



United Way of Pierce County

# Community Investment Request for Proposals **FOOD SECURITY FUND**

*Guidelines and Strategies for the  
2025-2027 Community Investment Cycle*

Together, we will lift 15,000 households out of poverty by 2028

Applications are due by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, July 12, 2024

# REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

United Way of Pierce County (UWPC) supports partnerships that stabilize households and break down barriers to self-sufficiency. UWPC's community investments are focused on achieving our bold goal of helping to move 15,000 households out of poverty and into self-sufficiency by 2028. Investments are also focused on achieving a just, equitable, and inclusive Pierce County community where everyone has access to opportunities and the resources needed to thrive and achieve their greatest potential.

## FOOD SECURITY FUND

Our local emergency food system is facing a surge in need. The number of food bank visits has more than doubled since the pandemic, with rising costs for virtually every essential need pushing more and more households to seek out food pantries to help make ends meet. Our community has also become more and more diverse over the years, and with diversity comes a beautiful array of different ethnicities and cultures requiring different types of food to meet their unique needs. Immigrants, refugees, Native Americans, and people of color across the country struggle to find culturally appropriate foods, and the struggle only increases as levels of food insecurity rise.

The Food Security Fund supports community-based solutions to address food insecurity by making multi-year grants to community partners working to provide an accessible and culturally relevant food system. As UWPC leans into trust-based philanthropy principles, we are pleased to offer this low-barrier opportunity for those working in our local emergency food system.

The Food Fund will support:

- ✓ Organizations that are grounded in equity and inclusion;
- ✓ Those that place the people most impacted by hunger at the center of their work;
- ✓ Physically providing services in UWPC's priority communities; and/or
- ✓ Focus on removing barriers to accessing nutritious and culturally preferred food

United Way of Pierce County will invest in outstanding community organizations **from January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2027** (*ongoing investments are contingent upon established criteria, results, and funding availability*). During this three-year funding cycle, **UWPC will invest approximately \$75,000 per year through the Food Security Fund**. These investments will be **between \$5,000 and \$20,000**. Investments will be tied to specific outputs tied to food security and are designed to develop and support a stronger network of nonprofits leading the way in reducing hunger and increasing stability for individuals and families in our community.

## INVESTMENT STRATEGIES

The following are the types of projects that may be funded through the Food Security Fund (*see Appendix A*):

- Providing culturally preferred foods
- Increasing access to emergency food for those with barriers to accessing food
- Investments in capacity, such as a new greenhouse, commercial kitchen, etc.
- Increasing supply, such as gardening or farming related to emergency food provision

***If you are part of the Pierce County emergency food system and are offering wrap around services to support households more holistically or are using an innovative approach to remove barriers and are able to meet reporting requirements, you may be eligible to apply for the Impact Fund.*** Please reach out to us at [hfpc@uwpc.org](mailto:hfpc@uwpc.org) if you have questions about where your proposed program or project might best fit.



United Way of Pierce County

## 2025-27 INVESTMENT FUNDS

REQUIREMENTS	FOOD SECURITY FUND
<b>FUNDING RANGE</b>	<b>\$5000 - \$20,000</b>
Measurable connection to the bold goal	✓
Commitment to equity and inclusion	✓
Proximity to need/geographic focus areas	✓
Focus on whole person/household	
Participation in Investment and Frontline Staff Cohort	✓
SSM assessment and disaggregate data (Transformational - required; Impact - optional if you have an equally robust way to measure progress toward bold goal)	
Collaborative (able to ID partners and track shared outcomes)	
Innovative, human-centered approach or model	

## Funding Requirements

**Annual grants will be awarded in amounts no less than \$5,000 to \$20,000 per proposal for a total of \$75,000 invested annually.** All applicants must align with at least one (1) of the service strategies listed above. We are striving for the greatest impact through a focus on performance, transparency, and accountability.

**All Community Impact Investments are made through an open and competitive RFP process.**

To qualify for United Way of Pierce County funding, organizations must:

1. Qualify as a nonprofit organization with 501(c)(3) status or have a verifiable 501(c)(3) fiscal agent
2. Have the capacity to advance the goals of UWPC as described in the RFP
3. Comply with the USA Patriot Act and other counterterrorism laws
4. Comply with all provisions of the Americans with Disability Act and operate by policy and practice without discrimination based on age, race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, disability, economic status, cultural heritage, or national origin

## Grant Terms

The 2025-2027 investment cycle runs from January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2027. Community Impact Investment grants are renewable for a term of up to three years, **dependent on program performance as well as being contingent on funding availability.** United Way of Pierce County may adjust grant award amounts based on available funds. Organizations will be notified of any proposed change to funding amounts at least 30 days prior to the start of the next funding year (12/1/2025 and 12/1/2026).

## Grant Conditions

United Way funding is based on the premise that partnership and collaboration are the cornerstones of our effort to create lasting change in our community. United Way recognizes the rights and authority of organizations, through their governing bodies, to determine their own policies and manage their own programs. In that spirit, United Way delineates the following grant conditions to be acknowledged by grantees as part of their obligation upon acceptance of investment funding:

1. Annual updating of the organization’s Sound Sound 211 information
2. Communicate in writing to UWPC’s Community Impact team, as early as possible, whenever changes – which might affect organization’s or program’s ability to deliver the results outline in its proposal – have occurred, including changes in key staff.

## Required Documentation

1. Financial records are to be submitted annually for investment partners according to the following conditions:
  - a. IRS Form 990 or 990-EZ
  - b. Financial statements – based on organization budget size (Line 12 on IRS Form 990):

	Category A	Category B	Category C
<b>Operating Budget Size*</b>	Annual Revenue less than \$100,000	Annual Revenue greater than \$100,000 but less than \$749,999	Annual Revenue greater than \$750,000
<b>Required Materials:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial Statement Compilation prepared by a CPA</li> <li>• Current year budget</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reviewed Financial Statement prepared by a CPA</li> <li>• Current year budget</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Audited Financial Statements prepared by a CPA</li> <li>• Current year budget</li> </ul>

*\* If there are extenuating circumstances and your organization is unable to provide required documentation, please reach out to use to discuss an appropriate alternative.*

## Reporting Requirements

The following reporting requirements will be part of the investment partner’s obligations upon acceptance of grant funding:

- **One Site Visits** during the three-year cycle
- **Year-End Program Performance Reports** are to be submitted annually, on or before:
  - Year 1 – January 30, 2026
  - Year 2 – January 29, 2027
  - Year 3 – January 31, 2028

Food Security Fund year-end performance reports will include reporting on the Food Security strategies selected in the application, aggregate demographics, and a narrative reporting section including a success story.

## Application Submission

**Proposals must be received by UWPC, through the online application system, on or before Friday, July 12, 2024 at 5:00 pm PST.** Complete application requirements and access to the online application systems are available on our website at <https://www.uwpc.org/community-impact-investment-fund>

## Community Impact Staff Contacts

The Community Impact Team is responsible for UWPC’s Community Investment process. Technical assistance is available for anyone in need of support with outcome measures, evaluation, and other questions. Please reach out to clarify alignment, if you are unsure about whether or not a program or service fits within our focus areas.

Name	Title	Phone	Email
Shawn Paton	Vice President of Community Impact	(253) 597-7492	shawnp@uwpc.org
Kelvin (KC) Ceasar	Sr. Manager, Policy and Community Engagement	(253) 597-4257	kelvinc@uwpc.org
Leah Martin	Impact & Engagement Coordinator	(253) 682-1810	leahm@uwpc.org

# FOOD SECURITY FUND OUTCOMES & INDICATORS FRAMEWORK

Please review the information below to determine which categories best measure and demonstrate the impact of the program/project your organization is submitting for potential investment.

FOOD SECURITY			
COMMON OUTCOME	MEASURES/OUTPUTS	CORRESPONDING INDICATORS	ALIGNMENT WITH WA STATE 10-YEAR PLAN TO END POVERTY
Increase # of individuals/households achieving food security	<p><b><u>Providing culturally preferred foods:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• # of unduplicated individuals receiving food</li> <li>• # of meals provided</li> </ul>	Number of unduplicated individuals/households who can access culturally preferred food items	4d. Increase funding to support the availability of culturally diverse, nutritious food
	<p><b><u>Increasing access to emergency food:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• # of unduplicated individuals navigating barriers to food access</li> <li>• # of client visits</li> <li>• # of meals provided</li> </ul>	Number of unduplicated individuals/households who successfully navigate transportation or other barriers to accessing emergency food	
	<p><b><u>Increasing capacity</u></b></p> <p>Measures will depend on program/project and will be determined prior to MOU process</p>	Indicator(s) will depend on program/project and will be determined prior to MOU process	
	<p><b><u>Increasing supply:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• # of pounds of food provided</li> </ul>	Number of pounds of food supplied for the emergency food system	

Additionally, for each year-end report, Food Security Fund grantees will be asked to provide aggregate demographic data for those served through funded program/project for the following categories:

- Zip code
- Race/ethnicity