

# CARBON COUNTY



UNITED WAY OF THE GREATER LEHIGH VALLEY

## INVITATION FOR APPLICATIONS 2021-2023

*For nonprofit organizations serving Carbon County*



January 14, 2021

Dear United Way and community partners serving Carbon County:

We thank you for your dedicated and tireless efforts to support the Carbon County community during an exceptionally trying time. We at United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley are proud to be a part of this community and know that Carbon County agencies will continue to rise to meet the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic.

We are pleased to release to you the application for Carbon County nonprofit organizations to apply for grants for a two-year (2021-2023) funding cycle. The strategic framework for this application has been created in partnership with community volunteers and UWGLV staff who care deeply about the Carbon County community. We are proud to present a plan with the following focused outcomes:

- **Increase kindergarten readiness and access to high-quality early childhood education, including childcare.**
- **Increase access to school-age programming and supports.**
- **Increase access to healthy food, essential items and housing for persons in Carbon County.**
- **Increase supports and access for persons with disabilities in Carbon County.**
- **Support healthy aging and an age-friendly community in Carbon County.**
- **Increase access to mental health services and substance abuse supports, including trauma-informed approaches for children and adults.**

United Way fights for the health and education of all residents. By engaging the community and corporate partners, through working together more strategically and effectively, we will level the playing field and provide opportunity for all.

Sincerely,



David S. Lewis  
President



Jill Pereira  
Vice President, Education and Impact

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA and NOTES

- Organization provides health and human services programming to Carbon County residents in at least one of the following areas: education, income and health.
- Organization must hold 501(c)(3) status for at least three years.
- Organization must be able to submit annual audit information (or if not available, financial statement), organizational by-laws, and Board of Directors roster upon request, if funded.
- Organization can apply for amounts between \$1,000 and \$10,000. This grant cycle is two years, so the funding you apply for is the per-year amount for two years. The average grant is estimated at **\$3,000** per grant award, per year.
- Requests for funding for capital costs will not be granted.

## SUBMITTING AN APPLICATION

Application must be submitted to United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley via e-CImpact, our online application portal, no later than 5 p.m. on February 18, 2021. Questions about e-CImpact can be directed to Laura Savenelli, Assistant Director, Impact Operations at [lauras@unitedwayglv.org](mailto:lauras@unitedwayglv.org). All other questions may be directed to Erin Connelly, Sr. Director of Impact at [erinco@unitedwayglv.org](mailto:erinco@unitedwayglv.org).

## APPLICATION REVIEW PROCESS

All applications meeting eligibility criteria, required program components and submission by the deadline are entitled to an evaluation. A team of community volunteers and United Way impact staff will evaluate each proposed investment and its ability to address an identified community need within the context of the strategy. The United Way Carbon County Investment Committee will make recommendations to the United Way Board of Directors, who will determine all final investment decisions.

## AWARD NOTIFICATION

- Applicants are notified of final funding decisions in June 2021 and may be notified as early as April 2021 of grant award status.
- Beginning on July 1, 2021, awarded grantees will enter into a two-year agreement for funding.
- Each grant through the 2021-2023 investment cycle is contingent on performance, demonstrated results and availability of funds.

# 2021-2023 APPLICATION FOCUS: A HEALTHY, RESILIENT CARBON COUNTY

## INVESTMENT OUTCOMES and STRATEGIES for 2021-2023

### EARLY LEARNING AND SCHOOL-AGED EDUCATION SUPPORTS

- I. **Outcome: Increase kindergarten readiness and access to high-quality early childhood education, including childcare.**
- II. **Outcome: Increase access to school-age programming and supports.**

*Why it matters:* According to the U.S. Department of Education, disparities in developmental outcomes emerge in infancy and widen in toddlerhood. A child from a low-income household is typically already 12-14 months below national norms in language and pre-reading skills by the time they enter kindergarten. We know that there is a shortage of early childhood learning centers in Carbon County, with more than 700 children eligible for Pre-K that currently do not have access (2019 State of the Child and Family). In addition, school-age children need access to afterschool programs that provide academic intervention, healthy activities and enrichment opportunities throughout the school year, boosting their grades and reducing their risk-taking behaviors.

**Examples of programs:** After-school and summer learning programs, kindergarten readiness supports, early childhood education programs.

### ACCESS TO BASIC NEEDS SERVICES (FOOD/HOUSING)

- III. **Outcome: Increase access to healthy food, essential items and housing for persons in Carbon County**

*Why it matters:* According to the United Way's ALICE data, 44% of Carbon County households are living paycheck-to-paycheck, with 32% of households employed but still having trouble making ends meet. In 2017, for a family of four with two small children, the minimum household income needed for a survival budget was \$66,120, but the median income for the region was \$49,647. In Carbon County, an estimated 7,000 people, or 11% of the population, are food insecure. Of the individuals who are food insecure, 32% of them are children (Feeding America). In addition, 49% of rental households are housing cost burdened. The lack of affordable housing, housing cost burden, overcrowding and substandard housing can lead to homelessness.

**Examples of programs:** Shelters, food pantries, programs that provide housing or food resources for individuals and families.

### SUPPORTS FOR OLDER ADULTS AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

- IV. **Outcome: Increase supports and access for persons with disabilities in Carbon County.**
- V. **Outcome: Support healthy aging and an age-friendly community in Carbon County.**

*Why it matters:* More than 10,000 people with disabilities live in Carbon County (per U.S. Census data) and are our friends, family and neighbors. Everyone deserves the right to live in a community free from barriers, and people with disabilities face many concerns, including lack of employment, access to education, limited mental health services, physical health issues and independent living opportunities.

According to the 2019 State of the Child and Family Report, compared to statewide averages, Carbon County has more than average people aged 45 and older. We strive for an age-friendly community, where all residents and visitors are treated with respect, regardless of age, income or physical ability. Age-friendly communities keep individuals socially connected and engaged in community life and they enhance opportunities to be healthy and active.

**Examples of programs:** Programs that connect persons with disabilities to resources in the community. Programs that support older adults with activities of daily living, provide basic needs services or help connect older adults to resources or the community.

## MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS

VI. **Outcome: Increase access to mental health services and substance abuse supports, including trauma-informed approaches for children and adults.**

*Why it matters:* Exposure to chronic environmental stressors (poverty, community violence, familial disruption and instability) and the effects of traumatic incidents can alter a child's brain development, hindering their ability to learn and their development of self-regulation and other important social skills. Such stressors are known to affect children as well as adults and entire families, resulting in a strong need for wraparound health services. Carbon County also has limited resources for mental health services. According to the 2019 State of the Child and Family, the ration of mental health professionals to individuals was one for every 2,190 residents, magnitudes higher than the state average. Additionally, the 2019 State of the Child and Family, 33% of 911 calls were for overdoses, suicides, or mental health issues.

**Examples of programs:** Programs incorporating social-emotional learning, access to mental health supports, programs supporting trauma-informed approaches, substance abuse supports.

# United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley

*Application: 2021-2023 for nonprofit organizations serving Carbon County*

## **APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS and TIMELINE**

[Organizations can access the application link here.](#)

If applying for multiple program applications, please fill out a separate application for each.

If you are new to e-Cimpact you can find instructions on how to set up your account [here](#).

January 14, 2021	Application opens
February 18, 2021	Final day to submit applications
June 2021	Applicants notified of funding decisions
July 1, 2021	2021-2023 funding begins