



UNITED WAY
Collier and the Keys

2026-2027 COMMUNITY INVESTMENT GRANT APPLICATION GUIDE

Funding Cycle Begins April 1, 2026
and ends March 31, 2027



UWCK 2026-27 Community Investment Grant Request for Proposals

Thank you for your interest in partnering with United Way of Collier and the Keys (UWCK) as we support our Collier and Monroe County communities for the 2026–27 grant cycle. This guide outlines the requirements for our Community Investment Grant process, including eligibility, program focus, reporting expectations, and important background information. Please review the full document before accessing the grant application.

As shared last year, we continue moving toward the Thriving United Way model, an impact-driven framework to better identify and prioritize community needs, understand root causes, and strengthen our use of results-based accountability. To support this transition, we have streamlined the application, added outcome indicators organized by Impact Area, and included questions that help us understand how agencies may connect with our work in community resiliency and disaster recovery. These updates are intended to promote clarity, strengthen collaboration, and reduce duplication across our partners.

Our ability to invest in meaningful work depends on telling a clear story of collective impact across our programs and those of our partner agencies. A community investment is more than a grant; it is a shared commitment to listening, learning, improving, and celebrating progress together. Lasting change takes all of us, and we bring our community together around a common focus so we can strengthen outcomes, elevate what works, and move forward with a united purpose.

About United Way of Collier and the Keys

Our Mission: The United Way of Collier and the Keys respond to community issues by uniting people and resources to create lasting change for a brighter future.

Our Vision: The United Way of Collier and the Keys' vision is that all individuals and families living and working in Collier County and the Florida Keys have access to the resources and opportunities they need to succeed and thrive.

Our Goals and Why We Fund

UWCK serves as a convener, collaborator, and catalyst for meaningful change. Our vision is straightforward and ambitious: to ensure that everyone living and working in Collier County and the Florida Keys has the resources and opportunities they need to thrive. Through strategic partnerships, intentional dialogue, and focused grant funding, we support community members who are Asset Limited, Income Constrained and Employed (ALICE). These are households that earn above the Federal Poverty Level yet face daily challenges meeting basic needs. ALICE represents the backbone of our local economy and includes

childcare providers, first responders, retail workers, nonprofit employees, hospitality and service industry staff, and many others.

For ALICE families, just a single unexpected event – a car repair, a medical bill, or a storm – can push a household into financial crisis. What might be a small setback for others becomes a cascade of impossible choices: rent or groceries, medical care or childcare, electricity or gas. These short-term sacrifices carry long-term consequences that affect not only individual families but also the overall well-being and stability of our community. The future resilience of Collier County and the Florida Keys depends on the financial strength of ALICE households.

UWCK’s Community Investment Grants help meet this need by directing donor support to local programs that empower ALICE families to move from crisis to stability and, ultimately, to thriving. Through targeted investments, we work to build a stronger, more resilient community where everyone has a fair chance to create a secure and sustainable future.

Who Should Apply for Funding

UWCK seeks applications from nonprofit agencies for programs that align with our impact areas of Financial Security, Healthy Community, and Youth Opportunity.

The 2026–27 Community Investment Grant application is a competitive and transparent process open to qualified agencies that meet the following eligibility requirements:

- The agency must be a 501(c)(3) organization.
- All documents listed under “Required Documents” must be submitted.
- The program serves Collier County or Monroe County and creates meaningful impact for the ALICE population, supporting their path from surviving to thriving.
- The agency operates under a written non-discrimination policy that ensures equitable hiring, service delivery, and volunteer engagement regardless of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, age, or disability.
- The applicant’s program must address at least one initiative aligned with UWCK’s Impact Areas listed below:

IMPACT AREA	INITIATIVES
<p>Financial Security <i>Creating a stronger financial future for every generation</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adult Education, Job Training, and Career Pathways 2. Financial Education and Empowerment 3. Legal Support 4. Homelessness Prevention <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Shelter, Affordable Housing, and Home Ownership b. Access to Public Benefits

	c. Emergency Financial Assistance (Rent, Utilities, and Other Critical Needs)
Healthy Community <i>Improving health and wellbeing for all</i>	1. Healthcare Access 2. Healthy Spaces and Physical Activity 3. Health Education 4. Nutrition and Food Security
Youth Opportunity <i>Helping young people realize their full potential</i>	1. Childcare and Early Childhood Education 2. In-School, After-School, and Summer Programs 3. Literacy Development 4. College/Career Readiness

How to Apply

All applications and supporting documentation will be submitted through UWCK’s online portal. Please do not mail or email submissions as they will not be accepted. Currently funded agencies or agencies who previously applied or were funded can apply with existing login credentials to the [online grant portal](#). New agencies interested in applying can request login credentials through the [online grant portal](#) by creating a new e-CImpact account. UWCK staff must approve new account requests before an agency can gain access to the application, so please plan accordingly.

Key Dates

Funded agencies are expected to keep track of all submission dates; failure to meet a deadline may affect current or future funding. The FY26-27 grant cycle will begin on April 1, 2026, and end on March 31, 2027.

December 3, 2025	FY26-27 Community Investment Grant application opens by 11:59 PM EST
January 7, 2026	FY26-27 Community Investment Grant application closes at 11:59 PM EST
January 14-30, 2026	Site visits – exact date/time TBD; staff will schedule with each agency
February 4, 2026	Questions submitted to applicants on behalf of volunteers by 5:00 PM EST
February 6, 2026	Answers to questions due from applicants, if applicable, by 11:59 PM EST
March 20, 2026	Applicants notified of funding decisions
March 23, 2026	Awarded agencies receive MOUs
March 27, 2026	MOUs completed and returned to UWCK via the grant portal by 5:00 PM EST
April 1, 2026	FY26-27 Community Investment Grant cycle and award disbursement begins
October 15, 2026	Interim report due 11:59 PM EST
March 31, 2027	FY25-26 Community Investment Grant cycle ends
April 15, 2027	Final report due by 11:59 PM EST

Required Documents

Incomplete applications, or those missing any of the required documents listed below, will not be considered for funding.

Required documents include:

- A copy of the agency's IRS determination letter.
- Annual audited financials, review, or compilation as required under state statute (496.407).
- If exempt from an audit, review, or compilation, a typed statement on official letterhead confirming the exemption.
- The agency's most recent CPA Management Letter.
- A copy of the most recent IRS 990 or 990EZ.
- For agencies not required to file a 990 or 990EZ, audited financials may be accepted; if exempt, a typed statement on official letterhead confirming the exemption is required.
- Most recently completed agency balance sheet dated no earlier than June 2024.
- Most recently completed income statement (profit and loss) dated no earlier than June 2024.
- The current fiscal year agency budget.
- A copy of the agency's most recent Annual Report filed with the Florida Department of State Division of Corporations (sunbiz.org).
- A copy of the agency's current State Solicitation of Contributions Registration (DOACS).
- A full roster of the agency's board of directors.
- A copy of the agency's non-discrimination policy outlining equitable hiring, service delivery, and volunteer practices.
- A copy of the agency's insurance policy.
- Registration on UWCK's volunteer platform, VolunteerUWCK.org, completed prior to submitting the application.

Scoring Process and Awards

Community Investment Volunteers will review each application in detail using a weighted rubric informed by the program standards listed below. If questions arise, UWCK staff will reach out directly to agencies for clarification. Reviewers or staff may also request additional information during site visits or follow-up reviews to ensure they have a full and accurate understanding of the program. Agencies will have three business days to respond to these requests in order to maintain their application status.

Once evaluations are complete, Community Investment Volunteers will make funding recommendations for their respective counties. These recommendations are then submitted to the UWCK Board of Directors for final approval. Awards are determined through a comprehensive review process that focuses on strategically maximizing positive impact in our community.

Partnership Requirements

Program Standards

- UWCK values programs that avoid duplication, promote collaboration, maximize impact, use funds efficiently, and prioritize serving the ALICE population.
- Agencies must use a recognized tool or measurement system to track progress and demonstrate measurable impact, and this must be documented in the grant application.
- Agencies may apply for only one program within UWCK's identified Impact Areas.
- Applicants are required to select and report on outcome indicators throughout the grant cycle. These indicators must align with the metrics associated with the program and its corresponding Impact Area. See Exhibit A for reference.
- Agencies must use UWCK funds exclusively for the program described in the application. Any significant changes to the program's scope, design, or delivery must be submitted in writing for UWCK review and approval.
- Agencies must register on UWCK's volunteer platform, VolunteerUWCK.org, prior to submitting the application.
- Interim and final reports are due in October 2026 and April 2027. UWCK reserves the right to request the return of any funds not used for the objectives and activities outlined in the application.
- The grant contact person, along with any individual who signs the application, must respond promptly to UWCK communications and be available to discuss program progress.
- Grant proposals should demonstrate a commitment to advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion by identifying root causes, addressing systemic barriers, and promoting access, resources, and opportunities for all. Programs funded through this process are expected to center inclusivity and support conditions in which every individual can thrive.
- Agencies acknowledge that funding is designated for programs and initiatives that demonstrate clear results. Funding may support both direct and indirect (management and general) costs necessary to deliver the program but may not be used for capital expenses, lobbying, fundraising events, or to cover general agency deficits.

Agency Reporting Requirements

The combined impact of UWCK and our funded partners is far greater than what any one agency can achieve alone. Stakeholders are paying closer attention to how collaboration among local agencies drives meaningful change. By working together, UWCK and our partners can better measure, amplify, and communicate our collective value.

Our goal is to support programs that are **connective** – bringing people and resources together, **responsive** – able to adapt to emerging needs, **measurable** – demonstrating clear and trackable results, and **scalable** – positioned to expand impact over time.

Applicants should be prepared to submit bi-annual reports that include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Total number of unduplicated individuals served.
- Output and outcome indicators as outlined in the agency's application.
- Total number of program volunteers and the hours they contributed.
- Client demographics for the program, including:
 - Income level (aggregated using current FPL tiers to identify ALICE impact)
 - Employment status
 - Age: Age categories are defined to keep reporting clear: Infant/Preschool (age 0-5) are those not yet in kindergarten. School-Age Youth (age 6-21) are those in kindergarten through high school. Adults (age 18-64) are individuals no longer in high school. Seniors are 65 and older.
 - Gender
 - Race/ethnicity
- Target geographic areas served.
- Financial overview detailing how funds were utilized and allocated.
- Impact stories and relevant photos that illustrate the program's influence on clients and the community.
- A social media post, press release, or blog post announcing the funding, followed by a second post with photos or a video showing how the funding and partnership with UWCK has supported the community and the ALICE population. Please like and follow UWCK's social media pages ([Collier Facebook](#), [Monroe Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [TikTok](#)) and tag us in your posts.

New Funding Population Focus – ALICE

To be eligible for funding through the UWCK Community Investment Grants, your program must focus on serving individuals and families living within the ALICE threshold, as well as those living in poverty. The ALICE framework reflects the reality of many community members who do not fall within the limits of how

poverty is typically measured but still struggle to meet basic needs because of the high costs of housing, groceries, insurance, childcare, transportation, and other essentials.

As part of your application and reporting, you will be asked to record the percentage of program participants in the following categories:

- At or below the Federal Poverty Line
- Within the ALICE threshold
- Above the top ALICE household income

Because ALICE varies based on household size, age, and local cost of living, we have provided a uniform threshold for single adults, single seniors, and families. Please use the data in the table below when preparing your estimates. Counties are listed separately to reflect local living costs.

Table Defining the Upper and Lower Limits of ALICE: “Within the ALICE Threshold”

	Family (Calculated for a 4-person household; please use as approximation of any family size)		Single Adult		Single Senior (65 y/o +)	
	Bottom of Threshold	Top of Threshold	Bottom of Threshold	Top of Threshold	Bottom of Threshold	Top of Threshold
Collier	\$32,150	\$86,688	\$15,650	\$41,724	\$15,650	\$45,876
Monroe	\$32,150	\$106,608	\$15,650	\$45,948	\$15,650	\$50,448

Resources: [ALICE Wage Tool](#) [2025 FPL](#) [By County Wage Calculation](#)

Summary of the UWCK Community Investment Grant Process

Wednesday, December 3, 2025 – Application opens at 8:00 AM EST

Currently funded (FY24-25) agencies and agencies who have previously applied or been funded can apply with existing login credentials to the [online grant portal](#). New agencies interested in applying must request login credentials through the [online grant portal](#) by creating a new e-Impact account. UWCK staff must approve new account requests before an agency can gain access to the application, so please plan accordingly.

Wednesday, January 7, 2026 – Application closes at 11:59 PM EST

Late or incomplete submissions will not be considered for funding.

January 14-30, 2026 – Volunteers will visit agency sites to complete site visit. Exact date/time will be coordinated by UWCK staff.

Wednesday, February 4, 2026 – Questions submitted to applicants at 8:00 AM EST

Volunteer Committees will review applications and submit questions to UWCK staff to be addressed with individual agencies regarding their applications. Agencies will have three business days to respond to questions.

Friday, February 6, 2026 – Answers due from applicants by 11:59 PM EST

Applicants are expected to respond promptly and thoroughly to inquiries by this deadline to avoid jeopardizing application status.

Friday, March 20, 2026 – Applicants notified of funding decisions

Final decisions are made by the UWCK Board of Directors with recommendations from the Volunteer Committees from Collier and Monroe and will be relayed to agencies via email.

Monday, March 23, 2026 – Awarded agencies receive MOUs

Awarded agencies receive FY26-27 Community Investment Grant MOUs.

Friday, March 27, 2026 – MOUs completed and returned by 5:00 PM EST

Awarded agencies must complete their respective MOUs and provide banking information.

Wednesday, April 1, 2026 – FY26-27 Community Investment Grant cycle begins

Awarded agencies are paid in monthly installments beginning April 2026.

Thursday, October 15, 2026 – Interim report due by 11:59 PM EST

Awarded agencies will report quantitative and qualitative results achieved with UWCK funding and progress made toward program objective(s) specified in their applications. This report will cover the period from April 1, 2026 to September 30, 2026.

Wednesday, March 31, 2027 – Community Investment Grant cycle FY26-27 ends

All UWCK grant funds must be expended by this date.

Thursday, April 15, 2027 – Final report due by 11:59 PM EST

Funded agencies will report quantitative and qualitative results achieved with UWCK funding and progress made toward program objectives specified in their applications. This report will cover the period from October 1, 2026 to March 31, 2027.

Communication

Questions and clarifications about the Community Investment Grant process are welcome and should be directed in writing.

For technical questions about the e-Impact grant portal, contact Norma Rodriguez, Office Administrator, at Norma.Rodriguez@uwcollierkeys.org.

For programmatic questions, contact Tiffany Pellicier, Vice President of Strategy and Impact, at Tiffany.Pellicier@uwcollierkeys.org.

APPENDIX

FINANCIAL SECURITY

Goal: Individuals and families strengthen their financial stability and improve their economic well-being by connecting with the opportunities they need to thrive.

Outputs

- # of individuals served who receive job skills training
- # of individuals who receive services related to housing
- # of individuals who accessed financial services, products, and education (free tax prep, savings accounts, public benefits like SNAP, Medicaid, VA benefits, etc.)
- # of individuals adversely impacted by a crisis who received emergency assistance (medical, housing, utilities, transportation, other resource support)

Outcome Indicators

- # of individuals served who gain employment (numerator)
- # of individuals provided employment services (denominator)
- % of individuals served who gain employment
- # of individuals served who increase their wages (numerator)
- # of individuals in programs designed to increase their wages (denominator)
- % of individuals who increase their earnings by gaining employment or moving into better-paying work
- # of individuals who increase their disposable income by accessing benefits and/or reducing their costs (numerator)
- # of individuals in programs designed to increase their disposable income by accessing benefits and/or lowering their costs (denominator)
- % of individuals served who increase their disposable income by accessing benefits and/or reducing their costs
- # of individuals served who earn job-relevant licenses, certificates, and/or credentials (numerator)
- # of individuals in programs designed to earn job-relevant licenses, certificates, and/or credentials (denominator)
- % of individuals served who earn job-relevant licenses, certificates, and/or credentials
- # of individuals served who obtained affordable, stable housing (rental or home ownership) (numerator)

- # of individuals served in programs designed to reduce homelessness or obtain affordable housing or home ownership (denominator)
- % of individuals who obtained affordable, stable housing
- # of individuals who regained stability after receiving assistance
- # of individuals receiving long-term case management/disaster recovery support
- % of individuals adversely impacted and served that regain stability

HEALTHY COMMUNITY

GOAL: Supporting individuals and families in accessing the care, services, and resources they need to live healthy lives while strengthening overall well-being through connected, communitywide support.

Outputs

- # of individuals served participating in physical activity
- # of individuals served participating in access to healthy food and nutrition programs
- # of individual served with access to healthcare services and support
- # of individuals served with access to mental health services
- # of individuals assisted with enrollment for State/Federal Assistance like SNAP, WIC, Medicaid, CHIP, etc.

Outcome Indicators

- # of children/adults served who eat healthier, increase their physical activity, and/or move towards a healthy weight (numerator)
- # of children/adults served and assessed for eating healthier, increasing their physical activity, and/or moving towards a healthy weight (denominator)
- % of children/adults served who eat healthier, increase physical activity, and/or move towards a healthy weight
- # of babies served who experience healthy birth outcomes (carried to full term, born at a healthy weight, celebrated their first birthday, etc.) (numerator)
- # of babies served and assessed for healthy birth outcomes (denominator)
- % of babies served who experience healthy birth outcomes
- # of youth/adults served who avoid or reduce risky behaviors (alcohol, drug abuse, unprotected sexual activity, etc.) (numerator)
- # of youth/adults served and assessed for avoiding or reducing risky behaviors (denominator)

- % of youth/adults served who avoid or reduce risky behavior
- # of individuals who received treatment or services based on screenings or tests
- # of individuals screened and assessed for medical, dental, mental health, and/or overall wellness needs
- % of individuals who received treatment or services based on screenings or tests

YOUTH OPPORTUNITY

GOAL: All children and youth in Collier and Monroe Counties will have the tools and support to thrive and succeed at each developmental milestone.

Outputs

- # of children (age 0–5) enrolled in high-quality early childhood programs
- # of K–3 children receiving literacy support
- # of families/caregivers provided with information, resources, training, or tools to support child development (birth–21)
- # of elementary/middle/high school youth served who participate in school and/or community-based out of school programs and/or receive individual support
- # of youth served who receive job skills training
- # of caregivers (parents/guardians) who become or remain employed due to their child’s enrollment in this program

Outcome Indicators

- # of children (age 0–5) served who achieve developmental milestones (numerator)
- # of children (age 0–5) served and assessed for developmental milestones (denominator)
- % of children (0–5) served who achieve developmental milestones
- # of children served who are proficient in school readiness assessments by the end of their kindergarten year (numerator)
- # of children served and assessed for school readiness by the end of their kindergarten year (denominator)
- % of children served who are proficient on school readiness assessments by the end of their kindergarten year
- # of children (K–3) served reading at grade level (numerator)
- # of children (K–3) served and assessed for their reading level (denominator)
- % of children (K–3) served reading at grade level

- # of children/youth served who maintain satisfactory or improve school attendance (numerator)
- # of children/youth served and assessed for attendance (denominator)
- % of elementary/middle/high school youth served who maintain satisfactory or improve school attendance
- # of youth served who graduate high school on time (numerator)
- # of youth served by United Way supported partners who are in their final year of high school (denominator)
- % of youth served who graduate high school on time
- # of youth served who gain post-secondary employment, further education, or credentials (numerator)
- # of youth served who graduated high school/secondary school and were assessed for post-secondary employment, further education, or training (denominator)
- % of youth served who gain post-secondary employment, further education, or credentials
- # of youth (ages 15-24) served who gain employment (numerator)
- # of youth provided with employment services (denominator)
- % of youth served who gain post-secondary employment, further education, or credentials
- # of middle/high school youth served who earn passing grades in core subject areas (numerator)
- # of middle/high school youth served and assessed for earning passing grades in core subject areas (denominator)
- % of middle/high school youth served who earn passing grades in core subject areas
- # of middle/high school youth served who develop soft skills (numerator)
- # of middle/high school youth served and assessed for developing soft skills (denominator)
- % of middle/high school youth served who develop soft skills
- # of middle school youth served who transition from middle to high school on time (numerator)
- # of middle school youth served and assessed for on time transitions (denominator)
- % of youth who transition from middle to high school on time