



UNITED WAY
Hernando

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT GRANT 2026-2027 FY ELIGIBILITY

Spring Hill, FL - March 25, 2026 - United Way of Hernando County's (UWHC) 2026-2027 Community Investment Grant (CIG) Eligibility Process is now open until **April 27, 2026**. Interested applicants must be a Hernando based health & human service Program, serve Hernando County residents, and align with United Way's Focus Areas through **HEALTHY COMMUNITY, EDUCATION, and FINANCIAL STABILITY**. This CIG process is a **1-year grant cycle**, with Program investments ranging from **\$5,000-\$10,000** each, for the **July 2026 - June 2027** fiscal year. Applicants must complete the **Eligibility Process** online by logging in through United Way of Hernando County's e-CImpact grant portal and following the provided instructions. www.UnitedWayHernando.org/CIG-Eligibility

- **Agencies new to the Hernando e-CImpact portal** must first create an account and register their organization in order to proceed to the CIG Eligibility Checklist and Program submission.
- **Agencies with an existing account** must log in through Hernando's e-CImpact and select **"Request Eligibility Process"** under Funding Opportunities in the far left column of the Home page, where the CIG Eligibility Checklist and Program submission is to be completed. Agencies will have the option to select from a list of their Program(s) previously applied for in the system or add a new Program.

The following criteria must be met prior to Program funding being considered:

The applying Program must serve Hernando County, Florida residents.	The Program requesting funding must be operational for at least one year prior to the CIG submission date.	Programs will need to provide measurable outcomes, indicators, and have the ability to report quarterly, highlighting true community impact.	Considered Program applications will need to fall under one or more of United Way's identified Initiatives and Focus Areas (see breakdown).
The organization's Program must have a balanced budget, approved by their Board of Directors annually, and demonstrate financial accountability.	The organization must have an all-volunteer Board of Directors (i.e. President/ED is a non-voting member)	The organization must be listed as a local resource on 211 Hernando: UnitedWayHernando.org/211	The organization's administrative/fundraising rate cannot exceed 25% in order to meet CIG Eligibility.
The organization must be in compliance with local, state and federal anti-discrimination laws.	The organization must be able to explain expanded Program or proposal of expansion, if applicable.	The organization is to be an active Partner with United Way and is to abide by the terms in the UWHC Affiliation Agreement.	The organization must comply with all applicable provisions of the USA PATRIOT Act.

Duplication of applying Hernando County Programs will be taken into consideration by the CIG Committee.

If the organization and Program meet all criteria and successfully submit the **2026-2027 CIG Eligibility** by the **deadline of 5:00 PM on Monday, April 27, 2026**, qualified applicants will be directly contacted after Eligibility Deadline. Only Eligible Programs will be invited to apply for the **2026-2027 CIG** and gain access to the **official application** through Hernando's e-CImpact.

True community impact cannot be accomplished alone. United Way strives each year to assure Community Investment Funds support critical Programs and services in Hernando County. CIG investments are contingent upon actual donations received. The amount invested in each Focus Area is based on community needs, identified solutions, and strategic planning. We thank Hernando for the continued support, and Partner Programs for their local accomplishments.



ELIGIBILITY

Hernando County
Applying Programs visit:
www.UnitedWayHernando.org/CIG-Eligibility



4028 Commercial Way
Spring Hill, FL 34606



Have questions?
Call & leave a
detailed message
352-688-2026
Finance@UnitedWayHernando.org



UnitedWayHernando.org
Facebook.com/UWHC4030
Instagram.com/unitedwayhernando

FOCUS AREAS



UNITED WAY
Hernando

2026-2027 Community Investment Grant (CIG)
Initiatives and Focus Areas



HEALTHY COMMUNITY

**Bridging the Distance
Between People and Care**

- Mental Health & Crisis Prevention
- Adaptive Support Services
- Nutrition & Food Security



EDUCATION

**Improving Access to
Educational
Opportunities for All**

- Early Childhood Development & School Readiness
- Mentor Support & Out of School Enrichment
- Youth Development & Adult Education



FINANCIAL STABILITY

**Creating a Strong
Foundation for
Sustainable Self-
Sufficiency**

- Job Training & Career Pathways
- Financial Education & Coaching
- Homeless Prevention & Sustainable Housing



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**2026-2027 Community Investment Grant
Initiatives and Focus Areas**

HEALTHY COMMUNITY

**Bridging the Distance
Between People and Care**

MENTAL HEALTH & CRISIS PREVENTION



- Given the many obstacles to accessible care, resilient communities are the ones who prioritize mental health and emotional well-being. United Way works hard to break stigma, preventing crisis and helping individuals regain independence by collaborating to expand access to comprehensive resources, support services, and life saving education.

ADAPTIVE SUPPORT SERVICES



- Preventable health risks can become life threatening for families when access to quality care is not obtainable. By investing in community-led solutions, United Way helps build strong, healthy foundations of support services for people living with disabilities (physical, intellectual, developmental).

NUTRITION & FOOD SECURITY



- When families struggle to put food on the table, it affects every aspect of their lives. United Way addresses the root causes of food insecurity to help make nutrition accessible and a reality for all. United Way works to eliminate barriers to ensure access to groceries, because no one should have to choose between healthy meals and monthly bills.



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**HEALTHY
COMMUNITY**

Bridging the Distance
Between People and Care

OUTCOMES & INDICATORS

The following pre-identified outcomes and indicators are provided to guide alignment with United Way of Hernando County's Focus Areas and to support consistent, measurable reporting across funded Programs. Applicants will be required to select a minimum of two (2) outcomes and two (2) corresponding indicators within their chosen Focus Area as part of the official CIG application process. Selected measures will be incorporated into quarterly reporting requirements for all funded Partner Programs.

- **MENTAL HEALTH & CRISIS PREVENTION**
- **ADAPTIVE SUPPORT SERVICES**
- **NUTRITION & FOOD SECURITY**



OUTCOMES

- Individuals experiencing crisis are stabilized and provided appropriate support services reducing further risk of harm
- There will be a reduced reliance on emergency systems (i.e., hospitalizations and 911) for participating individuals during mental/behavioral health crises due to alternative support services and care
- Participants will be able to demonstrate improved independent living skills by incorporating knowledge obtained through Program
- Individuals and families will be better equipped to confidently care for one's self and/or their loved ones
- Participants will successfully attend accessible support groups/counseling/training/therapy despite their economic or social status to meet specific client needs
- Vulnerable populations will gain confidence, with reduced social isolation
- Access to food will be more achievable for struggling households due to increasingly flexible distribution solutions
- Individuals experiencing food insecurity will receive prevention services

INDICATORS

- # of individuals receiving crisis intervention / prevention services
- % of individuals successfully connected to ongoing care and wraparound resources
- # or % of individuals in crisis who achieved improved condition stabilization
- % of individuals in crisis who are successfully de-escalated without hospitalization or law enforcement involvement
- % of participants who engage in follow-up care within 30 days of initial intervention
- % reduction in repeat crisis episodes per participant over a defined period
- % of participants reporting increased coping skills and resilience (survey-based or tool-based)
- % of participants maintaining or improving ability to live independently
- # or % of participants reporting reduced isolation or increased social connection
- # and % of participants avoiding hospitalization, ER visits, or long-term care placement
- # of accessible services successfully offered and implemented (transportation, in-home care, virtual options, respite)
- % of participants demonstrating improved nutrition behaviors (fruit/vegetable intake, balanced meals, etc.)
- % of participants reporting reduced frequency of emergency food assistance utilization over time
- # of new individuals accessing food resources for the first time
- # and % of returning individuals receiving support services more than once
- # of hot meal and/or fresh produce distributions
- # of bags of food distributed
- # of individuals who secure at least one night of emergency shelter accommodations



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**2026-2027 Community Investment Grant
Initiatives and Focus Areas**

EDUCATION

**Improving Access to Educational
Opportunities for All**



EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT & SCHOOL READINESS



- The first years of life shape a child's future. Strengthening early cognitive, social, and developmental foundations is critical so children can enter school prepared to succeed. In partnership, United Way connects families, schools, and organizations with tools needed to nurture every child's curiosity, needs, and strengths.

MENTOR SUPPORT & OUT OF SCHOOL ENRICHMENT



- Learning doesn't stop outside the classroom. Through enriching out-of-school programs, United Way supports mentorship and invests in year-round education opportunities to keep our youth engaged, inspired, and on track for success.

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT & ADULT EDUCATION



- Investments today ensure a vibrant tomorrow. Equipping individuals with leadership skills and confidence, helps foster resilience and positive life outcomes. United Way supports increasing access to GED completion, continuing education, English language learning, and foundational academic skill development.



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EDUCATION

Improving Access to
Educational Opportunities
for All

OUTCOMES & INDICATORS

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- **EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT & SCHOOL READINESS**
- **MENTOR SUPPORT & OUT OF SCHOOL ENRICHMENT**
- **YOUTH DEVELOPMENT & ADULT EDUCATION**



OUTCOMES

- Children enter kindergarten meeting or exceeding school readiness benchmarks and show sustained engagement in early learning environments
- Qualified families will be able to access childcare services at an affordable cost
- Preschool children will meet or exceed school readiness benchmarks in preparation for kindergarten
- Qualified mentors will actively support youth in need of guidance by spending quality time together, focusing on school initiatives or home dynamics
- Youth will be able to distinguish when to avoid risky behaviors, resulting in better decision making
- Children and youth will show an improvement in their academic performance, resulting in greater self-esteem and sense of accomplishment
- Parents and/or caregivers demonstrate increased capacity to support early learning at home
- Early identification of developmental delays will lead to timely intervention and support
- Participants achieve milestones toward high school completion, GED attainment, or postsecondary enrollment
- Participants will be able to demonstrate improved skills by incorporating knowledge obtained through Program
- Children demonstrate age-appropriate developmental progress across cognitive, language, social-emotional, and physical domains

INDICATORS

- # or % of children demonstrating measurable gains on developmental assessments
- % of children meeting kindergarten readiness benchmarks (literacy, numeracy, social-emotional)
- % of parents/caregivers reporting increased confidence and engagement in early learning activities at home
- # of children screened for developmental delays and successfully referred to early intervention services
- % of youth with improved grades, test scores, or academic benchmarks
- % of youth demonstrating improved school attendance and reduced absenteeism
- % reduction in behavioral incidents or disciplinary actions (school-reported or program-tracked)
- # and % of youth participating in enrichment activities (STEM, arts, career exposure, etc.) or reporting increased confidence, goal-setting, and future orientation
- % of youth showing improvement in social-emotional competencies (e.g., self-management, decision-making)
- % of participants with measurable gains in literacy levels (standardized assessment or program-based tools)
- # and % of participants earning a high school diploma, GED, or industry-recognized credential
- % of participants enrolling in postsecondary education, training programs, or employment
- % of participants demonstrating job readiness skills (resume completion, interview skills, digital literacy, etc.)
- % of participants retained in education or training programs over a defined period
- % of children demonstrating improved social-emotional skills (self-regulation, peer interaction, etc.)



UNITED WAY
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2026-2027 Community Investment Grant
Initiatives and Focus Areas

FINANCIAL STABILITY

Creating a Strong Foundation for
Sustainable Self-Sufficiency



JOB TRAINING & CAREER PATHWAYS



- A steady job can change everything. United Way partners with employers and educators to open doors to in-demand careers. Ongoing education development helps workers stay relevant in a changing world. United Way supports skill-building programs, training, and apprenticeships designed for learners to gain credentials and experience needed to succeed in their careers and reach their full potential.

FINANCIAL EDUCATION & COACHING



- A strong financial future requires more than a steady paycheck. United Way equips people with tools and guidance today, so they can strengthen practical knowledge and plan for tomorrow. Through coaching opportunities, United Way prepares people to navigate modern systems necessary for independence, while defining and reaching their goals.

HOMELESS PREVENTION & SUSTAINABLE HOUSING



- A safe home and a solid plan is the foundation of a stable life. United Way partners with organizations and local leadership to address the ever-growing demand for solutions to gaps in services and eligible assistance to some of life's most basic needs. By United Way investing in emergency assistance and accountable prevention services, we are contributing to long-term financial security.



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FINANCIAL STABILITY

Creating a Strong Foundation for Sustainable Self-Sufficiency

OUTCOMES & INDICATORS

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- **JOB TRAINING & CAREER PATHWAYS**
- **FINANCIAL EDUCATION & COACHING**
- **HOMELESS PREVENTION & SUSTAINABLE HOUSING**



OUTCOMES

- Participants will achieve industry-recognized credentials or certifications that improve employability or advancement opportunities
- Individuals will demonstrate increased job readiness skills and consistent workforce participation
- Individuals obtain employment aligned with sustainable wage levels and career advancement opportunities
- Individuals will demonstrate improved financial knowledge and decision-making skills
- Participants will establish and maintain a household budget, including financial planning and asset building behaviors
- Participating individuals will reduce debt and incorporate personal savings tips to help manage unexpected expenses
- Participating households at risk of homelessness will maintain stable housing and avoid eviction or displacement
- Participating households will demonstrate increased financial capacity to sustain housing independently over time
- Participating individuals will experience reduced housing instability risk factors (including income shocks, rent burden, utility debts, etc.)
- Participating households will establish a sustainability plan and protective factors that help prevent future housing crises

INDICATORS

- % of participants completing job training or workforce development programs
- # and % of participants earning industry-recognized credentials or certifications
- % of participants obtaining employment within 6 months of program completion
- % of participants retaining employment for at least 90 days
- % of participants experiencing increased wages or movement into higher-paying employment
- % of participants reporting increased job readiness skills (resume preparation, interviewing, workplace skills, digital literacy) and % of participants entering career pathway training, apprenticeships, or continued education
- % of participants demonstrating increased financial literacy knowledge (pre/post financial education assessment)
- % of participants creating and maintaining a household budget, and goal of personal savings/emergency funds
- % of participants achieving individualized financial goals identified during coaching
- % of households increasing earned income or accessing benefits (employment, SNAP, SSI, etc.)
- % of participants reporting increased confidence in managing personal finances
- % of households improving credit scores or resolving rental history barriers
- % of households avoiding eviction, displacement, or successfully diverted from emergency shelter entry after receiving prevention assistance
- % of individuals remaining stably housed at 3 months post-intervention
- % of households maintaining lease compliance (on-time rent, no lease violations)
- % of participating households with high-risk indicators (rent burden >50%, arrears, prior eviction history) at intake
- % of households with a documented housing stability plan (budget, income plan, support network)