



FUNDING PRIORITIES AND SCOPE

In the 2026-27 funding cycle, United Way Fox Cities will invest in organizations that provide **immediate support** and **stabilizing essentials** for individuals and families experiencing, or at risk of, hardship or instability.

Services may include responses to an urgent crisis (such as loss of housing, violence, or sudden health needs) or provide consistent access to essentials that keep people from falling into crisis (such as daily childcare, afterschool care, or ongoing mental health treatment). Programs that primarily serve individuals who are stable and not at risk of falling into crisis— such as general wellness, enrichment, or recreational activities – are not in scope.

Please reach out to our team at grants@unitedwayfoxcities.org or visit our office hours during the open LOI period to clarify funding priorities and alignment with your services.

How We Got Here

United Way Fox Cities organizes its work under four Impact Areas:

- **Youth Opportunity** – Helping young people realize their full potential
- **Healthy Community** – Improving health and wellbeing for all
- **Financial Security** – Creating a stronger financial future for every generation
- **Community Resiliency** – Addressing urgent needs today for a better tomorrow

Through these areas, we combine grantmaking, partnerships, coalitions, and advocacy to address both urgent needs and long-term systems change.

In July 2025, UWFC hosted Help Us Focus sessions with community members, nonprofit partners, and volunteers. These sessions confirmed that our community values a both/and approach – investing in crisis response today and stabilizing essentials that prevent people from falling into crisis tomorrow.

As a result, the **2026–27 Annual Grant Cycle** will invest in direct services under the first three Impact Areas: **Youth Opportunity, Healthy Community, and Financial Security**. These are the areas where grant funding can most directly support individuals and families.

The fourth Impact Area, **Community Resiliency**, is equally important but is addressed through other UWFC-led strategies rather than this grant process. A core piece of Community Resiliency is **211**, our 24/7 helpline that connects individuals to critical resources, tracks emerging needs, and strengthens the region’s overall capacity to respond to crises. We also pursue resiliency through building nonprofit capacity, coalitions, partnerships, and advocacy to address systemic challenges such as childcare, housing, and mental health.

Funding Priorities by Impact Area

Youth Opportunity

- **Childcare and Early Childhood** – safe, reliable, accessible, or emergency/respice care.
- **Afterschool** – structured, reliable out-of-school-time programs that provide daily supervision, academic or social support, and safe environments for children and youth who would otherwise be at risk without care.
- **Safe Adults** – services that provide access to frequent, reliable and sustained adult relationships that address critical hardship or instability.

Healthy Community

- **Physical and Dental Health Care** – access to care for uninsured or underinsured individuals. Connections to medical and dental homes, and insurance navigation.
- **Safety from Violence** – crisis hotlines, shelter, safety planning, crisis support, or other immediate support and responsive programming for survivors of violence and abuse.
- **Nutrition and Food Security** – same-day groceries, prepared meals, food boxes, culturally relevant staples, or consistent access to nutrition needed for daily health.
- **Mental Health and Substance Use** – Services that stabilizes individuals who would otherwise experience crisis.

Financial Security

- **Housing** – emergency shelter/lodging, eviction prevention, utility shut-off prevention and restoration, urgent habitability repairs (e.g., furnace, burst pipes), and short-term rent assistance to maintain stability.
- **Transportation** – services that support transportation to access healthcare, basic needs, or access to employment.
- **Basic Needs** – providing daily essentials that allow people to live with dignity.