

Request for Proposal (RFP): Financial Security Impact Grant

Project Summary

The United Way of St. Lucie & Okeechobee is pleased to announce a new grant opportunity under our **Financial Security Impact Area**. We believe that everyone deserves the opportunity to earn a living that can sustain a family and build security for future generations. This specific grant aims to help hardworking families make ends meet by providing essential safety-net services.

By addressing immediate needs such as **food insecurity and essential household supplies**, we empower families to focus on long-term goals like affordable housing and homeownership. This project targets the opportunity for every resident to live in an affordable, safe, and stable home.

Objectives

The primary objective of this funding is to stabilize households by mitigating the high cost of basic necessities. Key project components include:

- **Food Assistance:** Providing nutritionally balanced food, including fresh proteins (frozen meats), fresh produce, and shelf-stable goods.
 - **Medical Support:** Providing vouchers for life-sustaining prescription medications.
 - **Essential Hygiene & Health:** Distributing hygiene kits and supporting diaper programs for children aged three and under.
 - **Stability Promotion:** Reducing the financial burden on households so they can allocate personal resources toward rent, mortgages, and utilities.
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Timeline

- **RFP Release Date:** May 01, 2026
 - **Submission Deadline:** May 31, 2026
 - **Review Period:** June 2026
 - **Award Notification:** July 2026
 - **Grant Period:** 2026–2027 Fiscal Year
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Budget Requirements

- **Total Funding Available: \$15,000**
 - **Direct Assistance Focus:** Funds should be primarily allocated to "Specific Assistance to Individuals," including food purchases, prescription coverage, and infant supplies.
 - **Cost Efficiency:** Applicants should demonstrate how they leverage partnerships (e.g., food banks or local donors) to maximize the impact of the grant.
 - **Administrative Caps:** While payroll for staff executing these services (such as Intake or Pantry Coordinators) is permissible, the budget should prioritize direct client aid.
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Eligibility Criteria

Organizational Requirements

- **Legal Status:** Must be implemented by a **501(c)(3)** organization.
- **Service Area:** Must serve residents of St. Lucie County.
- **Longevity:** The organization must have existed and operated in St. Lucie County for at least **two years**.
- **Financial Oversight:**
 - Programs with annual revenues exceeding \$500,000 must conduct an **independent annual financial audit**.
 - Programs with revenues below \$500,000 must complete an **independent financial review**.
- **Demonstrated Impact:** Must provide evidence of **measurable outcomes**, such as the number of unduplicated individuals served and success in alleviating immediate crises.

Recipient Eligibility

- **Target Population:** Services must target **ALICE families** (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) and those living at or below the federal poverty level.
 - **Residency:** Recipients must be verified residents of St. Lucie County.
 - **Need-Based Verification:** Programs should have a process to verify the household's crisis or inability to afford basic needs.
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Selection Process

Applications will be reviewed based on the following:

1. **Mission Alignment:** Strength of the program's relationship to the United Way's Financial Security goals.
2. **Service Accessibility:** Strategic placement of services in low-income neighborhoods and accessibility via public transportation.
3. **Methodology:** Use of evidence-based practices, such as specialized staff training in poverty dynamics (e.g., "Bridges Out of Poverty").
4. **Collaborative Potential:** Evidence of working with other local providers to ensure a comprehensive continuum of care.

General