

Roane County United Way (RCUW)

Community Enhancement Grant Application Criteria

I. RCUW Information

RCUW – RCUW has a clearly stated mission, approved by its Board of Directors, resulting in improved lives from strengthening local Roane County (R.C.) communities. RCUW makes decisions based on this mission and is aligned with community impact priorities identified by engaging the R.C. communities in an extensive needs assessment facilitated by subject matter experts from University of Tennessee’s Social Work Office of Research and Public Service.



III. Community Enhancement Grant Purpose

Community Enhancement grants support the RCUW service model (depicted above Figure) with a focus on efforts to influence a community. A community (for the service model’s purpose) is defined by a demographic and/or may be considered as a large subset of Roane County citizens (examples include: children in elementary school; women living outside the four cities, young adults between the ages of 19 and 30; etc.). Specific examples of successful community initiatives may be found in “Charting a Course for Change: Advancing Education, Income and Health through Collective Impact, April 2013” at (<http://unitedwayroane.org/>). Community Enhancement grants may also be used towards assisting with an emerging need.

The Community Enhancement Grant is based upon the belief that united, we can drive positive change in our community. When people mobilize together for a common goal, they create positive and lasting changes that can multiply to build a stronger community for all of us. Community Enhancement Grants are another way United Way works with the community to make Roane County a better place for all of us.

This year the Community Enhancement Grants will be given out four times during the 2021 fiscal year beginning in January. The applications schedule is as follows:

Jan. 1- Feb. 1- Awarded by March 15th.
April. 15 – May 15 Awarded by June 15th.
July 15-Aug. 15 Awarded by Sept. 15th
Oct. 15- Nov. 15th Awarded by Dec. 15th

Community Enhancement grants will vary in awards but will not exceed \$5,000.00 per award. Grants are provided to charitable, community-based organizations serving Roane County and registered with the state of TN. Organizations working on “great ideas” and creative projects that bring people together to help improve the quality of life for Roane County residents are encouraged to apply. Each grant should positively influence a Roane County Community (community is to be defined by a demographic). Grant Proposals include one-time events/projects that present the opportunity to make a

significant difference in one of the identified target areas (service gaps identified by the needs assessment) or can be an ongoing service that the organization is not receiving Roane County United Way dollars. Organizations are **encouraged** to partner and/or **collaborate** towards creating a more thriving region for people to live, work and raise families.

III. Grant Criteria

Organizations applying for a Community Enhancement Grant **must** represent an effort to address one or more of the service gaps identified by the RCUW's need assessment (described above) and/or provide services in one of the three focus areas.

Examples of what grants can be used for:

- Events or projects that connect people to one another through volunteer work or community building efforts
- Events or projects that mobilize people and provide opportunities for positive social interaction resulting in improved neighborhoods or communities
- Events or projects that promote what unites us as a community, yet celebrates our diversity

Grants CANNOT be used for items such as:

- Individual assistance
- Deficits or debt reduction
- Fundraising events
- All or a portion of salary
- Attendance at conferences or workshops
- Political events
- Advancement of a specific religion

Grant Criteria:

- **Eligibility:** non-profit, tax-exempt organizations qualified for exemption by U.S. Internal Revenue Service, designated as 501(c) (reference Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Publication 557, <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p557.pdf>). The project/service must support Roane County residents and the lead organization must have a current registration as charitable organizations operating in the State of Tennessee (unless exempt from registration). The grant will ONLY be awarded for work towards a charitable purpose. The term **charitable** is used in its generally accepted legal sense and includes relief of the poor, the distressed, or the underprivileged; advancement of education or science; erecting or maintaining public buildings, monuments, or works; lessening the burdens of government; lessening neighborhood tensions; eliminating prejudice and discrimination; defending human and civil rights secured by law; and combating community deterioration and juvenile delinquency.
The grant is open to any nonprofit organization meeting the criteria of the grant (i.e., the applicant does not have to be a RCUW partner funded through the Community Investment process).
These one-time grants give nonprofits the opportunity to start a new service or enhance an area of service. It is recommended that the applicant or the applicant's fiscal agent be registered with **GuideStar USA, Inc.** (GuideStar USA, Inc. is an information service specializing in reporting on U.S. [nonprofit](#) companies. GuideStar also serves to verify that a recipient organization is established and that donated funds go where the donor intended.)
- **Community Need:** Grant application must address a clearly demonstrated need not presently being met or an emerging need in the community. It can be used for current services not already funded by RCUW or an expansion or development within the framework of existing services.
- **Award Amount:** Will not exceed \$5,000 per grant request. Factors influencing the amount to be awarded include RCUW funds availability, etc. If you are requesting over \$5,000 please specify the need.
- **Funding Period:** This is a one-time grant which may be awarded within three months of application receipt by the RCUW Executive Director. Funds must be spent within a 12 month period after grant is awarded. A final report will be due no later than at the end of the 12 month period. Additional information may be requested by RCUW during the 12 month period. Organizations cannot be funded twice in the same fiscal year through the Community Enhancement process.

- **Application:** The application may be found at:
 - <https://unitedwayroane.org/community-enhancement-grant-application> and is in a fillable format. The final report (also in a fillable format) is included as an attachment to the application. After completing the application, change the name of the file to the applicant's title (that is, the organization submitting the application) and submit via online. If there are questions, call Corinne Shaw (cshaw@unitedwayroane.org) or Dina Jackson 865.882.7711 or email (djackson@unitedwayroane.org).
- **Evaluation of Grant Applications:** The application will be evaluated based on the following criteria:
 - How well the project/service matches the purpose of the Community Enhancement grant and the use of collaboration to meet a goal
 - The strength of the plan to address a community need, and make a lasting positive impact for participants and the community
 - The ability to deliver the project within the specified budget and requested funds
 - The number of organizations participating
 - The number of funding sources

Note: If funds are awarded a *Partner Compliance Agreement* must be signed by the applicant and the RCUW Executive Director within 30 days after the application has been approved. Funds will be sent to the organization upon receipt of the *Partner Compliance Agreement*. A Community Enhancement grant award does not entitle the recipient organization to receive ongoing funding of any kind. Organizations who apply for this grant must be aware that this is a one-time grant award.

I. RCUW Information

Instructions: Complete application online at <https://unitedwayroane.org/community-enhancement-grant-application>. If there are any questions, call Dina Jackson at 865-882-7711. Grant applications may be submitted at any time during the year.