



United Way of the
Greater Dayton Area

Racial Equity Mini Grant Initiative Building Strong Communities

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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. UWGDA is a non-partisan organization. The Racial Equity Mini Grant Initiative encourages applicants of all ages, races and backgrounds to apply.

The 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 opportunity allows an everyday citizen, to engage the community in a project that will either strengthen awareness about the need for racial equity or provide access to an activity that embraces racial equity. The grants process includes financial and technical support to all funded mini grant projects.

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 strengthens awareness around racial equity or addresses a need, concern, or issue that is racially inequitable

Funding Specifics

- Projects *may be* funded up to \$2,500.00.
- Applicants who apply as a 501c3 must sign a memorandum of understanding and agree to scheduled check-ins regarding project updates.
- Applicants who apply as an individual must manage all project expenses with UWGDA Volunteer Connection manager, Nick Eddy, (nicke@dayton-unitedway.org) to establish a timeline for necessary purchases.
- One project per group/individual 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 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

Additional Grantee Benefits

- 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 and resources

IV. Application Details

Threshold Eligibility Criteria

- Projects 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

Eligible Entities:

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

Ineligible Entities:

- Groups that have an operational budget of over \$100,000.00
- Entities outside of Greene, Montgomery, and Preble County
- Entities whose mission, service, or practice does not align with UWGDA’s Non Discrimination Policy: **Standard 21:** *“The agency’s governing body stipulates factors such as race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, political affiliation, union activity, disability, national origin, or age will not be used for discrimination in the provision of services to clients, staff hiring, or volunteer recruitment.”*

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-UnnitedWay.org in May 2022.

For questions, contact Asia Fuqua,
Manager of Community Initiatives, asiaf@dayton-unitedway.org