



United Way Sault Ste. Marie & Algoma District

Funding Application Guide



United Way
Sault Ste. Marie &
Algoma District

www.uwssmalgoma.ca



About United Way Sault Ste. Marie & Algoma District

For decades, United Way Sault Ste. Marie & Algoma District has played a pivotal role in addressing the social needs of our region. We remain dedicated to understanding the evolving challenges faced by our communities and delivering responsive, impactful solutions. By allocating funding strategically, we ensure programs achieve meaningful, measurable outcomes that directly address the region's most pressing needs. Together, we create sustainable change and build a stronger future for all residents.

Mission: To improve lives and mobilize collective action.

Vision: Everyone in Sault Ste. Marie & Algoma District has the opportunity to reach their full potential.

Our Approach to Community Impact

Our community has faced significant challenges, revealing deep-rooted needs and inequalities. At the same time, more people and organizations have stepped forward, eager to make a positive impact. Our approach to funding and organizational support centers on removing barriers, fostering connections and strengthening the community. We remain adaptable to address evolving needs and are committed to solving local issues with local solutions. By empowering those who understand these challenges firsthand, we foster collaborative efforts, embrace shared responsibility and work together to tackle both immediate and long-term community challenges.

Together, we can build a stronger, more resilient community by ensuring that essential services and supports are accessible to those who need them most.



About United Way Funding Opportunities

At United Way Sault Ste. Marie & Algoma District, we are committed to creating lasting positive change within our community. Following a strategic assessment of our community investment approach, we have refined our funding model to better meet the evolving needs of our region. This updated approach aims to increase accessibility to funding, address systemic inequities and provide greater flexibility for organizations seeking financial support.

Our goal is to ensure that funding opportunities are aligned with the most pressing needs of our community, offering targeted support in areas where it can make the greatest impact. We recognize that the challenges faced by individuals and families are dynamic, requiring innovative and adaptable solutions from the organizations we partner with. As a result, we have introduced a more versatile investment model that opens the door to a wider range of proposals, ensuring that funding is available to organizations that are driving meaningful, measurable change.

We focus our investments on three key areas:

Helping Kids Be All That Kids Can Be

From Poverty to Possibility

Building Strong Communities

We encourage organizations applying for funding to carefully evaluate which of these focus areas their initiatives align with. It's important to consider how your project will contribute to the specific goals of the selected focus area and to clearly outline the anticipated outcomes and the measures that will be used to track progress.

United Way believes in supporting collaborative, community-driven solutions. We seek partners who share our vision for creating sustainable, scalable impacts and who are committed to making a tangible difference in the lives of local residents. Whether your program is focused on improving the lives of children, fostering healthier communities, or helping individuals break the cycle of poverty, our funding is designed to empower you to achieve these goals.

Helping Kids Be All That Kids Can Be

Our Commitment

At United Way, we believe every child deserves the chance to thrive regardless of their circumstances. By supporting youth and creating safe spaces for them to grow, learn, and connect, we help them overcome challenges like poverty and mental health struggles enabling them to reach their full potential and build brighter futures.

Our Impact

When we invest in children, we invest in the future of our community, ensuring they have the tools and opportunities to succeed. Together, we break down barriers and create lasting change, empowering the next generation to lead with confidence.

Example Outcomes

- Children and youth develop a strong sense of self-worth and confidence, empowering them to succeed as their unique selves.
- Children and youth are equipped with the skills and emotional resilience needed to cope with and overcome life's challenges.
- Children and youth have increased access to enriching activities, programs and support systems that promote their overall well-being.



Building Strong Communities

Our Commitment

We are dedicated to building strong, inclusive communities where everyone feels a sense of belonging. We understand that isolation, mental health challenges and access to essential supports are ongoing needs. By fostering community connections, we ensure that individuals and families have the resources they need to thrive.

Our Impact

Through our efforts, we strengthen the bonds within our community, providing vital support systems that enhance well-being. By addressing social isolation and mental health, we create an environment where everyone can participate fully and contribute to a healthier, more resilient community.

Example Outcomes

- Individuals and families are connected to a network of services and supports, helping them navigate and access essential resources.
- Individuals and families experience improved mental health, gaining the tools and resilience needed to cope with life's challenges.
- Community members feel a greater sense of belonging and inclusion, reducing social isolation and building a stronger, more cohesive community.



United Way
Sault Ste. Marie &
Algoma District



Moving People From Poverty to Possibility



Our Commitment

We are focused on breaking the cycle of poverty by improving access to basic needs, financial stability and opportunities for personal growth. Recognizing that poverty is complex and tied to challenges like unemployment, housing instability and food insecurity, we provide targeted support to help individuals and families move toward financial independence and long-term well-being.

Our Impact

We aim to empower people by addressing the root causes of poverty, ensuring access to resources that foster financial stability and personal growth. By removing barriers, we create pathways for individuals and families to thrive and build stronger futures.

Example Outcomes

- Individuals and families experience reduced food insecurity with access to nutritious food and essential services that promote overall well-being.
- People gain the skills and resources needed to navigate public services and financial systems, empowering them to make informed decisions for better economic resilience.
- Low-income individuals and families benefit from programs that support skill-building and career development, enhancing their opportunities for financial growth and long-term independence.



TIMELINES

October 1, 2025

Applications Open. Link provided on website (www.uwssmalgoma.ca)

November 7, 2025

Applications are closed.
• *Late submissions will not be accepted*

November 2025-
January 2026

Application reviews, funding recommendations & decisions will be completed by our Community Investment Committee and Board of Directors

February 2026

Applicants will be notified of funding decision

April 1st, 2026

Funding begins



ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To be eligible to receive United Way funding, community service organizations should meet the following criteria:

- Be incorporated and registered as a charity.
- Deliver a funded program or initiative that does not unnecessarily duplicate existing services in the community.
- Have a volunteer Board of Directors.
- Release audited financial statements annually.
- Have been in operation for at least two years.
- Align with United Way Sault Ste. Marie & Algoma District's focus areas, goals and strategic directions.
- Demonstrate how the program or initiative will contribute to achieving the specified goals and connected strategic directions.
- Clearly outline how they will achieve positive outcomes for the people they serve.
- Articulate the methods they will use to evaluate and measure these outcomes.
- Collaborate with other local organizations in innovative ways to leverage services and better meet community needs.
- Provide a realistic budget that demonstrates the need for funding from United Way Sault Ste. Marie & Algoma District.
- Enter into a formal “Funded Partner Agreement” with United Way Sault Ste. Marie & Algoma District.



INELIGIBLE ORGANIZATIONS

The following organizations are ineligible for funding:

- For-Profit Entities: Organizations primarily aimed at profit generation.
- Unions and Professional Associations: Groups representing labor or professional interests.
- Individuals: Funding is not available for personal applications.
- Foundations: Funding only for direct charitable programs, not annual disbursements to other donees.
- Political Organizations: Entities focused solely on political activities.
- Discriminatory Organizations: Groups operating in a manner deemed discriminatory under the Ontario Human Rights Code.
- Religious Organizations: Those whose activities involve direct religious worship unless they also provide community services clearly stated in their bylaws.
- Duplicate Service Providers: Organizations providing unnecessary duplicate services in the community.
- Organizations Lacking Transparency: Groups without clear governance structures or financial accountability.

If you have any further questions about these or want to discuss how they might impact your application/organization, please contact Lori Huston, Executive Director at lhuston@uwssmalgoma.ca or by calling (705)256-7476 x 201.



ELIGIBLE EXPENSES

Eligible Program Expenses:

Eligible expenses include reasonable expenses that are directly related to the program, to further the project's purpose and activities, including:

Program Costs: Expenses directly related to the implementation of funded programs or initiatives, such as:

- Staff salaries and benefits for those working directly on the program.
- Supplies and materials necessary for program delivery.
- Contracted services for specialized expertise (e.g., facilitators or trainers).

Operational Costs: Limited operational expenses that are directly associated with the program, including:

- Rent and utilities for space used by the program.
- Equipment necessary for program delivery (if not considered capital expenses).
- Communication and outreach costs to promote the program.
- Evaluation and Reporting: Expenses associated with assessing the program's effectiveness and outcomes, such as:
 - Tools and resources for collecting data and evaluating impact.
 - Reporting costs for submitting evaluation findings to United Way.

Training and Development: Costs related to training staff and volunteers involved in program delivery, including:

- Workshops, seminars, or courses that enhance skills relevant to the funded program.

Community Engagement: Expenses for initiatives that build community partnerships or involve community members in the program, including:

- Events or activities that engage the community in program activities



INELIGIBLE EXPENSES

Ineligible Program Expenses

Ineligible expenses include but may not be limited to the following:

- Fundraising events or conferences.
- Films or videos that do not support or are not essential to the program
- Programs/services operating outside Sault Ste. Marie & Algoma District
- Programs/services not aligned to our impact area.
- Program/services that could be deemed discriminatory, as defined by the Ontario Human Rights Code.
- Deficit or emergency funding, or contingencies.
- The principle portion of mortgage payments or depreciation of buildings and equipment.
- Capital campaigns or large capital expenditures exceeding \$3,000 (Note: small capital expenditures of essential program equipment are eligible).
- Religious activities.
- Partisan political activities as defined by Canada Revenue Agency.
- General operating funds for the purpose of organizational stability.
- Interest expenses.
- Legal penalties.



APPLICATION EVALUATION

All applications from eligible organizations will be reviewed and all applicants will receive notification of the outcome of the application. Unfortunately, not all organizations or applications can be funded and some may not be funded at the level requested.

All applications are reviewed and evaluated by our Community Investment Committee. This dedicated volunteer committee consists of community members who bring a wealth of firsthand experience, a deep understanding of local needs, and valuable insights into both prevalent issues and the non-profit sector. Their diverse backgrounds and expertise ensure a thorough and thoughtful assessment of each application. Following their evaluation, recommendations are presented to and approved by our Board of Directors

In general, funding applications will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- Alignment of the proposed program outcomes with the outcomes of United Way's impact areas.
- Demonstrated need for the program/services in our local community
- Activities, timelines and budget reflect a sound program design and is within the capacity of the organization to implement and oversee
- Intended impact on our community - both from an outcome perspective and that the community will be (or has been) meaningfully involved in the program design and delivery.
- An equity lens has been applied and where applicable, there is evidence the organization has experience working with the population it intends to serve
- Diversity of income sources (we encourage a variety of income sources to assist with your financial sustainability).



REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

All organizations who are successful in receiving funding will be required to complete reporting at both the middle and end of the funding term. Reports will include qualitative and quantitative questions, including a budget submission outlining how the funds were used.

- *Failure to submit reports may impact the release of funding for the subsequent year or future funding applications.*

How to apply:

The link to the funding application can be found on United Way Sault Ste. Marie & Algoma District's website. Submit with all supporting documents.

<https://www.uwssmalgoma.ca/apply-for-funding>

Questions?

If you have questions or need support in completing this application, please contact:

Lori Huston
Executive Director
United Way Sault Ste. Marie & Algoma District
lhuston@uwssmalgoma.ca
(705-256-7476 x 201)



United Way
Sault Ste. Marie &
Algoma District

T. (705) 256-7476 F. (705) 759-5899
301 - 258 Queen St. E. Sault Ste. Marie, ON
www.uwssmalgoma.ca