

# 2027-28 CULTIVATING ECONOMIC STABILITY

KALAMAZOO BLUEPRINT  
FOR PEACE GROUP 4

GRANT INVITATION AND GUIDE



**UNITED WAY**

South Central Michigan

# PROGRAM OVERVIEW

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As a collaborative partner with other area organizations working to implement the provisions of the Kalamazoo Blueprint for Peace, United Way of South Central Michigan seeks proposals from non-profit agencies in Kalamazoo County whose programming fosters the economic stability of persons identified as ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) through provision of critical areas of basic need. Specifically, programming and support related to housing access, childcare and transportation.



## VISION

Strong, caring communities where every person is valued, thriving, and connected for the common good.

## OUR VALUES

### EQUITY

Applying principles of diversity, inclusivity, justice, antiracism, empathy and trust to every facet of our work and our culture, with a firm commitment to historically underrepresented and marginalized people.

### COMMUNITY

Solving the toughest social issues that affect local individuals and families, changing lives and strengthening our region in the process.

### INTEGRITY

Pursuing our work with transparency, accountability and dignity, constantly learning and adapting to the changing needs of our communities.

## MISSION

We bring together the people, ideas and resources to lead with our communities and create a flourishing, equitable life for everyone.

### COLLABORATION

Working hand-in-hand with communities and partners to honor their voices, build trust, increase impact, and grow diversity in ideas and representation throughout our shared efforts.

### COMPASSION

Caring passionately for the people we serve, the colleagues we work alongside, and the communities we strive to improve.

### RESULTS

Driving impact through innovation, creativity and leadership that brings new ideas, new resources, and equitable, lasting solutions.

# OUTCOME INDICATORS

Each funded project must align with the Kalamazoo Blueprint for Peace, Goal 4: **Cultivate Economic Stability**.

## EXPECTED OUTCOME INDICATORS include:



# of housing units created, stabilized or rehabilitated;

OR



# of households provided housing support, including rental assistance, mortgage/downpayment assistance, prevention of foreclosure or eviction, or necessary household repairs to maintain residence;

OR



# of free or low-cost childcare slots created (increase over previous year);

OR



% increase of employee retention in childcare organization;

OR



# of individuals trained or certified for CDA/ECE or other childcare;

OR



# of households provided with reliable transportation;

OR



# of new or strengthened community partnerships with other basic needs providers or relevant stakeholders.



## ELIGIBILITY

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Not for profit entities which serve the people of Kalamazoo County are encouraged to apply. Including those types of organizations listed below:

- A legally registered 501(c) (3) Public Charity, including faith-based non-profits
- Organizations which have an active 501(c) (3) Public Charity serving as a fiscal sponsor
- Agencies whose programming aligns with action step 4.2 outlined in the [Kalamazoo Blueprint for Peace](#)

In addition, organizations must serve one or more of the following populations disproportionately below the ALICE threshold:

- BIPOC households
- Single-headed households with children
- Households headed by individuals 25 and younger or 65 and older
- Persons with disabilities
- Or those which serve areas where 40% of the total population meet ALICE criteria.

Because of the specific eligibility requirements for this grant opportunity, **we strongly encourage interested organizations/collaboratives to consult with UWSCMI staff prior to submitting an application.** To discuss eligibility and project fit before submitting an application, please schedule a consultation with Rod Tucker at [r.tucker@uwscmi.org](mailto:r.tucker@uwscmi.org).



## ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

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The factors listed below will also be given special consideration as award determinations are made:

- Programs which focus on Shared Prosperity Kalamazoo core neighborhoods including: Eastside, Northside and Edison
- Programs that demonstrate collaboration between 2 or more entities (including, but not limited to non-profit organization, faith-based organizations, municipalities, public institutions, private businesses, neighborhood organizations, civic groups and other stakeholders)
- Programs that include an evaluation strategy and plan for financial stability beyond the expiration of the grant funding, or that will complete outcome goals within the grant term.



## AWARD PROVISIONS

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The amount available for grantmaking is limited to \$500,000. The minimum grant amount is \$50,000. Direct administrative and evaluation costs can be included in requests. Disbursements of awarded funds will be made in a single payment within 7-10 business days of the January 1, 2027 start date. **THIS FUNDING SOURCE IS NOT RENEWABLE.**

Organizations receiving awards will be asked to participate in check-in conversations during June of 2027 and 2028. Additionally, all organizations receiving grant funds will be required to submit a final report including shared data measurement outlined in Blueprint for Peace by January 15, 2029. United Way of South Central Michigan staff members will work with funded partners throughout the grant term to support success in meeting grant requirements.



## REVIEW CRITERIA AND EVALUATION

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The 2027-2028 Blueprint for Peace grant process involves review by staff and community members impacted by the target strategies. First, a team of volunteers and staff will review all proposals that we receive by the deadline. They will employ a rubric to evaluate the quality of each application and then carefully and thoroughly discuss which services and combination of programs would provide the most support to our community in alignment with Blueprint for Peace Group 4: Cultivating Economic Stability impact areas. Award designations will be announced on Tuesday, December 1, 2026. UWSCMI staff may approach you with clarifying questions during this evaluation process.

# APPLICATION STEPS AND GRANT TIMELINE



| STAGE & DATES                                                                   | ACTIVITY                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>APPLICATION DEVELOPMENT</b><br>October 1 October 30 at Noon                  |  Set up an e-CImpact account if new to the system <b>or</b> login to your existing e-CImpact account and request a 2027-28 Economic Stability Grant Application.<br><br><b>Application Available on e-CImpact: Thursday, October 1, 2026</b><br><br>For technical assistance, please contact Heather at <a href="mailto:h.rittenhouse@uwscmi.org">h.rittenhouse@uwscmi.org</a> .<br><br>For questions regarding program alignment and grant eligibility, please contact Rod at <a href="mailto:r.tucker@uwscmi.org">r.tucker@uwscmi.org</a> .<br><br><b>Application Submission Deadline: Friday October 30, 2026 at Noon</b> |
| <b>UWSCMI REVIEW</b><br>November 2 – 25, 2026                                   | UWSCMI Staff and Community Partners Review Application.<br><br>Questions (if any) will be sent to applicants via e-CImpact. Responses will be accepted via e-CImpact, by e-mail, or virtual meeting upon request.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>NOTIFICATION &amp; NEXT STEPS</b><br>December 1, 2026 –<br>December 16, 2026 | <b>Notification of whether funding is awarded will occur by Tuesday, December 1, 2026.</b><br><br>Those funded will receive a grant agreement and, if partially funded, be given the opportunity to make adjustments to their budget or planned outputs in e-CImpact.<br><br><b>Grant Agreement Submission Deadline: Wednesday, December 16, 2026 at Noon.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>GRANT PERIOD</b><br>January 1, 2027 –<br>December 31, 2028                   | Full payment of the grant award will be paid in the first 7-10 business days of the grant period.<br><br>UWSCMI staff are available to support grantees and will reach out via your preferred contact method in June of 2027 and 2028.<br><br>A final report must be submitted at the end of the grant cycle. These reports must be submitted by January 15, 2029. Grantees will receive reminders and support to complete required reports.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |