UNITED WAY FOR CORTLAND COUNTY IMPACT FUNDING 2027 APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

2026 Fall Grant Cycle for 2027 January-December Funding

ELIGIBILITY

Registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations operating in Cortland County whose work aligns with United Way's impact areas of Youth Opportunity, Healthy Community, and Financial Security to address barriers experienced by Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed (ALICE) threshold households in the County. More information can be found at www.unitedforAlice.org/county-report/new-york (use drop down menu to choose Cortland County). Applicants are required to operate in accordance with IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access). Applicants are also required to be in good standing with the United Way for Cortland County. This includes:

1. Previous Grant Funding Reports submitted by the time your agency's next application is submitted.
2. If your agency ran a workplace campaign, all collected pledges from the previous calendar year we are currently in (in this case, 2025) have been accounted for and submitted to UWCC. *If workplace campaign contributions have not been submitted to UWCC, your agency will be allowed to apply but will not be allowed to be awarded funding. This can have a further impact in your ability to be awarded funding for up to 2 years.

NEW GRANT CYCLE

Last year, UWCC transitioned to a calendar year funding cycle. This application will serve as the 2027 grant opportunity. The next grant application will open in fall of 2027 for the 2028 Community Impact Funding opportunity.

FUNDING GUIDELINES

- The 2027 grants are awarded for a period of 12 months; allocations are distributed monthly January-December 2027.
- The minimum grant request is **$2,000**, and the maximum possible award will be **$15,000** per program proposal.
- A separate application is required for each program for which you are requesting funding.
- Grant awards are subject to funding availability.
- Awardees are required to submit a Funding Progress **Report 10 months** from the first allocation payment.

GRANT APPLICATION TIMELINE

- Submit your request by 4:59pm November 2nd, 2026
- Awardees will be notified by December 10th, 2026
- Monthly allocations will begin January 15th, 2027

GENERAL INFORMATION AND COMMUITY FUNDING STRATEGY

The mission of the United Way for Cortland County (UWCC) is to improve the lives of families in our community by uniting the resources of donors, volunteers and agencies. UWCC seeks to achieve its mission in Cortland County by:

- Improving upward economic and social mobility in the community to increase resilience and stability.
- Putting ALICE households (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) at the forefront of our efforts.
- Supporting programs that provide a wrap-around service, addressing barriers that prevent better outcomes and/or creates opportunities to address gaps in social services.
- Identifying and addressing the root causes of problems that challenge our community.
- Investing in strategies and programs that deliver cost-effective, measurable results.
- Supporting programs and agencies that have sound fiscal and management practices.
- Fostering efforts that build collaboration and partnerships.
- Leveraging community resources beyond the annual campaign.

Based on data from the United Way ALICE study and United Way World Wide's Thriving United Way framework, UWCC has consolidated its funding priorities to the following community impact priority areas in 2027:

- **Youth Opportunity**
- **Healthy Community**
- **Financial Security**

PROGRAM EVALUATION

Program accountability is central to responsible stewardship of community raised funds. UWCC supplies all awardees with a Funding Evaluation Report (included in this packet) to be completed 10 months from the first month of awarded allocation payment. The Funding Evaluation Report will reflect the results of the funding and its resulting influence on the UWCC priority impact areas. The information provided will be used for internal accounting and select impact communication needs. All awardees must complete this evaluation in a timely manner to remain in good standing with the UWCC and be eligible for funding in the future.

TO APPLY

- Read the entire grant funding packet (17 pages including this document plus scoring rubric and funding evaluation report for your reference).
- A PDF fillable document is included as well as all other important grant cycle material.
- Enter your information to each question on the form. Do not leave any answers blank.
- Submit each grant application separately to director@cortlandunitedway.org.
- No attachments will be considered.
- Submit by November 2nd, 2026, 4:59pm.

If have any questions, please contact Kristina Thelen at (607) 756-5639 or email director@cortlandunitedway.org