

United Way of the Mid-South

Catalyst Fund Guidelines

PURPOSE

The United Way Catalyst Fund supports collaborative community efforts which:

- strategically align investments and efforts;
- implement successful and/or promising collaborative that focus on education, financial stability, and/or health;
- focus on long-term solutions on important community issues.

FUNDING LEVEL

- Grants will range from \$20,000-\$100,000.
- Grants are for one year and considered one-time funding.
- Successful initiatives may reapply for continued funding for one additional year, however, second year funding is not guaranteed.

ELIGIBILITY

- Proposals will be accepted from partnerships within the United Way of the Mid-South service area including Fayette, Lauderdale, Tipton, Shelby Counties, TN; Crittenden County, AR; DeSoto, Tate, Tunica Counties, MS.
- The applicant and its partners must function without discrimination or segregation because of race, color, sex, age, religion, national origin, handicap or military status in hiring, termination, assignment and promotion of staff, selection of board members or provision of service.

GUIDELINES

Proposals should demonstrate that the collaborative partnership has or will be developing:

- a shared vision for change;
- a shared measurement systems where data is collected and results measured consistently across all participating organizations;
- a coordinated plan to achieve impact through collaborative plan of action.

Successful applications will demonstrate:

- alignment with UWMS' mission;
- focus on a significant problem or opportunity in the region;
- significant potential to positively impact the community through partnership;
- capacity and leadership necessary to complete the proposed activity; and
- a plan for sustainability, where applicable.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Potential Applicants should submit a Letter of Interest by September 15 to:

Diana Bedwell, Vice President of Community Impact

Diana.Bedwell@uwmidsouth.org

Selected candidates will be invited to submit a full application, due January 15.

Letters of Interest should be no more than 2 pages and include the following:

- Purpose of collaborative effort
- Brief overview of the plan of action which United Way is being asked to support
- Specific use of United Way funds
- Anticipated outcomes
- Collaborative members
- Nonprofit entity that will take fiscal responsibility for United Way funding
- Contact information for primary point person