



United Way of the  
Greater Dayton Area

## **Racial Equity Mini Grant Initiative**

### **Building Strong Communities**

#### **Outline**

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#### **I. Organizational Overview**

The mission of United Way of the Greater Dayton Area (UWGDA) is to lead a united community to uplift our neighbors. We focus on creating community-based and community-led solutions that strengthen and enhance the quality of life for individuals, families, and seniors. We work to achieve this by meeting needs within the areas of health, education, financial stability within Montgomery, Preble, and Greene counties.

United Way of the Greater Dayton Area partners with local community organizations to invest resources, convene solutions, and advocate on behalf of the long-term social needs of our communities' most vulnerable populations. While United Way began its work primarily as a fundraiser, today United Way's outward facing strategies work to engage the community in crucial conversations necessary to identify inequities that further deepen needs and gaps in local services. United Way of the Greater Dayton Area is connecting people and implementing creative solutions to improve lives.

UWGDA convenes and equips community volunteers to invest approximately 1.1 million dollars in investments each year to nonprofit organizations (NPO's) in Greene, Montgomery, and Preble Counties. While actively addressing the identified needs and gaps in service, coupled with community volunteers' commitment to the purpose of the investment, NPO's are able to better serve their communities, furthering the access to stability services for families and individuals. In fiscal year 2021, United Way will fund a minimum of three (3) Racial Equity Mini Grants, in addition to current investment.

## II. Initiative Summary

The purpose of United Way's Racial Equity Mini Grant (REMG) initiative is to promote community engagement and civic action around strengthening racial equity within our communities. The goal of the mini grant initiative is to encourage everyday citizens, grassroots organizations, or community groups to increase awareness and strengthen racial equity through innovative projects that directly impact the community.

The REMG initiative encourages community building by supporting community members to come together to address the issue of racial equity. Individuals may apply, however collaboration among other community members and groups are highly encouraged. This is an opportunity for everyday citizens to engage in projects that benefit not only their immediate community, but also the broader community.

The initiative's process will include financial and technical support to all funded individuals and groups working to strengthen the community through projects that address racial equity concerns or issues. United Way of the Greater Dayton Area will provide financial support to get projects off the ground.

## III. Grant Details

### Purpose

United Way of the Greater Dayton Area seeks proposals for projects that:

- Are small in scale, specific, innovative and achievable within a 6-month time period
- Demonstrate how project activities and results engage citizens in a project that will strengthen awareness around or address the need, concern, or issue that is racially inequitable

### Funding Specifics

- Projects *may be* funded up to \$2,500.00.
- Approved applications that do not have an EIN number are eligible, but must manage all project expenses with UWGDA Manager of Community Initiatives, ([asiaf@dayton-unitedway.org](mailto:asiaf@dayton-unitedway.org)) to establish a timeline for necessary purchases.
- One project per group per funding cycle can be funded
- There is no limit on the amount of project applications each entity may submit
- Funded projects/events must begin after the date of award decision and reach completion within 6 months

### UWGDA grant will not fund for the following purposes:

- Salaried positions
- Rent or utilities

- Food (for re-sale or nonessential to the project)
- T-shirts and other promotional items that you plan to sell for fundraising purposes
- Office equipment- computers, printers, laptops, etc.
- Paid advertising
- Insurance, Security, Police/Fire Detail
- Application/Registration/Membership Dues/Fees
- Scholarships, Pageants, Contests etc.
- Projects that are in and of themselves fundraising
- Capital Improvements
- Depreciation
- Opportunities to engage in skill-building workshops that provide information and skills on a variety of topics that will strengthen and build your group
- Networking opportunities via Zoom calls to connect, share ideas, information, experiences and resources that inspire new partners for collaborations to continue to work on racial equity
- Access to United Way's vast network of resources

#### **IV. Application Details**

##### **Threshold Eligibility Criteria**

- Project must benefit the Greater Dayton Area community (Montgomery, Greene or Preble counties)
- Organizational groups must have an operational budget of \$100,000 or less.
- Organizational groups must have an all-inclusive membership (i.e., does not exclude people on the basis of gender, race, political affiliation, religious differences, etc.)
- Project must not base participation on required religious doctrine.
- The project must be consistent with the purpose and goals of the Racial Equity Mini Grant Initiative

##### *Who Can Apply:*

- Individual citizens, groups, and grassroots organizations within Montgomery, Greene or Preble counties

##### *Who Cannot Apply:*

- Groups that are not all-inclusive
- Groups that have an operational budget of over \$100,000.00
- Individuals or groups that live outside of our service area (Montgomery, Greene and Preble counties)

##### **Application Evaluation Criteria**

An advisory board convened by United Way of the Greater Dayton Area will review applications. Applicants are evaluated in the following areas:

- *Needs Identification*
  - The applicant clearly defines a need and how they plan to address it
- *Program description*
  - The applicant will describe the implementation, purpose, and expected activities and the intended results of their project
- *Alignment with UWGDA Priorities*
  - The applicant will try to identify how their project will engage members of the community
  - The applicant will identify which county they intend to serve through their project
  - The applicant will explain why they are interested in creating a project to address issues of racial equity in their community
- *Collaboration*
  - The applicant will try to identify other organizations or citizens to that they will collaborate with achieve their project objectives
  - The applicant will identify the resources that each organization or individual provided to help fulfill the overall goals and objectives of their project
- *Timeline*
  - The applicant will create a timeline of tasks and completion dates to demonstrate effective project management
- *Budget*
  - The applicant will clearly describe how an investment from the United Way of the Greater Dayton will be spent during the course of the project.
  - The applicant will clearly state how funding will be spent to achieve the project's activities and results
- *Evaluation*
  - The applicant will complete an evaluation upon completion of their project or program

### **How to Apply**

Applications for the Racial Equity Mini Grant Initiative will be available at [www.Dayton-UnitedWay.org](http://www.Dayton-UnitedWay.org) on February 1, 2021.

For questions, contact Asia Fuqua,  
Manager of Community Initiatives, [asiaf@dayton-unitedway.org](mailto:asiaf@dayton-unitedway.org)