



Mile High United Way



STRATEGIC INVESTMENT GRANTS

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Strategic Investment Grant for Emergency and Basic Needs

*All applications must be submitted online to
Mile High United Way by 5 p.m. MST on February 12, 2021.*

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CEO

Dear Friends and Partners:

We hope this finds you well in this New Year. Throughout all of the challenges of the last year, we have been proud to be in your company to serve our community. We have learned from you and been inspired by you and have been grateful to work with you.

For over 133 years, Mile High United Way has been proud to be the steward of our community's collective generosity, and to bring voice to the most critical issues facing our community. We take pride that we never take our eyes off our goal: to create opportunities for everyone in our community to succeed. In alignment with our Strategic Investment Grants and priority areas, we are pleased to do this work in partnership with you.

We align our beliefs and operate our programs to ensure our youngest learners have the resources they need to thrive, parents are supported with vital resources like childcare, and individuals and families have their emergency and basic needs met.

Mile High United Way is proud to continue to evolve our funding process and priority areas. This year, we created the Mile High United Way Social Justice Fund, investing in BIPOC organizations, we have grown the Mile High United Way Women United Initiative, investing in impact-focused and collaborative community efforts focused on women and girls, and we continue to partner with hundreds of nonprofit partners through our Strategic Investment Grants.

We are excited to move forward with the 2021 Strategic Investment Grants for Emergency and Basic Needs, which places an emphasis on the essential needs of individuals and families, including rent and utility assistance, childcare support and programs, and access to food.

As with many other unique things about this year, Mile High United Way also received a substantial and transformative gift from philanthropist and author MacKenzie Scott. In the coming weeks and months, we will have thoughtful and strategic conversations with our executive leadership, impact team, and Board of Trustees to determine a path forward for this gift. As we solidify those details, more information will be provided at a later date.

This gift will *not* influence our Strategic Investment Grant process this year.

We encourage you to read through the RFP packet, attend information sessions, and reach out to us if you have any questions. As always, we would be glad to speak with you.

Thank you for all you have done and will continue to do to support our seven-county footprint.

Warmest regards,



Christine Benero
President and CEO

OUR MISSION

Uniting people, ideas, and resources to advance the common good.

WHAT WE DO

Working side-by-side with the community, Mile High United Way takes on critical human services issues facing our seven-county footprint Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas, and Jefferson counties. For the 2021-2023 grant cycle, our priority will continue to be placed on vital emergency and basic needs services, including access to food, shelter, and childcare.

WHAT WE BELIEVE

We believe every person that calls Colorado home deserves the opportunity to thrive

We believe every young person deserves a fair start

We believe every family should be economically stable

We believe in community

We believe in neighborhoods

We believe in the power of diverse and inclusive voices

We believe in data

STRATEGIC INVESTMENT GRANTS OVERVIEW AND PURPOSE

We know that our community's challenges are bigger than any one organization can solve. By focusing on the under-resourced communities, and building partnerships with nonprofits, businesses, government agencies, and policymakers, we can work faster and better to find solutions that contribute to a community of healthy, well-educated, and financially stable individuals and families.

The goal of this Strategic Investment Grant opportunity is to focus investments on outstanding organizations whose work aligns with our overarching strategy to ensure vital **emergency and basic needs** are met, including access to food, shelter, and childcare. The Strategic Investment Grants are awarded through a competitive and community-driven process.

GEOGRAPHY:

We welcome any eligible organization serving the seven-county Metro Denver community (Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas, and Jefferson Counties) to submit a proposal aligned with the Emergency and Basic Needs services detailed in this document.



FUNDING PERIOD:

This is a two-year funding cycle that begins July 1, 2021 and ends June 30, 2023. Funding for the second year (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023) is contingent on available funds and grantee performance.

EMERGENCY AND BASIC NEEDS

Basic needs services are vital to individuals or families requiring a service or experiencing chronic conditions, and for individuals and families who have experienced a temporary setback or who face emergency situations. When individuals are unable to meet their immediate needs, it becomes more difficult to focus on long-term goals such as employment, housing, or education.

Using Mile High United Way's 2-1-1 Help Center data, and reporting from community partners, we identified the most pressing needs of residents in the seven-county metro area. To be considered for Emergency and Basic Needs funding, organizations must provide one or more of the following emergency and basic needs programs in services to individuals or families earning below 300% of the Federal Poverty Level:

ACCESS TO FOOD: Requests for access to food remain one of the top needs for callers to our 2-1-1 Help Center. At the release of this RFP, in Colorado¹

- 45% of households with children are food insecure, meaning they lack reliable access to nutritious food
- 38% of people of color are struggling with food insecurity
- Hunger remains a high concern for almost 1 in 5 households

Your organization should apply for funding if you provide access to nutritious food for people experiencing economic hardship, homelessness, or isolation (such as individuals who are homebound). This includes organizations providing food pantries, meal services, and school backpack programs, or those that are removing barriers to enrollment in government assistance programs such as SNAP and WIC.

The COVID-19 pandemic has increased the number of households experiencing food insecurity and many of our nonprofit partners have taken on food distribution in additional to regular programs, to families they serve. We expect some effects of the pandemic to remain with us for a long time and encourage organizations to keep in mind that this application is for services that will take place during the 2021 – 2023 time frame.

ACCESS TO SHELTER: Requests for shelter and/or transitional housing is one of the top five requests of our 2-1-1 Help Center. According to the MDHI State of Homelessness 2020 Report, between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020, over 31,000 individuals accessed services or housing supports related to homelessness.

Your organization should apply for funding if you provide safe overnight and/or day shelter, temporary housing, or supportive housing to people experiencing homelessness, and/or for survivors of domestic violence.

CHILDCARE: Access to safe, reliable childcare is an essential need for families.

Your organization should apply for funding if you provide at least one of the following:

- High-quality early care and education centered on comprehensive, high-quality (rated level of 3 or higher) early care and education programs, with a special focus on infants, toddlers, or children with special needs; programs engaging in quality improvement activities to support health and safety; professional development; supportive learning environments; parent engagement; and strong leadership and business practices.
- Parent/Caregiver Training and Support that focuses on services to support children's school readiness and healthy development.

¹Hunger Free Colorado July and September Topline Survey Findings

- High Quality Out-of-School Time programs to engage children up to twelve years of age in activities that take place outside of the traditional school day, and that enhance school learning. Programs should provide scheduled services to youth in safe, structured, and supportive environments that promote positive youth development. All activities (e.g., enrichment, social-emotional support, and civic engagement) should have an academic component. Programming should be offered at least four hours per week for at least 15 weeks. Standalone summer programs are not eligible for funding.

LEGAL SERVICES: Your organization should apply for funding if you provide access to civil legal services or legal clinics for low-income individuals and families.

RENTAL AND/OR UTILITY ASSISTANCE: Rental and/or utility assistance is the top request from callers to our 2-1-1 Help Center. Housing plays a critical role in providing stability to all families, including strengthening parenting and supporting early childhood development, and decreasing economic stress and food insecurity.

Your organization should apply for funding if you provide emergency assistance to help individuals and families manage a crisis situation and pay their rent and/or essential utilities.

STATE IDENTIFICATION ASSISTANCE: State identification documents are necessary for individuals to access benefit supports or even obtain employment.

Your organization should apply for funding if you provide people experiencing economic hardship obtain identification documents, including birth certificates, driver licenses, and state ID cards.

TAX PREPARATION: Tax preparation can be very costly, even though a refund or earned income tax credit can benefit low-income families.

Your organization should apply for funding if you provide free tax preparation services and/or taxpayer clinics to low-income individuals, particularly those eligible to receive the earned income tax credit.

TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE: Reliable transportation is essential for all of us to get to work, appointments, school, etc.

Your organization may apply for funding for multiple services provided. The services for which your organization is applying for funding should be described fully within the application.

PRIORITY POPULATIONS SERVED

Mile High United Way will fund organizations that serve clients facing economic hardship and living below 300 percent of the most recent federal poverty guidelines (See pages 9-10 for more information).

GRANTS

Emergency and Basic Needs proposals will be considered for annual funding in the following amounts:

- Up to **\$10,000** for organizations with operating budgets below \$250,000
- Between **\$25,000** and **\$75,000** for organizations with operating budgets at or above \$250,000
- Up to **\$200,000** for organizations applying for Child Care Contribution Credit eligible activities

REPORTING

Mile High United Way will provide a formatted online platform for your organization to enter required information. This reporting is part of a continuing effort to unite the community around shared measures and to identify the characteristics of participants making use of the available community resources. The information collected will include, but may not be limited to the following, as applicable:

- Mutually agreed-upon indicators, objectives and milestones, in addition to or in lieu of the information below, as appropriate
- Total number of unduplicated participants served
- Demographic characteristics of participants served
- Information on dosage, or level of services received by program participants
- General questions regarding evaluation process and practice, technical assistance/ professional development, and challenges/ opportunities happening in your work
- Providing participant stories/successes
- Additional information requested may be specific to each organization

Organizations are required to submit two reports for each grant year:

- December 15 work completed during July 1 – November 30
- July 15 for work complete during July 1 – June 30

APPLICATION INFORMATION

GRANT APPLICATION ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for funding, organizations must meet the following criteria:

- Qualify under the IRS Code as a tax-exempt, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization and be a legally established public entity in good standing with the Colorado Secretary of State. This includes organizations with fiscal sponsors that meet the 501(c)(3) or public entity eligibility guidelines as outlined.
- Collect basic demographic information on the clients they serve, the services they are providing, and the outcomes they are achieving.
- Be able to aggregate and analyze data to determine program quality and effectiveness, and to inform program improvement.
- Certify that organization complies with the USA Patriot Act www.fincen.gov/resources/statutes-regulations/usa-patriot-act.
- Be governed or advised by a volunteer Board and operate in accordance with bylaws.

- Have an annual independent audit for the most recent fiscal year completed by an independent Certified Public Accountant. If the organization's operating budget is under \$1,000,000, a completed annual independent review and certified year-end financials approved by Board Chair and Executive Director may be submitted instead.
- Have accounting and financial reporting standards that are in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP).
- Provide services in the seven-county Metro Denver area of Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas, and Jefferson Counties.

GRANT APPLICATION INELIGIBILITY

Organizations demonstrating any of the following characteristics are ineligible to apply for funding:

- Organizations that are not tax-exempt under IRS Code section 501(c)(3), or that are not recognized as a legally established public entity. This includes organizations that do not have a fiscal sponsor that meets the 501(c)(3) and public entity eligibility guidelines as outlined.
- Organizations that have the IRS Private Foundation designation.
- Organizations/programs that cannot collect basic demographic information on the clients they serve, the services they provide, and the outcomes they achieve.
- Organizations/programs requesting funds to provide direct medical care and/or treatment.
- Applications to support direct donations, scholarships, or grants to individuals.
- Applications to support direct cash assistance to individuals beyond those allowable under the Rental and Utility Assistance.
- Applications to support endowment funds.
- Applications to support political campaigns.
- Applications for general operating support for K-12 schools. This includes charter and facility schools.
- Applications for general operating support for school districts, and/or school foundations.
- Applications for general operating support for Residential Treatment Centers (RTCs) or Residential Child Care Facilities (RCCFs).
- Applications to support field trips, summer camps, summer enrichment programs, one-time performances, or one-time projects/events.

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

Strategic Investment Grant proposals must be received by Mile High United Way on or before **5:00 p.m. MST on February 12, 2021**. Completed applications, including all required attachments, must be submitted electronically. Incomplete, emailed, or hard copy applications will not be accepted.

PROPOSAL SELECTION

Mile High United Way is accountable to donors, volunteers, nonprofits, and our Board of Trustees to ensure funds are used wisely, deliver results, and produce maximum impact. As a learning organization, we are investing in work that will be informed by research, driven by data, and informed by the community. We are committed to supporting and building a culture of continuous learning.

To ensure accountability and due diligence in the application review process, Mile High United Way will assemble Strategic Investment review panels composed of subject matter experts, community volunteers, business associates, and Mile High United Way staff to review and assess proposals and develop recommendations for funding, which will be provided to the Strategic Investment Review Committee and the Board of Trustees.

Proposal selection is a four-step process:

STEP ONE: All proposals undergo an initial screening by Mile High United Way staff. This screening is based on completeness, and verification that proposals meet Mile High United Way’s minimum eligibility standards regarding organizational capacity and alignment.

STEP TWO: Proposals that pass the initial staff screening and review are then reviewed and scored by Strategic Investment review panels, composed of a diverse group of people including Mile High United Way board members, community volunteers, subject matter experts, and Mile High United Way staff. Each panel receives a selection of grant proposals to review and score. Panel members then comparatively rank the proposals. Recommendations are presented to the Mile High United Way Executive Team.

STEP THREE: The Mile High United Way Executive Team will make funding recommendations to the full board, based on ranking of the proposal scores, review panel recommendations, geographic representation, populations served, and/or other criteria deemed important to Mile High United Way in order to invest in a portfolio of programs and organizations demonstrating the greatest impact.

STEP FOUR: Decisions to award funding will be made by the Mile High United Way Board of Trustees at its sole discretion. All decisions are final.

Mile High United Way reserves the right to award funds based on funding availability and other variables at its discretion.

KEY DATES:

January 11, 2021	Strategic Investment Grant application released
January 19, 2021 – January 22, 2021	Strategic Investment Grant information sessions (optional)
January 20, 2021	Strategic Investment Grant application bootcamp (optional)
February 12, 2021	Application due date
February 2021	Internal review (for alignment and completion)
March 2021	Community review
April 2021	Final decision by Mile High United Way Board of Trustees
June 2021	Grant agreements signed
July 2021	Announcement of Strategic Investment Grant Partners Year 1 funding begins

INFORMATION SESSIONS

Mile High United Way will hold online Strategic Investment Grant Information Sessions on the dates and times listed below. Attendance is optional; however, we encourage your organization to attend for information and clarity on the process. The purpose of the session is to review proposal criteria and answer questions.

During the optional bootcamp application questions will be reviewed with an opportunity for attendees to ask questions.

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
January 19, 2021	2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Online
January 22, 2021	11:00 a.m. – Noon	Online

Please visit our website at unitedwaydenver.org/strategic-investment-grants to register and secure your place.

CONTACT INFORMATION

We welcome the opportunity to speak with you to provide clarification and guidance during this process. To contact Mile High United Way about this Strategic Investment Grant opportunity, please call our dedicated information line, 303.561.2338, or email mhuwgrants@unitedwaydenver.org.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS (FOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS GRANT OPPORTUNITY)

Chronic Conditions - Refers to a phenomenon where an individual or family is in a situation (e.g., experiencing homelessness or food insecurity) for an extended period of time, usually more than three months.

Essential Utilities - House and apartment utilities such as electricity, heat, and water.

Family - Mile High United Way embraces an inclusive definition of family, dependent on every feature of a person's life, including beliefs, culture, ethnicity, and situational experiences.

Federal Poverty Guidelines - Federal poverty guidelines, sometimes called federal poverty levels, or simply FPL, are income thresholds for households of a given size that are often used to determine eligibility for certain programs and benefits. Federal poverty guidelines are issued annually by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Federal Poverty Guidelines for 300 Percent of FPL - 300 percent of the federal poverty guidelines means that an individual or family has income equating to 300 percent of the current poverty guideline for their household size. This is found by simply multiplying the current federal poverty guideline by three. Mile High United Way believes that a family with income below 300 percent of the federal poverty guidelines are often struggling to make ends meet.

Organizations eligible for this grant opportunity are those serving clients at or below 300 percent of the 2020 federal poverty guidelines. For more information please see the table below (2020 guidelines) or visit: <https://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty-guidelines>.

Household Size	100%	130%	185%	200%	265%	300%
1	\$12,760	\$16,588	\$23,606	\$25,520	\$33,814	\$38,280
2	\$17,240	\$22,412	\$31,894	\$34,480	\$45,686	\$51,720
3	\$21,720	\$28,236	\$40,182	\$43,440	\$57,558	\$65,160
4	\$26,200	\$34,060	\$48,470	\$52,400	\$69,430	\$78,600
5	\$30,680	\$39,884	\$56,758	\$61,360	\$81,302	\$92,040
6	\$35,160	\$45,708	\$65,046	\$70,320	\$93,174	\$105,480

Your organization may use other measures to determine eligibility. Please note that all of the measures below fall within our criteria of serving clients at or below 300 percent of federal poverty guidelines.

Measure	Percent of Federal Poverty Level (FPL)
Area Median Income	Please see table below
CHIP (separate CHIP for uninsured children)	Up to 265% of FPL
School Lunch Program – Free Lunch	Below 130% of FPL
School Lunch Program – Reduced Price Lunch	Between 130% and 185% of FPL
Medicaid (Adults)	Up to 138% of FPL
Medicaid (Children 0-18)	Up to 147% of FPL
SNAP	Up to 130% of FPL

If your organization uses Area Median Income, please use the table below in comparison with the FPL table to determine whether your clients are at or below 300% of FPL (usually fall between 80% and 100% of FPL depending on number of persons per household).

2020 Area Median Income Limits (can be used for all seven-counties in the metro area)

2020 Area Median Income Limits (can be used for all seven-counties in the metro area)						
AMI	1 person	2 persons	3 persons	4 persons	5 persons	6 persons
30%	\$21,000	\$24,000	\$27,000	\$30,000	\$32,400	\$35,160
50%	\$35,000	\$40,000	\$45,000	\$50,000	\$54,000	\$58,000
60%	\$42,000	\$48,000	\$54,000	\$60,000	\$64,800	\$69,600
80%	\$54,650	\$62,800	\$70,650	\$78,500	\$84,800	\$91,100
90%	\$63,000	\$72,000	\$81,000	\$90,000	497,200	\$104,400
100%	\$70,000	\$80,000	\$90,000	\$100,000	\$108,000	\$116,000
120%	\$84,000	\$96,000	\$108,000	\$120,000	\$129,600	\$139,200

GAAP - Generally Accepted Accounting Principles is a collection of commonly followed accounting rules and standards for financial reporting. GAAP specifications include definitions of concepts, principles, and industry-specific rules. The purpose of GAAP is to ensure that financial reporting is transparent and consistent from one organization to another. For more information, visit the Financial Accounting Standards Board.