

# UNITED WAY of Deschutes County

## 2018-2019 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) COMMUNITY IMPACT GRANTS

United Way of Deschutes County (UWDC) is pleased to announce the release of the Request for Proposals (RFP) for its 2018-2019 Community Impact Grants process. The RFP will cover the program period of July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019. UWDC is committed to creating lasting change with measurable impact for people in need in Deschutes County. As a convener, collaborator and catalyst for change, our vision is to create a thriving community where adults and children have access to education, financial stability and good health, which are the building blocks to self-sufficiency and a better quality of life.

To apply for a Community Impact Grant for 2018-19, applicant's request must align with one or more of the four priority investment areas outlined in this document. All proposals will be assessed on a competitive basis and applicants are not guaranteed to receive funding. The review process will use standard criteria, including applicant program's alignment with goals outlined in the United Way of Deschutes County Community Impact Priorities (see below).

### **Our Mission**

United Way of Deschutes County connects caring people to improve lives and shape a better community.

### **Our Vision**

We envision a compassionate, vital community where people have the education, resources and opportunities necessary to achieve their full potential.

### **Our Approach**

We tackle our community's toughest challenges. We lead, support and invest in community efforts to ensure all our children are safe and prepared to succeed in school and in life; individuals and families are safe, healthy and able to thrive; and a safety net of services is in place to help people in crisis.

### **Community Impact Priorities**

UWDC utilizes a theory of change which focuses on building adult capability in order to improve child outcomes as well as adult outcomes. This model calls for strengthening the capacity of everyone who deals with children. We recognize the inter-relationship of trauma, toxic stress and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) in many social, educational and health problems and seek to build resilience in individuals and families by investing in systems and programs that successfully address these priorities:

## Success Outcomes

- ✓ **Ready, Learn, Succeed** – Children entering kindergarten are ready to learn with health and development on track, reading at or above grade level by the end of third grade, are supported in the transitional years, and graduate high school, so they are positioned for success in school and in life.
- ✓ **Safety Net** – People are financially stable and have reliable access to nutritious food, safe and secure shelter and basic health services through a critical safety net of services, opportunities and supports for low-income children and families that help them move from crisis to stability.
- ✓ **Safe and Thriving Families** – People are safe from violence, abuse, and toxic stress. Individuals and families have access to information and resources that promote health & well-being.
- ✓ **Resilience** - Every person in our community has the resilience needed to thrive, even in the face of adversity. Leaders, organizations, and communities actively build systems that help foster resilience.

## Effective Strategies

To foster efficient and effective use of funds, United Way of Deschutes County encourages the use of proven strategies at the highest level practical.

**Best Practice** is defined as an intervention, program, service, or strategy that has, through multiple implementations, demonstrated:

- High Impact - positive changes related to the desired goal(s).
- High Adaptability - successful adaptation and transferability to different settings.
- High Quality of Evidence - excellent quality of research/evaluation methodology, confirming the intervention's high impact and adaptability evidence.

**Evidence-informed practices** use the best available research and practice knowledge to guide program design and implementation. This informed practice allows for innovation while incorporating the lessons learned from the existing research literature. Ideally, evidence-based and evidence-informed programs and practices should be responsive to families' cultural backgrounds, community values, and individual preferences.

**Evidence-based practices** are approaches to prevention or treatment that are validated by some form of documented scientific evidence. This includes findings established through controlled clinical studies, but other methods of establishing evidence are valid as well.

**Evidence-based programs** use a defined curriculum or set of services that, when implemented with fidelity as a whole, has been validated by some form of scientific evidence. Evidence-based practices and programs may be described as "supported" or "well-supported", depending on the strength of the research design.