

United Way of the Mid-South

Catalyst Fund Guidelines

PURPOSE

The United Way Catalyst Fund supports collaborative community efforts which:

- strategically align investments and efforts;
- implement successful and/or promising collaborative that focus on education, financial stability, and/or health;
- focus on long-term solutions on important community issues.

FUNDING LEVEL

- Grants will range from \$20,000-\$100,000.
- Grants are for one year and considered one-time funding.
- Successful initiatives may reapply for continued funding for one additional year, however, second year funding is not guaranteed.

ELIGIBILITY

- Proposals will be accepted from partnerships within the United Way of the Mid-South service area including Fayette, Lauderdale, Tipton, Shelby Counties, TN; Crittenden County, AR; DeSoto, Tate, Tunica Counties, MS.

GUIDELINES

Proposals should demonstrate that the collaborative partnership has or will be developing:

- a shared vision for change;
- a shared measurement systems where data is collected and results measured consistently across all participating organizations;
- a coordinated plan to achieve impact through collaborative plan of action.

Successful applications will demonstrate:

- alignment with UWMS' mission;
- focus on a significant problem or opportunity in the region;
- significant potential to positively impact the community through partnership;
- capacity and leadership necessary to complete the proposed activity; and
- a plan for sustainability, where applicable.

Priority will be given to proposals that are focused on strategies to reduce poverty in the Mid-South.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Potential Applicants should submit a Letter of Interest by September 15 to:

Diana Bedwell, Vice President of Community Impact

Diana.Bedwell@uwmidsouth.org

Selected candidates will be invited to submit a full application, due January 15.

Letters of Interest should be no more than 2 pages and include the following:

- Purpose of collaborative effort
- Brief overview of the plan of action which United Way is being asked to support
- Specific use of United Way funds
- Anticipated outcomes
- Collaborative members
- Nonprofit entity that will take fiscal responsibility for United Way funding
- Contact information for primary point person