Valley of the Sun UNITED WAY | 100 YEARS

FY27 GRANT APPPLICATION

Agency Orientation

Thursday, February 5, 2026

YOUR INPUT FROM SPRING 2025 DRIVES OUR APPROACH

FEBRUARY 2025
Deployed survey on impact of federal funding and policy changes

FEB-MARCH
Convened YOU to discuss further concerns and share with corporate partners, philanthropy, CSR leaders

APRIL
Debriefed with State legislators, other funders

APRIL-JUNE
Board Ad Hoc Committee formed to consider the impact of environmental shifts and develop recommendations for Board approval at June 2025 meeting

JULY
Realigned organization + budget to be more responsive to safety net deterioration & strategic initiatives within MC2026

OCTOBER
Launched centennial celebration + major donor campaign quiet phase to support current needs

DECEMBER
Relocated to central, cost-efficient office

Issued urgent needs grants + accelerated spring grant payments

JANUARY 2026
Board approved reoriented Community Investment Model and Public Policy Agenda

TODAY

Valley of the Sun UNITED WAY | 100 YEARS

REORIENTED COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUNDING MODEL

COMPETITIVE GRANTS
Strengthening the safety net
- Education
- Health
- Housing and Homelessness
- Workforce Development

RFP process

STABILIZATION GRANTS
Keeping essential systems standing
- Two-year commitments
- Shelter services
- 2-1-1

Predictable funding for services communities rely on every day.

EMERGING NEEDS GRANTS
Staying responsive
- Rapid, flexible funding
- New or urgent basic needs
- SNAP response

Adaptability as community needs change throughout the year.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES
Leading shared solutions
- Multiple partners
- Literacy Hubs
- Homelessness and eviction prevention
- Fair Chance Collaborative
- Pathways to Economic Opportunity

RFI process

INDIVIDUAL-DIRECTED PHILANTHROPY
- VSUW facilitated donor-directed donations through their workplace campaign & sends those gifts to you
- $5M in FY25

GIFTS-IN-KIND
- Matching partner needs with available goods and seeking goods on partner's behalf
- $370K in FY25

INVESTMENTS POWERED BY COMMUNITY GENEROSITY

Valley of the Sun UNITED WAY | 100 YEARS

GRANT GUIDELINES

- The grant will operate on a **12-month cycle (July 2026 – June 2027**), with a potential to receive additional funding through VSUW initiative alignment
- Each funding area will be aligned with VSUW's focus for funding to support **Education, Health, Housing and Homelessness and Workforce Development**
- **501c3 nonprofit or schools can apply** to **one impact strategy per impact area**; program must serve unduplicated clients
- Once submitted, program staff at **VSUW may respond with questions or clarifications** prior to the final decisions being made
- We currently **do not provide funding for capital campaigns or endowments**
- **Minimum request is $25,000** and **maximum request is $200,000/program for the competitive process**

PROGRAM FUNDING AREAS: EDUCATION

- **Early Education and Reading** to Build and Strengthen Literacy Capacity of Practitioners in Early Learning Environments
- **Parent and Family Support** to increase learning and access to socio-emotional services through mentoring and parent education classes to students, parents, caregivers and teachers.
- **Efforts Within P-12 Education** will Increase Access to Basic Family Needs and Supportive Services

Target population:

- **Economically disadvantaged children /youth**
  - Title I Schools serving income low communities in Maricopa County
  - Schools that are 25% below the state average ELA score
  - Schools that have a 10-15% or higher dropout rate than the state average
- Program serving children/families that qualify for Free and Reduced Lunch or fall within the following categories:
  - Schools that have a FRL of 80% or higher
  - Special education
  - English language learners
  - Living in foster care or experiencing homelessness

PROGRAM FUNDING AREAS: HEALTH

Food Access to Strengthen and Support the Emergency Food System and Home-Delivered Meals that Reduces Hunger

Target population:

- Economically disadvantaged households facing food insecurity
  - Head of household/Single parent households
  - Home-bound older adults
  - Individuals/families at risk of losing SNAP/WIC benefits
  - Individuals/families living in food deserts

PROGRAM FUNDING AREAS: HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS

Housing and Wraparound Services – Services and Programs that prioritize social determinants and wraparound services that prevent and assist those experiencing homelessness

Target Population:

- Economically disadvantaged individuals/families
  - At-risk of, or, experiencing homelessness
  - Seniors
  - Youth
  - Head of household/Single parent households
  - Justice-involved individuals

PROGRAM FUNDING AREAS: WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Access to Jobs to increase resources to help individuals obtain job opportunities that will raise their income and create sustainable careers and increase the number of workers with high paying in demand jobs

Target population:

- Economically disadvantaged individuals
  - At-risk of, or, experiencing homelessness
  - Justice involved individuals
  - Head of household/Single parent households

FY27 GRANT APPLICATION TIMELINE

February 5, 2026– Grant Applications Released on e-CImpact

Staff Available to provide Technical Assistance

Grant Application Orientations

- **February 5, 2026 at 9:30 a.m., Webinar** (recorded and placed on VSUW website)
- **February 10, 2026 at 10:00 a.m., In-person**

- **March 5, 2026 - Grant Application Due, by 5 p.m.**
- **March/April 2026– Volunteer and Staff Review of Grant Applications**
- **May 2026– Funding Recommendations Determined**
- **June 2026 – Funding Recommendations Approved by Board**
- **June 2026 – Award and Decline Letters sent to Agencies**
- **July 2026 – Grant Awards Begin, First Quarterly Payments Paid Out**

GRANT APPLICATION

e-CImpact Live Demonstration

Valley of the Sun UNITED WAY

100 YEARS

Evaluation Criteria

Valley of the Sun UNITED WAY

100 YEARS

Evaluation Criteria

Criteria	Prompts
Agency Capacity (Agency Overview): 5 Points • The agency mission and description is aligned to VSUW's Impact Area(s)/Initiative(s) If current partner, consistent in meeting agreed upon deadlines	☐ Clear mission that aligns to VSUW's Impact Area(s)/Initiative(s) ☐ Clear understanding of what the agency does as a whole ☐ If current agency partner, consistent in meeting report deadlines and/or have provided clear and consistent communication
Program Design (Program Narratives): 40 Points • The program narratives aligned to selected VSUW impact area and strategy • The narratives provide a comprehensive and clear overview of the program goal and activities, and paint a picture of a strong program design that would lead to client success • The program aligns with VSUW's initiatives • The program provides a clear continuous quality improvement plan	☐ Clear understanding of population served; focus on serving economically disadvantaged ☐ Clear understanding of the resources needed and activities for a successful program ☐ Clear understanding of why this program is important and/or any evidence-based studies tied to the program's effectiveness ☐ The agency was able to provide data, preferably disaggregated data, to describe and define the community/issues it serves ☐ The agency is able to describe how program engages with community for continuous quality improvement ☐ Clear understanding on how program aligns to VSUW's initiatives, if selected

Evaluation Criteria Continued

Program Performance (Outcome Measurements & Program Narrative)*: 40 Points • The measurements strongly align to Program Narrative • The program has well-articulated results achieved through funding *Please note that programs are not required to report on all prescribed metrics	☐ Meaningful client-focused outcomes that lead to success ☐ Explanation of participation ratios and assessment of numbers provided as projected goals ☐ Additional metrics included to measure programmatic success ☐ Agency identifies equitable outcomes for communities through qualitative data (for example: narratives or storytelling) ☐ Agency provides a clear picture of program evaluation
Program Budget: 15 Points • The budget demonstrates capacity to deliver the program • Resources are aligned to achieve stated program results • The program request is reasonable based on the size, scope and scale of the program • VSUW guidelines on budget request are met	☐ Request is reasonable and expenses are fully and clearly explained throughout narrative ☐ Request does not exceed VSUW guidelines ☐ It is clearly explained how VSUW funding will be utilized ☐ Diversified funding that will lead to program sustainability; VSUW request less than 50% of program budget

VSUW CONTACTS

For General Questions, including Health:

Eileana Gudiño
Grants & Evaluation Director
egudino@vsuw.org
602.631.4883

For e-Cimpact Questions:

eCImpact@vsuw.org

Education
Dawn Gerundo
Director of Community Development and Engagement
602.631.4907, dgerundo@vsuw.org

Housing & Homelessness
Samantha Jackson
Director of Community Development and Engagement
480-276-9930, sjackson@vsuw.org

Workforce Development
Bertha Tapia
Director of Community Development and Engagement
602-818-0706, btapia@vsuw.org

Valley of the Sun UNITED WAY | 100 YEARS

Valley of the Sun

UNITED WAY

100 YEARS