



Valley of the Sun
UNITED WAY



Valley of the Sun United Way FY27 Grant Cycle Frequently Asked Questions

HOW DOES MY NONPROFIT / SCHOOL APPLY FOR FUNDING?

You can apply for the grant by visiting vsuw.org/apply

WHAT IS THE PROCESS AND HOW ARE DECISIONS MADE?

The grants process will open February 5, 2026 and ALL applications are due March 5, 2026. While the application is open, staff is available to support agencies with any technical assistance that they may need. For support, please email us at ecimpact@vsuw.org. will be carefully reviewed by a dedicated committee of subject matter experts comprised of VSUW staff and community professionals, all highly knowledgeable and experienced in their respective impact areas. Funding recommendations will be presented to our VSUW leadership and Board of Directors for final approval.

WHEN WILL I HEAR ABOUT FUNDING?

Funding decisions will be shared with agencies by June 2026.

WHAT REPORTING IS REQUIRED?

Grant recipients will provide a mid-year report in January 2027 and an end-of-year report in July 2027.

WHAT IF MY ORGANIZATION IS CURRENTLY FUNDED, BUT DOESN'T FIT WITHIN VSUW'S PRIORITIES?

Please reach out to your VSUW staff to discuss opportunities.

I AM NOT SURE WHAT STRATEGY IS THE BEST FIT FOR OUR PROGRAM? WHAT SHOULD I DO?

Please reach out to your VSUW staff to discuss opportunities. We also recommend reviewing the prescribed metrics to see what strategy may be able to tell the best story of your program.

MY ORGANIZATION HAS NEVER BEEN FUNDED BY UNITED WAY. ARE WE ELIGIBLE?

This is an open and competitive process to all 501c3 nonprofits and schools in Maricopa County.

WHO IS OUR UNITED WAY POINT OF CONTACT FOR THE FY27 GRANT CYCLE?

- For questions on VSUW's different impact areas, please contact:

Education

Dawn Gerundo, Director of Community Development and Engagement
602-380-2328, 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
602-631-4914, btapia@vsuw.org

- For health, application and process related questions, please contact:
Eileana Gudiño, Director of Grants and Evaluation, 602-631-4883,
egudino@vsuw.org

HOW MUCH FUNDING SHOULD WE APPLY FOR?

The minimum threshold is \$25,000 and the maximum is \$200,000 per program. We ask programs request what they need.

CAN WE APPLY UNDER A NEW PROGRAM?

Yes. For more information on how to do so please contact e-cimpact@vsuw.org.