

Roane County United Way Fights for a Healthy Community, Youth Opportunities, Financial Security and Community Resiliency in Roane County.



**Roane County United Way (RCUW)
Community Enhancement Grant
Process Description and Application Schedule
2026-2027 Funding Period**

1. RCUW Information

Roane County United Way has a clearly defined mission, approved by its Board of Directors. Our grant processes are 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 stronger communities for all of us. Community Enhancement Grants are one way the United Way collaborates with community partners to make Roane County a better place for all of us.

2. Community Enhancement Grant Purpose

Community Enhancement (CE) grants are primarily used for new, less established non-profits or a one-time need for a well-established organization that is bringing a new service to Roane County. 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. Grant proposals could include one-time events/projects that present the opportunity to make a significant difference in one of the identified target areas (Healthy Community, Youth Opportunity, Financial Security or Community Resiliency). **It may also be an ongoing service for which the organization is not currently receiving Roane County United Way dollars.**

3. Grant Criteria

- **Eligibility:** Community Enhancement (CE) grants are awarded to community-based organizations serving Roane County and registered with the state of Tennessee as a Charitable Organization or have a current exemption.

- **Recommendation:** 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:** The maximum amount for a Community Enhancement Grant is \$5,000. Typical award amounts for CE grants are between \$2,500-\$4,000. No organization can receive funding from Community Investment (CI) and CE in the same fiscal year for the same program or service area. Should an organization receive funding for three years from CE grants, for the same program or service area, application for additional funding would need to be through the CI grant process. The amount to be awarded depends on both the amount requested and the availability of RCUW funds.
- **Funding Period:** This is an annual grant which may be awarded within 3 months of application receipt by the RCUW Executive Director. Funds must be spent within a 12-month period after the grant is awarded. A final report will be due no later than the end of the 12-month period. Additional information may be requested by RCUW during the 12-month period. Receipt of grant funds does not automatically guarantee future funding.
- **Partnership Agreement:** If funds are awarded, a Partnership Agreement must be signed by the applicant and the RCUW Executive Director within 30 days of approval. Funds will not be distributed until the Partnership Agreement has been received.
- **Application and Awards Dates for 2026:**
 - January-March: Awarded by April 15, 2026
 - April-June: Awarded by July 15, 2026
 - July-September: Awarded by October 15, 2026
 - October-December: Awarded by January 15, 2027
- **Application:** The application is available at <https://form.jotform.com/220173229924050> The final reporting form can be found on our website and is a fillable format. The final report will also be included as an attachment to the Partnership Agreement if your request is funded. If you have questions regarding the Community

Enhancement Grant process or application, please contact Sandy Leavell, sleavell@unitedwayroane.org or by calling 855-882-7711.

- **Evaluation of Grant Applications:** All applications 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 is 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 spending deadline.
 - The number of organizations participating.
 - The number of funding sources.