

UNITED WAY FOR CORTLAND COUNTY IMPACT FUNDING 2026 APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

2025 Fall Grant Cycle for 2026 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).

NEW GRANT CYCLE

UWCC has transitioned to a calendar year funding cycle. This application will serve as the 2026 grant opportunity. The next grant application will open in fall of 2026 for the 2027 Community Impact Funding opportunity.

FUNDING GUIDELINES

- The 2026 grants are awarded for a period of 12 months; allocations are distributed monthly January-December 2026.
- 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 November 7th, 2025
- Awardees will be notified by December 9th, 2025
- Monthly allocations will begin January 1st, 2026

GENERAL INFORMATION AND COMMUNITY 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.
- 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 2026:

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

PROGRAM EVALUATION

Program accountability is central to responsible stewardship of community raised funds. UWCC will supply all awardees with a Funding Evaluation Report to be completed 6 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 7th, 2025, 11:59pm.

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