

ACE Grants - Application Guidelines and FAQs

Contact us with any questions or concerns not covered by this document by emailing communityinvestments@uwsuncoast.org

Who is eligible to apply for an ACE grant?

To ensure a focus on supporting grassroots innovation, ACE grants are currently available to nonprofit organizations with an annual revenue of \$2.1 million or less. Your organization must be active or intend to be active with ALICE families in United Way Suncoast priority areas within DeSoto, Hillsborough, Manatee, Pinellas, and Sarasota (see list of areas below).

Are there any other requirements?

An applicant must be a 501c3 organization with the ability to receive funding through electronic deposit. However, we have removed other requirements to ensure broad access to this opportunity, specifically:

- No minimum number of years of operation
- No minimum number of staff or volunteers
- No audited or compiled financial statements

Applications and reporting will be online, so internet access will be needed. Guest internet connections may be available at a UWS location, if needed. Please contact us for assistance.

UWS will review publicly available financial information for each applicant. If none can be found, or further questions arise, UWS will contact the applicant directly for that information. If you require the ability to submit your application in a language other than English, please reach out to our team to explore options.

I currently receive funding from United Way Suncoast. Can I still apply for an ACE grant?

Yes - funding through other UWS investment streams does not disqualify you from applying for an ACE grant. However, current ACE grant recipients are not eligible to re-apply during the term of their ACE grant. You will be able to apply for another ACE grant after the term of your current grant ends.

What questions will I be asked during the application and final report? What additional documentation will I need to provide?

Our goal is to make applying for and managing an ACE grant as simple as possible. [Please click here](#) to access a full list of questions to be asked.

What is the term of the grant?

Full grant agreement terms can be [found here](#). ACE grants will be paid in full at the time of the award. A report that shares the impact of the ACE grant is due within 18 months of the award date. When that report has been accepted by our team, the term of the grant will end.

What types of requests can I make to be supported by an ACE grant?

All our investments, including ACE grants, are made to further the ability of ALICE families to thrive. ACE grants are an investment in your organization as a whole, not in a specific program. For that reason, any reasonable request for financial support that will allow your organization to create access, build capacity and ensure equity for your team and/or your community will be considered.

Some examples may include:

- Leadership or skills-based courses and certifications
- Professional development or wellness opportunities for staff members
- Software or software licenses, particularly for data management and outcome tracking
- Consulting services or stipends for services related to strategic planning, communications, fundraising, etc.
- Interpretation or translation services
- Marketing materials, program supplies or other capital expenses not otherwise covered by other funding
- Personnel salary adjustments*

Other requests may be considered if they align with the goals of the ACE grant initiative.

**Given the limited nature of ACE grants, salary requests should include plans for how to sustain any adjustments beyond the term of the grant or clear justification for why that will not be required.*

When can I apply?

Eligible organizations can apply for an ACE grant at any time during the year; award decisions will be made three times a year in October, February, and June. The application will go live for the first time in June 2024, with the first awards announced in October 2024. UWS anticipates awarding between 5-10 awards in each of the three award windows, dependent on requests received and availability of funds.

The table below gives guidance for when an application will be considered. Applications received after a cut-off date will be considered for the next round:

Submission Cut Off	September 1	January 1	May 1
Awards Announced	October 31	February 28	June 30

How much can I apply for?

Maximum awards will be \$20,000. Because the reasonableness of the request will be factor in UWS decision making, organizations should ask for the amount needed rather than default to the maximum amount. No award greater than \$20,000 will be made to any one organization at any one time; however, previous ACE grants award do not count against future requests.

ACE grants can be combined with funding from other sources if required to meet the needs of the applicant. If that is your situation, please make note of that in your application.

Our current priority areas listed by county. Your services should be available to individuals who reside in these areas:

Hillsborough County	
Municipalities/Communities	ZIP Codes
1. Within City of Tampa a. University Area b. Seminole Heights c. Sulphur Springs d. East Tampa e. West Tampa f. Ybor	1. Within City of Tampa a. 33612; 33613 b. 33603; 33604 c. 33604 d. 33610 e. 33614; 33607 f. 33605
2. Brandon and Adjacent a. Brandon b. Palm River c. Gibsonton d. Riverview	2. Brandon and Adjacent a. 33510; 33511 b. 33619 c. 33534 d. 33578; 33579
3. Other Hillsborough County a. Temple Terrace b. Thonotosassa c. Plant City d. Wimauma	3. Other Hillsborough County a. 33617 b. 33592 c. 33563; 33565 d. 33598

Pinellas County	
Municipalities/Communities	ZIP Codes
1. Lealman, Kenneth City, and Pinellas Park	1. 33713; 33714; 33709; 33781
2. Campbell Park and South St. Petersburg	2. 33711; 33712; 33705, 33701
3. Largo	3. 33770; 33771; 33773; 33764
4. N Greenwood and Clearwater	4. 33755; 33756; 33763; 33765
5. Tarpon Springs	5. 34689

A note for Manatee, Sarasota and DeSoto Counties: Rather than using neighborhoods or municipalities to identify priority areas, we use school attendance zones – the geographies in which families are assigned to the neighborhood school.

Your organization does not have to officially partner with these schools, nor do your clients have to attend them. Your services should simply be available to those individuals who reside in these areas. We have provided corresponding ZIP codes to make this a easier to determine.

Manatee County School Attendance Zones		Proxy ZIP Codes
Ballard Elementary School	Tillman Elementary School	34203; 34205 34207; 34208 34211; 34221
Blackburn Elementary School	Samoset Elementary School	
Daughtrey Elementary School	Rogers Garden Elementary School	
Manatee Elementary School	Palmetto Elementary School	
Oneco Elementary School	Palm View Elementary School	
<i>Given the high needs of Myakka City, programs serving 34251 may also apply</i>		

Sarasota County	
Schools of Focus	Wilkinson, Alta Vista, Tuttle, Gocio, and Booker Elementary Schools
Priority ZIP Codes	34231; 34232; 34234; 34235; 34236; 34237; 34239; 34243 (Sarasota)
DeSoto County	
Schools of Focus	West, Nocatee and Memorial Elementary Schools
Priority ZIP Codes	34266