United for Children
Request for
Summer LEAP Program Proposals

United for Children, an initiative of United Way of South Hampton Roads, was created to break the cycle of generational poverty. Our collective impact work began in 2012 as a series of neighborhood programs in the St. Paul’s area of Norfolk. Neighborhoods such as Young Terrace, Tidewater Gardens, and Calvert Square are communities within the St. Paul’s area that have concentrated public housing where more than 50% of residents are children.

We are committed to our three core values: truth, trust, and no turf.

By establishing cross-sector partnerships with nonprofits, faith-based partners, city governments, school districts, and other community stakeholders, United for Children has worked to turn the curve on big issues such as early childhood development, literacy, graduation, and family self-sufficiency.

Summer LEAP (Learning and Enrichment for Academic Progress) in Norfolk, now in its seventh year, is designed as a multi-site program that combines dedicated learning activities with focused enrichments to decrease summer learning loss and spark positive youth development. Enrichments often include recreational activities such as swimming and dance, STEAM-based activities such as hands-on art and science projects, and activities designed to increase social and emotional learning for LEAP students. LEAP is also a place for wraparound services such as health and behavioral services.

Partners applying for funding or program approval will fill one of the following roles:

1.) **LEAP Community Schools and Site Hosts** assume duty of care over enrolled students while providing a safe building environment, meals, and a setting for enrichment partners to conduct activities. Community site hosts will also secure transportation, when necessary, for program participants traveling to and from the host site.

2.) **LEAP Enrichment Partners** deliver academic, recreational, or other quality out-of-school time content to LEAP Students at community sites and under the supervision of site hosts.
Background for Investing in Summer LEAP

Out-of-School Time (OST) programming that is accessible to income-constrained families is grounded in research.¹ OST programming is critical in the summer months where students often fall behind academically. For children from low income households, this problem is exacerbated: on average, students lose more than two months of reading achievement each summer. The cumulative effect of summer learning loss contributes to an achievement gap where some students will be three years behind their peers by fifth grade².

United Way recognizes that a key aspect of closing the achievement gap for income-constrained families is improving literacy skills. Students who are competent readers are more likely to perform well in other subjects, such as math and science. Reading by third grade predicts the likelihood of graduating from high school and finding career success.

Summers are also a critical period for youth who may lack access to healthy food, a safe place to spend their days, and enriching activities. We all need a sense of belonging and purpose, the ability to set and pursue goals, resilience and perseverance to overcome obstacles, and teamwork skills to succeed in school and life. Focusing on social-emotional learning with children, adolescents, and young adults can contribute to achieving more equitable health and education outcomes.

Youth exposed to chronic stress and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) – defined as experiences or life events that are potentially traumatic – are more susceptible to challenges with social and emotional development. Examples of results linked to social-emotional skill development in children include reduced bullying, reduced truancy rates, reduced school and neighborhood violence, and improved mental health. Further, social-emotional learning interventions often carry forward with impact later in life such as reduced incidence of substance abuse, domestic violence, and suicide.

Initiative Investments Strategy

This opportunity aims to support the success of school-aged youth by improving access to quality OST activities for youth enrolled in United for Children’s 2019 Summer LEAP program.

¹ The Value of Out-of-School Time Programs
² https://gradelevelreading.net/our-work/summer-learning-loss
Eligibility

✓ Applicants must serve as a community-site host or as an enrichment partner.

✓ Applications must not duplicate a Youth Success RFP application (this applies to United Way certified agencies only).

Grantee Expectations

*United for Children Summer Learning Grantee Engagement*

Grantees agree to work together to share best practices, facilitate learning, and continue to build cross-sector partnership for the benefit of the children and families we serve.

*Student Needs Funds*

United for Children has established Student Needs Funds to knock down barriers to education related to the social determinants of health. When children present with emergency needs around food, clothing and shoes, glasses, medicine, and hygiene, Student Needs Funds are used to help keep them in the classroom and ready to learn. These funds are typically distributed by gift cards. Grantees will be expected to work with United for Children to utilize these funds to address wrap-around student needs. When child and family needs are greater than what can be accomplished through a Student Needs Fund card, please let us know the details so that we may connect to a specialist.

*Performance Accountability*

United Way uses the Results-based Accountability (RBA) approach to measure the contributions of our work across all investments.

RBA is made up of two interrelated parts:

Population Accountability is about the well-being of whole populations.
[For neighborhoods, communities, cities, counties, states, nations]

Performance Accountability is about the well-being of client populations.
[For programs, agencies, and service systems]

Performance accountability measures are broken down into four quadrants (although example measures for each quadrant are given below, other measures may be chosen based on the program’s activities and expected results):
Campaign Participation

Grantees are expected to run a United Way campaign at their organization, although there is no expectation for the amount that needs to be raised or the percent of individual participation.

Branding

Partners approved or funded through this RFP will acknowledge United for Children, an initiative of United Way of South Hampton Roads, in all internal and external program reports and all promotional media for LEAP 2019.

Application and Review Process

Blackbaud Grantmaking Application Portal

United Way is using a new grant management software, Blackbaud Grantmaking. All applications will be submitted electronically through the online application portal. Please follow instructions for logging in and completing the application, which can be referenced in the Blackbaud 101 (also located on the Agency Resources webpage).
**Application**

To be considered for the United for Children Summer LEAP funding, your organization will complete the application specific to this request. The application link is available on the [Agency Resources webpage](#).

**Submission Deadline & Technical Assistance**

All United for Children Summer Learning applications need to be submitted electronically by **May 29, 2019**.

Technical assistance will be provided by United for Children staff through the day prior to the application deadline (**May 28, 2019**). Technical assistance will be done by email, phone, and appointment, depending on the type and complexity of the assistance requested. Please contact [jbrunny@unitedwayshr.org](mailto:jbrunny@unitedwayshr.org) for questions about this the program.

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**Review Process**

Applications for funding and program approval related to this packet will be reviewed by United for Children Staff and select volunteers.