



Capital Area
UNITED WAY



UNITED FOR OPPORTUNITY GRANT CYCLE

Request for Proposals
for July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027



Overview

Capital Area United Way (CAUW) envisions a community where everyone is empowered to reach their full potential. Our mission is to solve our community's toughest challenges by leveraging partnerships to advance the common good in education, income stability, and healthy living. In pursuit of this mission, we seek to partner with the most efficient and effective service providers in the Capital Region.

CAUW's work prioritizes the ALICE population. ALICE stands for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed. The ALICE population is those working residents that are struggling to make ends meet, have little or no savings, and are one emergency away from falling into poverty. The ALICE population encompasses every race, age, gender, and ethnicity and work in a variety of professions.

For over 100 years, Capital Area United Way has brought people and resources together to create lasting change across the Capital Region. As we enter our centennial year, we remain committed to investing in partners who strengthen economic mobility, reduce barriers for ALICE households, and expand access to opportunity. This grant cycle reflects our ongoing promise to support data-driven, collaborative solutions that help every individual and family in our community build a more stable and prosperous future.

CAUW's open competitive funding process allows the organization to choose the funding path that will address the issues most in need of solutions in their community. All grants will be awarded for a 1-year period from July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027. CAUW intends to fund both existing programs and new innovative solutions for ALICE in the 10-parish Capital Area. Applicants may include individual organizations and/or collaborations. Applicants must be a tax-exempt organization currently involved in the providing of direct services.

2026-2027 Community Impact Priority Areas

CAUW will only provide funding support to organizations that have demonstrated the ability to directly address one or more priorities outlined below. All priorities were developed with information gathered from in-person and online community conversations, 211 data, and the ALICE Report.

Applicants may include new or existing programs that demonstrate their impact to the ALICE population through thoughtful data collection. Collaborative, seed, and pilot funding is allowable. All applicants must demonstrate a plan to collect data aligned to the priority areas below. If current performance data is not available, applicants must present evidence-based models based on data and success in other regions, or a clear organizational track record of successful implementation of programming.

Grant Priorities

Eligible applicants include new and existing program solutions, collaborations, pilots, and seed funding requests. All applicants must be able to describe their alignment to workforce development continuum of care through CAUW's focus areas of Education, Income Stability, Health, or Basic Needs. Applications addressing one or more of the Priorities below, will be prioritized for funding over more broad applications. All applicants must demonstrate alignment to ALICE Target populations. Please review the latest ALICE report at <https://www.cauw.org/alice> prior to applying.

Transportation Access & Mobility Solutions

Solutions to increase access to employment, training, healthcare, and essential services by reducing transportation barriers—particularly in high-need rural parishes such as:

- Workforce shuttle programs connecting rural communities to training centers and employers
- Gas vouchers, ride-share partnerships, or vehicle repair assistance
- Micro-transit or employer-supported transportation solutions
- Transportation coordination embedded in workforce programs

Essential Needs Support

Solutions to stabilize families by addressing affordable housing gaps and essential needs that prevent sustained workforce participation such as:

- Emergency rental and utility assistance tied to workforce participation
- Transitional housing models connected to employment pathways
- Financial coaching paired with housing stabilization
- Essential needs support (food, healthcare, work uniforms, tools, technology access)

Workforce Training, Credentialing, & Economic Mobility

Solutions to expand access to affordable training and credentialing programs that lead to living-wage employment such as:

- Scholarships for industry-recognized certifications
- Paid apprenticeship or earn-and-learn models
- Flexible training formats (evening, weekend, hybrid, online)
- Employer-aligned sector training programs

Grant Priorities (cont.)

Place-Based & Parish-Specific Investments

Solutions to target high-barrier parishes and zip codes with tailored, data-driven interventions to reduce geographic inequities such as:

- Parish-specific workforce hubs
- Mobile service delivery models
- Rural workforce navigation services
- Community-based outreach in high-barrier zip codes

Holistic Workforce Supports

Services to help individuals and their families overcome barriers to unemployment such as:

- Childcare for children 0-5 in high-quality early learning centers
- Quality before and after school programming
- Case management for clients with critical basic needs
- Legal assistance
- Mental health, physical health, substance abuse, and crisis intervention
- Financial education and savings programs

We encourage prospective applicants to consider the above priority areas together with the following guidelines regarding the types of funding opportunities that will receive special consideration. These include:

- Solutions that provide a continuum of care, connecting clients to needed services and resources outside of initial program scope
- Solutions that provide services for the ALICE population and/or have a physical location in the parishes where ALICE makes up more than 20% of the population. See ALICE Report here: <https://www.launitedway.org/ALICE>
- Solutions that have built-in support to eliminate barriers for the under and unemployed
- Solutions that reduce barriers to accessing resources (by providing transportation, childcare, family-friendly hours of service, meals, etc.)
- Solutions that have established a formalized working partnership with another entity with MOUs and contracts in place

Data & Metrics

Applicants seeking funding must demonstrate their ability to track metrics aligned to CAUW’s priority areas.

Standard REQUIRED Metrics for all Grantees	
Number of individuals served	Total # of individuals who are directly benefiting from the program YTD. This is an unduplicated count for a full 12 months.
Demographic breakdown for individuals served	Parish, zip code, age, race/ethnicity, income level

Grant-Specific Metrics

Use the metrics below as inspiration for a minimum of 5, but no more than 10 metrics your program will track over the course the funding cycle that highlight the unique approach your organization is taking to accomplish goals aligning to CAUW's priority areas.

Transportation Access & Mobility Solutions

receiving transportation support

of rides provided

of gas vouchers distributed

of vehicle repairs completed

of employer/transit partnerships

% reduction in missed work/training days

% reporting improved reliability

% completing workforce training

% employed

90-day and 6-month retention rate

Average wage at placement

Essential Needs Support

receiving rental assistance

receiving utility assistance

receiving transitional housing services

receiving essential needs support

Grant-Specific Metrics (cont.)

Essential Needs Support (cont.)

receiving financial coaching

% maintaining stable housing for 6 months

% avoiding eviction or shutoff

% completing workforce training

% maintaining employment for 6 months

% achieving income growth

Workforce Training, Credentialing & Economic Mobility

enrolled in training programs

receiving scholarships

in apprenticeship/earn-and-learn programs

of employer partnerships

Training completion rate

Credential attainment rate

% employed within 3 months

Average starting wage

% placed in aligned jobs

6- and 12-month retention rate

Grant-Specific Metrics (cont.)

Place-Based & Parish-Specific Investments

served in high-barrier parishes/zip codes

% participants from priority areas

mobile service delivery events

Reduced barrier severity score (pre/post)

Employment placement rate by parish

Training completion rate by parish

Wage growth by parish

Holistic Workforce Supports

receiving childcare support

receiving case management

receiving legal assistance

accessing health services

enrolled in financial education

% resolving major employment barriers

% reporting improved stability

% completing workforce training

% employed

6-month retention rate

% achieving multiple stability benchmarks

Funding Guidelines

CAUW will fund up to \$2 million in total grants through this opportunity. The specific number of grants awarded will depend on the number of applications and the total dollar amount requested from each.

Organizations may apply for no more than \$75,000 per year across all applications, unless otherwise approved by CAUW staff. This limit applies to both lead applicants and subgrantees of collaborative applications.

CAUW expects all grant recipients to include plans for diverse, sustainable ongoing funding for all programming. CAUW may fully fund or partially fund program requests based on funds available, appropriate use of funds, and volunteer discretion.

CAUW has the right to terminate funding as outlined in the Partner Agreement that will be issued to all funded programs.

What We Will NOT Fund

CAUW funding may not be used for the following activities:

- Contributions to endowments or capital expenses
- Core programming at public, private, parochial, or charter schools
- Fiscal agents: CAUW will only fund direct service organizations that are providing the proposed services directly to individual clients, not to other organizations. Lead applicants of collaborative applications **MUST** be part of service delivery.
- Lobbying efforts designed to influence legislation
- For-profit organizations
- Advertising other than that is designed to make the public aware of available services.

Funding for time-limited projects (less than one year), camps, sponsorships, volunteer opportunities, capital improvements, technology upgrades, professional development, natural disasters, and capacity building will **NOT** be addressed through this grant opportunity. Please check back to www.cauw.org/grants for future opportunities.



Application Process Timeline

February 24, 2026	RFP Released & Applications Open in e-CImpact
February 26, 2026	Public Application Workshop - 11am https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88300564485?pwd=v6Uz4ld4DT8b7FTwbGJlnjfkZQq4X5
March 11, 2026	Public Application Workshop - 11am https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87260044621?pwd=ZwdOyVKHuKHQVli6Wula4Slxxjvo8o.1
February-March 2026	Technical Assistance Contact CAUW to schedule
March 31, 2026	Applications Close in e-CImpact at 5pm
April 2026	Review of Applications
May 2026	CAUW Approval of Grantees
June 2026	Grant Award Notifications Issued via Email
June-July 2026	Grantee Orientation (Mandatory for Grant Recipients)
July 1, 2026	Partner Agreements Returned to CAUW
July 2026	Grant Payments Issued via ACH

Application Process

1. Applications must login to e-CImpact log-in and complete a Pre-Qualification Checklist to determine applicant eligibility. Current or recent past CAUW grant recipients may use their existing account. If unable to attend an application workshop, please request a recording of the training by contacting programinvestment@cauw.org.
2. Eligible applicants passing the Pre-Qualification Checklist will be able to request a grant application in e-CImpact immediately upon submission.
3. Applicants should be ready and available to answer CAUW staff questions regarding their application(s) and host a site visit, if deemed necessary, from the time application is submitted throughout May 2026.

Eligibility

Eligibility is determined using the Pre-Qualification Checklist below as well as proper alignment to the guidelines and priorities listed through this document.

Applicants must have been tax exempt for at least one year prior to July 1, 2026 to apply. Applicants may include but are not limited to 501c3 organizations, public school districts, and faith-based groups providing health and human services. Please contact a CAUW staff member regarding eligibility if in question. Organizations must be in good standing with IRS standards and up to date on all 990 reporting requirements as outlined in their IRS tax exempt status letter.

Applicants that are current CAUW Grantees **MUST** be up to date with all reporting requirements for current dollars allocated.

Pre-Qualification Checklist

The Pre-Qualification Checklist must be completed through CAUW’s online system, e-CImpact, at <https://agency.e-cimpact.com/login.aspx?org=20020U>. Each organization must complete a Pre-Qualification checklist to be deemed eligible to apply. Applicants need only complete ONE pre-qualification checklist per lead organization.

In order to be eligible for funding from CAUW:

- Applicant serves clients in the following Parish(es):
 - East Baton Rouge
 - St. Helena
 - West Baton Rouge
 - Livingston
 - Pointe Coupee
 - Ascension
 - West Feliciana
 - St. James
 - East Feliciana
 - Iberville

- The organization must be registered and in Good Standing as a Non-Profit in the State of Louisiana. Check status here: <https://coraweb.sos.la.gov/commercialsearch/commercialsearch.aspx>.
School districts please check “yes”.

- Applicant has been tax-exempt for at least ONE years prior to July 1, 2026.

- As required by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) regulations, the Agency/Organization has filed a Form 990, 990-EZ, or 990-N (e-Postcard) with the IRS for the most recent fiscal year and can provide a copy or proof of filing (990-N only).

- The applicant has equal opportunity and affirmative action policy or a policy on diversity for its staff, governing body, committees, and services delivered.

- The applicant has appropriate insurance coverage (Provide Certificate of Insurance and list of Board Members covered).

- The applicant has a clearly stated mission.

- The applicant has written personnel policies approved by its governing body/board of directors and available to the entire staff.

- The applicant’s facilities meet minimum health, fire, and safety codes and present no architectural barriers to potential clients (seeks to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), as amended).

- The organization’s Board of Directors meets at least 4 times a year.

- Applicant has read and fully understand the Request for Proposals.

Application Questions

Once your Pre-Qualification Checklist has been submitted and approved, applications can be submitted through CAUW's online system, e-CImpact, at <https://agency.e-cimpact.com/login.aspx?org=20020U> beginning on Tuesday, February 24, 2026. Applicants should complete a separate application for each Grant request. The total request amount per organization may not exceed \$75,000. **Applications are due no later than March 31, 2026 at 5pm (CST). Late submissions will not be accepted.** No changes or additions will be accepted after the deadline. Applications will ONLY be accepted via e-CImpact.

You can begin an application and then save it to finish later. You will need to re-enter e-CImpact to do this. Log in with the email address and password you used to create your application. You will see a list of your organization's applications. Click on the one you need to finish. Please note that the system may time out if you are away from your computer for an extended period. Disable any pop-up blockers so that you can re-access your application easily.

You must click submit for your application to be processed. Once you click submit you will be unable to make changes to your application. To avoid delays or complications, we strongly recommend that you do not wait until the last day to submit your completed application. Applications will not be accepted by email, postal service or fax.

****Application deadlines are firm and CAUW will not take responsibility for technical difficulties. ****

Agency-Level Questions

(answer once per applicant)

1. Organization Mission & Alignment - 2,000 characters

- Describe your organization's mission and how it aligns with CAUW's grant funding priorities.

2. Agency-Level Attachments

- Names and affiliations of current Board of Directors/Trustees
- Most recent Audit or Financial Review or Financial Compilation or Balance Sheet and statement of profit and loss (as applicable)
- Current Year Operating Budget
- Most recent 990, 990-EZ, or 990-N (e-Postcard)
- Proof of Status of Good Standing with Louisiana Secretary of State
- Documentation of 501c3 Status
- Strategic Plan (optional)

Program-Level Questions

(answer separately for each grant request)

1. Select the Primary Focus of Your Application

- Transportation Access and Mobility Solutions
- Essential Needs Support
- Workforce Training, Credentialing, and Economic Mobility
- Place-Based and Parish-Specific Investments
- Holistic Workforce Supports

2. Type of Applicant

- New Program/Not Yet Operational
- Currently Operating Program
- Pilot
- Existing Collaborative
- New Collaborative
- Other

3. Grant Abstract - 1,000 characters

- Provide a brief summary of your grant request. Explain what makes your request stand out from all the other applications we will review. Highlight how your solution is creative, innovative, and/or employs documented evidence-based practices or model practices.

4. Dollar Amount Requested



Program-Level Questions (cont.)

(answer separately for each grant request)

5. Statement of Need - 2,000 characters

- Describe the specific needs in your community that the program addresses. Explain how you know the need exists. Include relevant demographic and community data to support your case. Cite your data source. Describe the overall program design, how the program operates, what services and activities grant funding will make possible, other key components and activities. Describe any limitations (space, staffing, wait lists, etc.) your organization may face in meeting the needs described.

6. Use of Funds - 2,500 characters

- Specify how you would spend CAUW funds for this program. How much more would you be able to do, how much better would you be able to do it? Provide a well-designed plan with clear and compelling justification for awarding the requested funds.

7. Program Activities - 2,500 characters

- Describe in detail the activities that CAUW funding will make possible. Explain how these activities address your Statement of Need.

8. Target Population - 2,000 characters

- Describe your intended target client population(s) and alignment to ALICE. Include intended: age group, gender identity, race/ethnicity, parish/zip code of residence within CAUW's 10-parish service area, and income level as applicable. Include any restrictions or requirements. Describe the outreach and recruitment methods that you use to reach the target population within the CAUW 10-Parish Service Area.

9. Program Goals - 2,000 characters

- What are the top three goals of this program? Describe the impact the program will have on the community if those goals are achieved.

10. Reduction of Barriers - 2,500 characters

- Describe any program activities that are specifically designed to reduce barriers that might keep individuals from accessing and completing the program.

11. Staffing Plan - 1,500 characters

- Provide a brief description of your proposed staffing plan and the qualifications of your staff members to deliver this program. Include a description of training and/or education for staff members. If applying as a joint collaborative, describe how your organizations will work together.

Program-Level Questions (cont.)

(answer separately for each grant request)

12. Collaboration - 1,500 characters

- Describe any collaborations you have with other agencies and list partners. Please attach any applicable MOUs or contracts relevant to understanding your partnerships with outside organizations. Proposed program expansions should include MOUs or contracts in support of expansions. **If your organization is submitting a request as the lead applicant of a collaborative, describe how the organizations will work together. Which organizations are responsible for which activities? How will your organization manage the collaborative and ensure success of the awarded funds.

13. Sustainability - 1,000 characters

- Explain your plan for sustaining the impact of your program beyond the CAUW funding period. Please include proposed or secured funding from sources other than CAUW. Examples may include strategic plans, social enterprise, grants applied for/received, continual foundation funding, etc. Describe how your agency leverages resources to improve the quality/quantity of services.

14. Client Success Story - 1,000 characters

- Share a client success story highlighting how a client is better off after completing your program.

15. Program Metrics

- Write in the 5-10 grant-specific program metrics your program will track between July 1, 2026-June 30, 2027.

16. Demographic Data

- Complete the Client Demographic Form for your program based on projected demographics for July 1, 2026-June 30, 2027.

17. Data Collection - 2,500 characters

- Describe the type of data you collect about clients and the processes you use to collect, store, and utilize the collected data.

18. Evaluation Plan - 1,500 characters

- Specify the research-based methods you will use to measure progress toward the goals, outcomes and metrics selected. How do you define baseline measurements for your clients? Describe your use of data including specific measurement tools.

19. Program Budget/Finances

- Complete the budget worksheet for your program based on a projected program budget for the year of July 1, 2026-June 30, 2027.

20. Program-Level Attachments

- MOUs outlining roles of collaborative applicants
- Letters of support from partners' key program administration

Reporting Requirements

All funded programs will be required to submit mid-year report (January 2027) followed by quarterly and final reports (April and July 2027) through e-CImpact. The reports will consist of: a) narrative, b) demographics, c) budgets, and d) metrics, e) annual required documentation

Additional reports may be requested throughout the year, such as general demographic and geographic data on clients served in order to provide donors with information on how and where their donations are used in the community.

All programs selected for CAUW funding will receive a funding agreement with their award letter that will outline all expectations for funded partners, including reporting requirements.

Allocations

All funded grantees will receive 50% of their grant payment in July 2026 pending submission of all required documentation, 25% pending submission of a midterm report in January 2027, and 25% pending submission of a quarterly report in April 2027.

Right to Reject

CAUW reserves the right to:

- Reject an application
- Adjust funding guidelines, including application submission deadlines
- Contact an applicant to discuss the application and/or request additional information
- Schedule mutually agreed upon site visits during the application review period.

Submitting either a Pre-Qualification Checklist, Application, and/or hosting a site visit does not guarantee funding by CAUW.

Grant Evaluation Process

All CAUW Grants are overseen and directed by the Community Impact Cabinet and Board of Directors comprised of diverse community volunteers and carried out by CAUW Staff. Applications will be evaluated using weighted scorecards corresponding to the application questions. Applications will be evaluated according to eligibility, alignment, and quality, with final funding decisions affirmed by the Community Impact Cabinet and Board of Directors. Potential grantees will be grouped for evaluation by their agency-level income to increase equitability.



Expectations of CAUW Grantees

(subject to change)

If selected to receive CAUW Funding, Grantee agrees to:

- Ensure grant payments are credited to the correct programs in the correct program amounts as indicated in the 2026-2027 Grant funding letter.
- Submit on-time reports.
- Provide services within CAUW's ten parish service area and/or any specific service area identified in request for funding.
- Ensure the organization is listed in the United Way 211/CAUW Community Database and the listing is consistently accurate.
- Advise CAUW of any fiscal or programmatic issues that are, or have the potential of, negatively impacting the delivery of the contracted services.
- Notify CAUW if there are any major changes to United Way funded programs including but not limited to personnel changes, legal changes, financial changes, mission or goal changes, dissolution of program, or program mergers.
 - Written notification within 15 days of separation or new hire of Executive Director, Program Director, or CAUW Designated Contact.
 - Written notification prior to effective date of change or as agency Board approves regarding significant organizational changes including mission, programs, target population, use of funds, or strategic planning.
 - Agency, or program level mergers and consolidations provided in writing 30 days before document is finalized or as Board approved.
- Demonstrate commitment to compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and also agree to indemnify CAUW if an individual or class claiming discrimination brings any action and United Way is joined as a party.
- Submit to CAUW an anti-discrimination policy that demonstrates that the Grantee does not discriminate in its staff, board, volunteers, volunteer committees, or recipients of services on the basis of a person's race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, age, national origin, ancestry, marital status, veteran status, or mental or physical disability, or any other status protected by applicable law.
- Comply with the United Way policy regarding the USA Patriot Act.
- Attend a United Way orientation designed to create a mutually beneficial relationship between Community Partner Agency and CAUW.
- Co-brand as a CAUW Grantee as outlined in the co-branding guidelines provided by CAUW within 60 days of signing annual agreement.
 - Co-branded items include, but are not limited to websites, stationary, fundraising collateral, annual reports, apparel, promotional items, program flyers, brochures, newsletters, etc. as pertains to agency or CAUW funded programs.
 - Follow CAUW approval policy for co-branded apparel and promotional items.
 - United Way Community Partner window cling (provided by CAUW) posted at each CAUW funded program facility in a prominent location.
 - Inform CAUW staff of agency annual meetings, social media tags, and all media opportunities relevant to CAUW funded programs.

Failure to comply with partner agreement could result in loss of funding or reduction in allocation.

Contact Information

For all application-related questions and to set-up individual technical assistance, contact programinvestment@cauw.org.

To reach an individual member of our team:

Crystal Ward
Senior Director, Community Impact
crystalw@cauw.org
(225)346-5805



Capital Area United Way
700 Laurel St.
Baton Rouge, LA 70802
(225)383-2643
www.cauw.org