



## 2025-2026 Community Impact Grant Guidelines

Lycoming 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

#### Mission, Vision, Values:

From strengthening local resilience to advancing health, youth opportunity, and financial security, Lycoming County United Way is mobilizing communities to action so all can thrive. We place the highest value on creating effective partnerships, volunteer leadership and governance, accountability and trust, and addressing identified community needs. Additionally, LCUW has established a focus on serving ALICE (Asset-Limited, Income-Constrained, Employed) and strives to strengthen individuals and families in Lycoming, Sullivan, and Tioga Counties by funding effective and targeted programs and services.

### Eligibility

#### Eligible applicants must:

- Be an established Community Partner of the Lycoming County United Way.
- Must respond to a Letter of Invitation for the program to apply and a full grant application by established deadlines.
- Serve primarily Lycoming, Sullivan, or Tioga County residents and have full-time physical presence and programming in Lycoming, Sullivan, or Tioga Counties.
- Have 501c3 status or similar tax-exempt status
- Register with the State of Pennsylvania, Bureau of Charitable Organizations (as required.)
- Offer programs/activities/services that align with LCUW Community Impact priorities and/or serve the ALICE Population.
- Be willing to respond to LCUW inquiries regarding any information reported in proposals or applications, including submitting a yearly report that will be due at the end of the funding year.

### Proposal Requirements

Eligible applicants respond to a **Letter of Invitation to apply NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 21, 2025**. Letter of Invitation responses should be forwarded to Amber Newell at [anewell@lcuw.org](mailto:anewell@lcuw.org). Organizations will then be asked to submit a full grant application through LCUW's grant software, e-Clmpact. Full applications will **open on Friday, March 7, 2025 at 8:00 am**, with a **deadline of Friday, April 4, 2025, at noon**.

*No exceptions will be made. No late or incomplete applications will be accepted.*

### Site Visits/Presentations

In addition to the option of a panel presentation, we are asking that organizations that submit a Community Impact Grant application be open to first exploring coordinating a site visit with our Community Impact Grant Review Team. We recognize that this may present a challenge to some organizations with confidentiality restraints, and we intend to work together to find the best way to visualize the work your organization is doing and get a true picture of impact. For planning purposes, **site visits or presentations must be scheduled no later than April 4, 2025, at noon** to ensure the Community Impact Grant Review Team can properly mobilize.

### Acknowledgment

**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.
- No 2025-2026 Community Impact Grant will exceed \$100,000. Please contact LCUW directly to discuss options for requests greater than this limit.
- 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 unless a request to use the funds otherwise is submitted to and approved by the Community Impact Grant Review Team.
- All information presented as part of the application process is true and accurate to the best of the applicant's ability.

## Community Impact Priorities

LCUW aims to provide investments and capacity-building resources for social sector organizations, programs, and collaborative coalitions that provide direct services, positively influence systemic improvements, and fill identified unmet needs. Our 2025-2026 Community Impact Grants will prioritize the below Impact Areas.

### Healthy Community

LCUW may invest in organizations and strategies that address but are not limited to these needs:

- Healthcare Access
- Maternal and child health
- Nutrition and food security
- Healthy spaces and physical activity
- Chronic and infectious disease awareness and prevention
- Mental health support
- Substance misuse recovery and prevention

### Youth Opportunity

LCUW may invest in organizations and strategies that provide but are not limited to these services:

- Childcare and early childhood education
- In-school, after-school, and summer learning
- Family engagement
- Literacy development
- College and career readiness

### Financial Security

LCUW may invest in organizations and strategies that help individuals and families with but are not limited to these services:

- Adult education, job training, and career pathways
- Financial education and coaching
- Homelessness prevention, affordable housing, and homeownership
- Small business support
- Public benefits access

## Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Lycoming County United Way is committed to equitable service delivery and funding practices, ensuring that organizations receiving LCUW funding are committed to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and can demonstrate that commitment in meaningful and measurable ways.

## ALICE

### **Asset-Limited, Income-Constrained, Employed:**

As detailed in numerous reports compiled by United Way of Pennsylvania researchers, the ALICE Essentials Budget reflects the minimum income needed to remain self-sufficient and stable in LCUW Counties. Subsequent reports outline the “significant number of positive changes for families and their communities” if households had sufficient income and resources, and the “tough choices ALICE and poverty level families make when they do not have enough income to afford basic necessities, and how those decisions affect their broader communities.” We invite you to research and use the data provided at <https://www.uwp.org/alice/about-alice/> and <https://www.unitedforalice.org/essentials-index> to discover what ALICE looks like in your county, demonstrate the need for your program, and how your programs/activities have a positive effect on ALICE.

### **Grant Application Assessment Criteria**

LCUW bases grant application evaluations on the quality of the proposals and the recommendations resulting from the Community Impact Review process. There are six key assessment areas considered grounding principles for LCUW and may be evaluated through program reports, agency visitations, application details, financial documents, or some combination thereof.

- **Alignment with LCUW priority goals and population** Funding priority is given to those organizations that offer programming that aligns most with LCUW goals, desired outcomes and indicators, and target populations.
- **Quality** LCUW is committed to supporting quality programs and services. This includes participant/consumer satisfaction, financial performance (e.g. budget/cost of service per consumer, etc.), alignment with industry best practices, and program performance levels.
- **Reach/scope** Program must demonstrate the meaningful extent to which specified program objectives are being attained and a high proportion of the target population is served.
- **Demonstrated positive outcomes** LCUW is accountable to donors to ensure contributions are used wisely and results are achieved. Gauging effectiveness is critical to ensuring that program design and implementation results in the desired improvement or changes sought. Programs should demonstrate the impact of a program, as well as continuously reflect and adjust program elements as needed to reach established program goals.
- **Collaboration & Partnership** LCUW believes that the important and valuable work of United Way and grantees produces more meaningful results through strong collaborative efforts. By leveraging each other’s resources and expertise, we create efficiencies and can better serve consumers of services and the community at large. LCUW considers an organization’s cooperation with others, including a positive working relationship with LCUW, and seeks partners that will actively support and advance common goals through both program and community efforts.
- **Financial need** Agencies requesting funding must demonstrate a financial need for funding consideration. Agency budgets and/or financial statements may be requested and evaluated.