

## **GREATER TWIN CITIES UNITED WAY ANNOUNCES \$14 MILLION IN GRANT AWARDS TO LOCAL NONPROFITS**

**Grants to support a vision of a region where everyone thrives,  
regardless of income, race or place of residence**

**MINNEAPOLIS (APRIL 15, 2019)** — [Greater Twin Cities United Way](#) (United Way) announced today that it is awarding \$14 million in grants – made possible by thousands of generous donors – to advance its mission of building pathways toward prosperity and equity for all. Operating grants, available July 1, 2019, will fund holistic solutions and innovative ideas from 95 local nonprofit organizations to disrupt inequity in the areas of educational success, household stability and economic opportunity for people experiencing poverty in the Twin Cities region.

“The difference in how people fare in our region depending on one’s income, race or zip code is well documented,” said [Acooa Ellis](#), senior vice president of Community Impact at Greater Twin Cities United Way. “These disparities are not inevitable. United Way’s approach to equity includes a focused, intentional effort to move our region beyond what we’ve always done. We’re looking forward to building on what we’ve learned through our more than 100-year history of service and expertise, working in close partnership with nonprofit leaders who have a deep understanding of community needs and a strong track record of success.”

The new grants focus on:

- ending homelessness and hunger,
- ensuring children meet critical developmental milestones which prepare them for kindergarten and to direct their futures, and
- helping adults earn family-sustaining wages and increase their wealth.

Grants to the 95 organizations will be renewed annually for two additional years (three years total) based on the availability of unrestricted funds and each organization’s performance against key goals.

In addition to the \$14 million in grants in 2019, United Way will invest in the community through programs such as [Career Academies](#) and [Full Lives](#); United Way’s [2-1-1 resource hotline](#); [Volunteer United](#); donor-directed gifts; and policy [coalitions](#).

### **Community Collaboration**

United Way invited the community to participate in the grant-making process through its [Community Advisors Council](#). The Council, comprised of 23 subject matter experts, donors and nonprofit leaders with relevant expertise and personal experience, scored proposals and conducted site visits.

“United Way is intentionally inclusive, partnering with community leaders to help make these funding decisions,” said Pamela Russell, a member of United Way’s Community Advisors Council and independent development consultant in the Twin Cities area. “I was honored to recommend so many fine organizations to be a part of United Way’s portfolio of resources to help stabilize and empower the lives of families here in the Twin Cities.”

United Way announced its new community-building strategy and request for proposals (RFP) in October 2018, informed by feedback from over 100 listening sessions with donors, nonprofit leaders and independent subject matter experts.

**Note to Media:** *Nonprofit community leaders, members of the Community Advisors Council and Greater Twin Cities United Way leadership are available for interviews, upon request.*

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**About Greater Twin Cities United Way:** One in four people in the Twin Cities region are experiencing poverty. Greater Twin Cities United Way supports long-term wellbeing by working to provide equitable access for all to a strong education, stable housing, healthy food and good jobs. We do this by bringing together the public, private and nonprofit sectors to solve the community's most pressing needs. Through public policy work, volunteer engagement, coalition building, United Way's 2-1-1 hotline, nonprofit leadership support and grant making, we take a holistic, long-term approach to help people meet their potential. That's because when more of us reach our potential, our whole community benefits. For more information, visit [www.gtcuw.org](http://www.gtcuw.org), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#).