



UNITED WAY OF CENTRAL MARYLAND

2025 – 2026 Food Resiliency Grant
Request for Proposals

Submission Deadline:

Thursday, September 12, 2024, 4:00 p.m. EDT

INTRODUCTION

United Way of Central Maryland (United Way)'s Food Resiliency Grant is an opportunity for community-based organizations with total annual operating budgets of **\$500,000 or less** in their current Fiscal Year to receive **up to \$10,000 per year for 2 years** in funding to carry out community-centered projects that are aimed at building food resiliency in the six jurisdictions of Central Maryland: Anne Arundel County, Baltimore County, Carroll County, Harford County, Howard County, and Baltimore City. This initiative recognizes a critical need to build the resiliency of food production sites and increase access to healthy and affordable food in underserved areas.

A total of six community partners will be selected, one for each of the 6 jurisdictions in Central Maryland that United Way serves. The two-year grant period will be **January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2026**, with grant disbursement occurring in January 2025, year 1 and January 2026, year 2. Funding in year 2 is contingent upon satisfactory year 1 progress. Applications must be submitted through our online grant application portal, CommunityForce. The application portal as well as all application materials can be accessed through our [Grants and Funding Opportunities page](#).

Application Deadline

The deadline for application submission is **Thursday, September 12, 2024, 4:00 p.m. EDT**.

Application Support

Food Resiliency Grant Information Session: Tuesday, August 27, 2024 @ 10:00 a.m. EDT via Zoom. Agencies wishing to apply are strongly encouraged to attend this session.

Registration for the session can be accessed through our [Grants and Funding Opportunities page](#).

GENERAL APPLICATION INFORMATION

Central Maryland faces significant challenges related to food access, equity, and sustainability. Many communities experience limited access to fresh, healthy, and culturally appropriate food, contributing to health disparities and food insecurity. Additionally, our current food system is vulnerable to disruptions, such as natural disasters, economic shocks, and climate change. This is the first year of United Way's Food Resiliency Grant opportunity – which focuses on amplifying the power of communities to meet the critical nutritional needs of residents so that they may live healthier and happier lives.

United Way promotes equity, creates opportunity, and improves lives. Our 99 years of service to the people of Central Maryland have taught us what it takes to change our region for the better. We are proud to be a source of support, compassion, and hope for people who work

hard but still cannot make ends meet. We strengthen families and communities by taking on systemic challenges and increasing access to basic needs—health, housing, employment, education, and more.

United Way’s grantmaking supports programs and initiatives in Baltimore City and Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, and Howard counties. We have come to believe that the true path to real, lasting, and systemic change in our communities is one that is community-led, informed by their in-depth knowledge of existing assets and needs, and inspired by their desire for a healthier, happier community.

ELIGIBILITY

United Way will accept applications from organizations with **501(c)(3) or other nonprofit IRS designations**, with a total annual operating budget of **\$500,000 or less** in their current fiscal year. United Way will also accept applications from organizations that do not have nonprofit status but are utilizing a Fiscal Agent/Sponsor that does.

Additionally:

- Organizations that currently receive other funding from United Way are also eligible to apply.

All organizations seeking funding must:

- Provide evidence that they hold a current “Good Standing Certificate of Status” with the State of Maryland Department of Assessments & Taxation.
- Provide Determination Letter from the IRS.
- Provide a copy (within the last two fiscal years) of one of the following financial documents, based on your annual gross income from charitable contributions from that year. Organizations using a fiscal agent/sponsor must provide this required financial document for their fiscal agent/sponsor.

Annual Gross Income from Charitable Contributions	Financial Document Required
\$500,000 or more (only for Fiscal Agent/Sponsor)	Financial Audit (Performed by independent auditor)
Between \$300,000 and \$500,000	Financial Review (Performed by independent auditor)
\$300,000 or less	Internal Financial Statement (Such as a Form990, Profit/Loss Statement or Organizational Budget)

SUBMISSION

Organizations may submit a maximum of **one application**. Multiple applications submitted by an agency will not be reviewed.

The deadline for application submission is **Thursday, September 12, 2024, 4:00 p.m. EDT**.

Only complete applications will be considered for funding.

INELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

United Way will not provide funding to organizations that discriminate with regard to race, color, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity / expression, age, ancestry, marital status, or disability. In addition, applications requesting support for the following will not be considered:

- Religious activities (religious organizations may apply for funding for non-sectarian activities)
- Lobbying activities
- Individuals applying on their own behalf.
- Compensation (salary and/or stipend) to individuals under the age of 14. Please note that organizations compensating individuals 14-17 years old must do so within Maryland State Labor Department guidelines.

TIMELINE

The 2025 - 2026 Food Resiliency Grant timeline is outlined in the chart below.

Grant Application Open	Wednesday, August 14, 2024
Grant Information Session	Tuesday, August 27, 2024 @ 10:00 a.m. EDT
Grant Application Submission Deadline	Thursday, September 12, 2024, 4:00 p.m. EDT
Grant Decisions Announced	Early November 2024
Grant Period	January 1, 2025 - December 31, 2026

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Submit any technical questions and technical assistance requests specific to the Application Portal via e-mail to grantquestions@uwcm.org, with the subject line: **RFP Technical Assistance**. We will make every attempt to answer these questions up to the submission deadline.

PROJECT CATEGORIES

Projects should primarily fit into one of the two categories listed below. With these two broad project categories, United Way hopes to allow flexibility for organizations to tackle projects that can have an impact in their specific community. We have included a few examples for each category, but other projects are welcome.

We ask applicants to identify a primary project category, however, projects may address both categories.

- 1. Building Resiliency of Food Production Sites:** Address the causes and systemic challenges within the food supply system that prevent it from being resilient, equitable, and sustainable by directing your work towards the source of food. This approach focuses on improving the foundational elements of food production, processing, and distribution.

Examples: sustainable agriculture projects, local food procurement, food hubs and aggregation, value-added processing, food system mapping and local data collection, building capacity of organizational leadership and infrastructure

- 2. Increasing Food Access in Underserved Areas:** Implement strategies and initiatives that ensure all individuals and communities, regardless of their socioeconomic status or neighborhood, have the opportunity to obtain food options at a price they can afford.

Examples: community gardens, mobile markets, grocery co-ops, healthy corner store initiatives, SNAP/EBT incentives, nutrition education and cooking classes, food recovery and redistribution

APPLICATION SELECTION CRITERIA

All eligible applications will be reviewed. Applications will be evaluated on how well they align with at least one of the two Project Categories listed above and the degree to which they effectively address the **criteria** listed below.

1. **Engage communities:** Empower residents to participate in shaping their local food systems through education, outreach, and advocacy efforts.
2. **Advance upstream solutions to food insecurity:** Focus on prevention of root causes rather than symptoms through long-term innovative solutions that prevent food insecurity from occurring in the first place by tackling the underlying factors that contribute to it.
3. **Show promise of positive impact** in the following areas:
 - **Promote sustainable practices:** Encourage environmentally responsible food production, distribution, and consumption practices that conserve resources, reduce waste, and mitigate the impacts of the project's footprint.
 - **Expand the availability and affordability of nutritious food** through initiatives that reduce barriers to acquiring healthy and culturally relevant food.

In addition to meeting the criteria established above, **successful applications will:**

- ✓ Be complete, following all application instructions.
- ✓ Demonstrate that the applicant will conduct a project aligned with at least one of the two established categories.

Additional Selection Priorities

While not required, priority will be given to applicant organizations that are led by Black, Indigenous, or People of Color (BIPOC), or people from marginalized communities / hard to reach populations.

For Baltimore City Applicants: Priority will be given to proposals that target communities and/or populations residing in or near Healthy Food Priority Areas (HFPAs) as defined by the Baltimore City Department of Planning Healthy Food Environment Strategy.

2025 – 2026 FOOD RESILIENCY GRANT APPLICATION

Section 1: Organization Information

Legal Name of Organization, Address, Phone Number
Organization EIN (9-digit)
Social Media Information (website, Facebook, Twitter, etc.)
Executive Director/CEO Name, Title, Contact Info
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the organization's Executive Director/CEO identify as a Woman or Gender-nonconforming? (Yes/No/Prefer not to answer)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the organization's Executive Director/CEO identify as Black, Indigenous or a Person of Color? (Yes/No/Prefer not to answer)
Organization's Total Annual Operating Budget in its Current Fiscal Year
Start and End Date of Current Fiscal Year
Organization's Mission and Vision Statement

Fiscal Agent/Sponsor Information

Is your organization utilizing a Fiscal Agent/Sponsor for this application? Yes/No
If yes, provide the information below for your Fiscal Agent/Sponsor.

Legal Fiscal Agent/Sponsor Name
Address
Organization EIN (9-digit)
Contact Person Name, Title, Contact Info
Executive Director/CEO Name, Title, Contact Info

Required Organizational Documents

Applicants are required to provide, via upload, the documents outlined below. Please note: for applicants using a Fiscal Agent, the Fiscal Agent should provide these documents. For details on specific document requirements, please see Eligibility section on page 3 of this RFP.

- Financial Document (within the last 2 Fiscal Years).
- Current Good Standing Certificate of Status (within your current Fiscal Year)
- Determination Letter from the IRS
- Roster of your organization's Board of Directors

Section 2: Project Description and Narrative

Project Title
Project Address
Central Maryland jurisdiction in which project will take place
Area(s)/Community(ies) impacted by project
The primary Project Category you will focus on (select one): 1) Building Resiliency of Food Production Sites, 2) Increasing Food Access in Underserved Areas

Application Narrative

1. Purpose of Grant Request (70 words max)

Please summarize, in one paragraph, the purpose of your grant request.

2. Tell us about your organization and its connection to the community you propose to serve. (300 words max)

Please share the following:

- Your organization's history and mission.
- Your work, including examples of resident-driven food resiliency initiatives/projects that have had a positive impact within your community.
- Information about your staff members and Board of Directors, including the relevant skills/experiences they bring to your work and the extent to which they reflect the community you serve.

3. Tell us about your community. (300 words max)

Please help us learn about the community you are proposing to serve by sharing the following:

- Who makes up your community?
- What makes it unique (people, landscape, history, other)?
- What are the challenges/obstacles facing your community, particularly in the area of food access/food security?
- What are its strengths and where are there opportunities to build on those strengths with a Food Resiliency Grant?
- For Baltimore City: Is your community in a Healthy Food Priority Area (HFPA)?

4. Tell us about your project. (400 words max)

Please describe the project that you propose to implement and how it aligns with the primary Project Category you are focusing on.

Please be sure to clearly explain how your project:

- *Employs upstream methodology* - focused on prevention of root causes rather than symptoms, through long-term innovative solutions.
- *Is community-focused* - building on existing strengths/assets, while addressing food security / resiliency needs within the community.

Please also include the primary goal(s) of the project, and a brief timeline covering the grant period of January 1, 2025, and December 31, 2026, including any important stages or implementation dates.

5. Tell us how your project will engage residents/community members (300 words max)

Please describe how you will engage community members in the planning and implementation of the project. Identify if/how you will support/empower them as leaders and/or change agents. Include how many community members you expect to engage at various levels.

6. Tell us how your project will benefit your community. (300 words max)

Please describe how you expect the community will benefit from the project and how you will measure success. Indicate how you will solicit feedback from the project's beneficiaries. Include a projected number of residents that will benefit over the two-year grant period.

Marketing

How did you hear about this grant opportunity?

Section 3: Project Budget

Please provide amounts for each line item below if you are requesting funds within that category. Add brief descriptions when indicated.

Salaries and Benefits
Stipends (please see restrictions outlined under <i>Ineligible Activities</i> on page 4)
Program Supplies
Major Property / Equipment Purchase (e.g., computer)
Equipment Lease/ Rental
Equipment Maintenance/Repair
Contracts/Consultants
Professional Membership Fees
Travel
Conference/Training
Printing
Postage/Shipping
Miscellaneous
Administration (not to exceed 10% of the grant request)
Total Funding Request
Does this funding request allow for the full implementation of your Food Resiliency Project? (Yes/No)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If not, what is the total cost of your project?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What additional sources of funding do you have in hand and/or are you pursuing to enable you to fully execute your project?