



2023 Initiative Request for Proposal

The Missouri Slope Areawide (MSA) United Way is driven by its mission to unite people and resources to build a better community. For decades, it has supported programs and services that work to advance the common good. As our community grows however, the issues we face continue to increase. To meet these pressing needs, MSA United Way encourages enhanced collaboration and supports the building blocks of life – education, income, and health. With a collective approach to problem-solving, we can maximize limited resources and track our progress together.

Proposals for Initiative funding must include *at least one* of the outcomes below in the logic model of the program's proposal. *At least one* of the indicators listed below the selected outcome(s) must also be used. Proposals are not required to address specific populations. However, the recent needs assessment commissioned by MSA United Way (available at www.msaunderway.org) identifies certain populations struggling with economic self-sufficiency. These include, but are not limited to: low-income families with children living in poverty, especially Native American families, and single parents, especially mothers.

Education Initiative

Recent local data indicates that 40% of low-income students attending high-poverty schools do not read at their proficiency level by the 4th grade. Research shows that they are 3-4 times more likely to drop out of High School than their peers. United Way wants to ensure that children are prepared for school, receive the support they need to stay on track and graduate from high school on time. Agencies providing services that ensure all children and families have the resources and support they need to be successful are encouraged to apply.

Additionally, a special initiative, identified by United Way's education taskforce, will coordinate supportive services to address concerns of low-income students and families at two local elementary schools. Interested agencies are encouraged to identify collaborative and targeted approaches to address the needs of the student's family, improve attendance and reading scores, and provide positive role models and skill-building to achieve greater academic success.

Outcome: Children enter school developmentally on track in terms of literacy and social, emotional and intellectual skills

Indicator: Number of children enrolled in early childhood education

Indicator: Percentage of 3-5 year olds with 3 or 4 school readiness skills

Indicator: Number of children scoring as 'school ready' on assessments

Outcome: 4th grade students are proficient readers

Indicator: Percentage of students (K-3) who show improved academic achievement (i.e., grades, standardized testing scores, etc.)

Indicator: Number of students showing adequate progress based on reading benchmarks

Indicator: Percentage of third grade students reading at grade-level by the end of school year

Outcome: Students demonstrate greater academic success

Indicator: # of children enrolled in year-round organized out-of-school time programming

Indicator: # of children who spent time with a positive role model who demonstrated improved behavior

Indicator: % of students who advance to the next grade on time

Indicator: # and % of students who achieve 90% or greater attendance

Indicator: % of students who show improved academic achievement (i.e., grades, standardized testing scores, etc.)

Outcome: Young people make a successful transition from middle school to high school.

Indicator: # of middle school students enrolled in year-round organized out-of-school time programming

Indicator: # of middle school students who spent time with a positive role model who demonstrated improved behavior

Indicator: # and % of middle school students who achieve 90% or greater attendance

Indicator: # and % of students who advance to the next grade on time

Indicator: # and % of middle school students who make a successful transition to high school on time.

Outcome: Young people graduate from high school.

Indicator: # and % of students who achieve 90% or greater attendance

Indicator: # and % of students who advance to the next grade on time

Indicator: # and % of high school students who graduate on time

Income Initiative

Recent community-level data, as well as donor and partner input, indicates that economic self-sufficiency is a critical issue in our area. We seek to invest in proposals that help address the root causes of financial instability. Research shows that the one of the cornerstones of financial stability is family-sustaining employment. Individuals and families must have a steady source of income that covers the basics before they can make long-term financial decisions.

Outcome: Participants reduce barriers to employment.

Indicator: # and % of participants who engage in career readiness activities

Indicator: # and % of participants who improve their career readiness skills

Indicator: # and % of participants who receive _____ to support their participation in obtaining employment

Indicator: # and % of participants who receive _____ to support their participation in retaining employment

Outcome: Participants obtain and/or retain employment.

Indicator: # and % of unemployed or underemployed participants who find and start jobs

Indicator: # and % of participants who remain employed for at least 6 months after starting work

Outcome: Participants obtain and/or retain family-sustaining employment.

Indicator: # and % of unemployed or underemployed participants who find and start a job making a living wage

Indicator: # and % of unemployed or underemployed participants who find and start jobs and spend less than 30% of their income on housing

Indicator: Indicator: # and % of participants who find and start jobs making a living wage or spending less than 30% of their income on housing that remain employed for at least six months after starting work

Health Initiative

Healthy eating and physical activity are essential to good health. United Way works to remove barriers to eating healthy and staying active, to create healthier individuals and thriving communities.

Together, we can combat the obesity rate in North Dakota. By reducing preventive illnesses, we can cut everyone's healthcare costs. That's what it means to advance the common good in a way that builds opportunity for all.

Outcome: Youth and adults lead active and healthy lifestyles.

Indicator: # and % of children who are no longer obese or overweight

Indicator: # and % of adults who are no longer obese or overweight

Indicator: # and % of youth who engage in regular physical activity

Indicator: # and % of adults who engage in regular physical activity

Outcome: Children and adults are no longer food insecure or hungry.

Indicator: # and % of youth or adults who have accessible and affordable options for a nutritious diet

Indicator: # and % of seniors who have accessible and affordable options for a nutritious diet

Outcome: Children and adults are inspired to give back to their community through volunteerism

Indicator: Increased # or % of volunteers who engage in regular volunteer activities

Indicator: # and % of volunteers who are likely to volunteer again

Indicator: Dollar value of service saved by nonprofit sector

Indicator: # of people positively impacted by volunteer efforts

Indicator: # and % of volunteers reporting increased mood, health, or character-building skills

Outcome: Aging adults have the resources and supports to live independent, vital and healthy lives.

Indicator: # and % of seniors who have accessible and affordable options for a nutritious diet

Indicator: # and % of seniors who have increased access to socialization opportunities

Indicator: # and % of seniors who remain in their own homes for at least 1 year after receiving program services