

## **2026-2028 United Tompkins Impact Fund Guidance Document**

### **Objective of the United Tompkins Impact Fund (UTIF)**

The United Tompkins Impact Fund is a key vehicle to fulfill UWTC's mission to address human needs and create conditions for well-being toward our vision for a community where all people thrive. We seek to partner with mission-driven organizations in the 2026-28 grant cycle for collective impact in our identified impact areas and priorities.

### **United Way Impact Areas and Priorities pertaining to UTIF:**

#### **Healthy Community: Improving Health & Well-being for All**

- *Food Security: access to food & nutrition*
- *Whole Health and Well-Being: access to healthcare, mental health support, and healthy activities*

#### **Youth Opportunity: Helping Children & Young People Reach Their Full Potential**

- *Child and Youth Success: access to childcare, early childhood education & development, after school & summer learning, family engagement, literacy development, readiness for life, career & college*

#### **Financial Security: Creating a Stronger Financial Future for All Generations**

- *Supporting Safe & Affordable Housing*
- *Workforce Development: paths towards sustainable income and livelihoods*

### **Guiding Criteria of the United Tompkins Impact Fund**

**UWTC's decision-making process reflects that not all organizations have resources with which to apply for funding. To support an equitable process, those organizations who are largely volunteer led, have a small staff (defined as less than five), and/or are seeking to receive less than \$5K per year may be provided with UWTC staff support in applying.**

**Regardless of organization size or resources available, prioritized funding will go to organizations which:**

- Will assist individuals who are living below the United Way established sustainable income threshold, also known as Asset-Limited, Income-Constrained, Employed (ALICE), in addition to those who are below the standard Federal Poverty guidelines.
- Demonstrate a willingness to work at a high level of cooperation and collaboration with UWTC, the network of UWTC impact partners and other community partners in addressing UWTC's impact and priority areas.
- Promote, as applies within their mission, the flourishing of marginalized communities. Who, within their stated mission and activities seek racial and social justice; work to dismantle systemic barriers for communities who have historically been marginalized and discriminated against and strengthens the livelihood of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities, and marginalized/minoritized populations.
- Have demonstrated high impact, fiscal responsibility, and strong overall management systems.
- Represent areas of service that have a higher need than there are resources (i.e. economically challenged rural communities, economically challenged urban communities), AND fall within the 26-28 UTIF priorities and goals.
- Provide holistic services to individuals and/or families who live and/or work in Tompkins County

### **Eligibility Criteria**

- Applicants must be a 501c3 tax exempt organization, or have a 501c3 tax exempt organization as their fiscal sponsor. Fiscally sponsored organizations must provide either a copy of their fiscal sponsor agreement or a letter from the fiscal sponsor organization stating they are acting as the sponsor of the applicant.
- Applicants must provide services to individuals and/or families who live and/or work in Tompkins County
- Applicants must serve not only individuals/families below the federal poverty guidelines, but also serve those living below the ALICE (Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed) threshold. For more information on ALICE thresholds in Tompkins County visit [unitedforalice.org](http://unitedforalice.org).
- Applicants must demonstrate a commitment to the flourishing of marginalized communities.

### **Outcome Statements for UTIF\* Organizational and/or Programs/Project Funding**

#### **UWTC is seeking to achieve collective impact in the following outcomes:**

**O1:** Individuals will receive services to access health & human services, work, and/or learning opportunities

**O2:** Children will receive reliable, culturally informed childcare services in a safe environment, to include full-time, part-time and/or before and after school care

**O3:** Youth will demonstrate readiness for employment, vocational training, or post-secondary education

**O4:** Youth will demonstrate they have built self-sufficiency and decision-making skills

**O5:** Parents, caretakers, and guardians will increase their ability to support children's wellness and development

**O6:** Individuals and households experiencing crisis will access emergency or short-term supportive housing

**O7:** Individuals and households will receive services that help them obtain and/or maintain safe, affordable housing

**O8:** Individuals with immediate physical and/or mental health needs will receive quality care in a timely manner

**O9:** Individuals will receive ongoing, consistent, quality physical and/or mental health care

**O10:** Individuals will receive access to providers and services that respect and affirm their identities

**O11:** Adults will demonstrate they have built self-sufficiency and decision-making skills

**O12:** Individuals experiencing marginalization will receive supports that strengthen self-determination and the ability to thrive

**O13:** Individuals will gain access to services and support that address systemic discrimination and/or inequities

**O14:** Individuals will receive nutritious meals – or the components for nutritious meals – to promote their well-being and decrease food insecurity

**O15:** Individuals will receive services to help them overcome employment barriers and move towards a sustainable income

#### **Funding Type Provided this Cycle**

This cycle, we will be providing operational funding to grantees. In your application, please tell us about all the work of your organization that falls under United Way Impact Areas and Priorities, as we are looking to fund organizations that serve community members holistically. We ask this cycle that organizations submit **ONE** application per organization.

#### **Applicant Support**

Rebekah Hinton, Director of Community Impact, is available to provide clarification and answer any questions regarding this document, the application, or any part of the 26-28 UTIF process. We highly encourage all applicants to schedule a brief meeting with Rebekah before beginning their applications. She can be reached at [rhinton@uwtc.org](mailto:rhinton@uwtc.org) or (607)272-6286 ext. 3.