigns, fundraising activities, political organizations or campaigns, religious organizations for religious purposes, or sports teams. Programs eligible to apply should meet all the following criteria:

1. Serve residents of Livingston County
2. Focus on benefiting the ALICE (Asset-Limited, Income-Constrained, Employed) population
3. Demonstrates impact in one or more of the following Impact Areas:
  - a. Healthy Community – improving health and wellbeing for all
  - b. Youth Opportunity – helping young people realize their full potential
  - c. Financial Security – creating a stronger financial future for every generation
  - d. Community Resiliency – addressing urgent needs today for a better tomorrow
4. Track and evaluate client-level data to assess service effectiveness and reach, and provide timely reports to LCUW

## About ALICE

ALICE refers to households that are Asset-Limited, Income-Constrained, and Employed—families who work, often in essential roles such as retail, healthcare support, childcare, and food service, but do not earn enough to meet the basic cost of living. According to the 2025 ALICE Report, 7% of Livingston County residents live below the federal poverty level, with an additional 21% falling into

the ALICE category. This reflects a 2% increase in poverty over the past year. As the cost of essentials like housing, food, transportation, and utilities continues to rise, ALICE families are facing greater financial instability, often living paycheck to paycheck with little to no safety net.

At LCUW, we recognize that the wellbeing of our entire community is closely tied to the stability of ALICE households. These families are vital to our local economy and community fabric, yet they are frequently overlooked in traditional support systems. That's why our community investment priorities are centered on programs that address the unique challenges faced by ALICE populations—programs that promote access, reduce barriers, and create meaningful, measurable impact. We are committed to supporting initiatives that help ALICE families move from surviving to thriving, and we believe that investing in their success is essential to building a stronger, more equitable Livingston County for all.

## Application/Presentation

### 2026-2027 Application Timeline

- December 15, 2025 – Notice of Funding released
- January 5, 2026 – Letter of Intent opens *\*Required for all agencies seeking funding from LCUW for the first time*
- January 5, 2026 – Application released to existing partners.
- April 10, 2026 – Application deadline. *No exceptions will be made. No late or incomplete applications will be accepted.*
  - o To apply, agencies must email their completed application form to [aschroeder@lcunitedway.org](mailto:aschroeder@lcunitedway.org)
  - o Print copies will no longer be accepted.
- April 28-30, 2026 – Program Panels. All agencies applying will be required to make a presentation to the Community Investment Panel about your funding request. Presentations should be no longer than 20 minutes for each program. There will be a Q&A session with the panel immediately following the presentation. A presentation template is provided on the LCUW website (linked below)
- May 2026 – United Way Board meets to approve the 2026-2027 funding proposed by the Community Investment Panel
- By June 5, 2026 – All agencies will be notified of the 2026-2027 funding decisions.

## Application Resources

On our website <https://livingstoncountyunitedway.org/community-investments-process/> you will find the following resources:

- Grant Guidelines (this document)
- Letter of Intent (LOI) Application Template and Link
- Application and Budget Form Template *\*after Jan 5, 2026*
- Application and Budget Form Example
- Presentation Template *\*after Jan 5, 2026*
- Scoring Rubric

All agencies invited to submit a full application for funding are offered one-on-one support for any questions they have as they prepare their application. Please email Amber Schroeder [aschroeder@lcunitedway.org](mailto:aschroeder@lcunitedway.org) to secure a time slot. Or email a quick question any time!

## Acknowledgement

**Organizations submitting an application to LCUW acknowledge the following:**

- Successful submission of a grant application is not a guarantee of funding
- The awarding of all grant amounts is at the sole discretion of LCUW and the Community Impact Grant Review Team and will be dependent in part on apparent or emerging community needs at the time of evaluation.
- LCUW retains the right to request information regarding the utilization of any grant awarded, and that all grant funds must be used for the terms as outlined in the submitted application.
- All information presented as part of the application process is true and accurate to the best of the applicant's ability.