



MISSION UNITED

★ UNITED WAY OF TARRANT COUNTY ★

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Veterans Fund

2024-2025

Application Release: Thursday, June 20, 2024

Mandatory Bidder's Conference:
(virtual via Microsoft Teams) Wednesday, June 26, 2024, 3-4:30 p.m.
Thursday, June 27, 2024, 9-10:30 a.m.
Monday, July 1, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Attendance to one session is required to receive the application link and login credentials. RSVP with name of attendee, attendee email address, and time selection to Chris.Alvarado@unitedwaytarrant.org to receive URL.

Application Deadline: Wednesday, July 24, 2024, 2pm

Awardees Informed: October 2024

Funding Period: January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025

Questions related to the RFP should be directed to:

Chris Alvarado
United Way of Tarrant County
817-258-8115
Chris.Alvarado@unitedwaytarrant.org

A. Purpose and Scope:

This RFP puts up for bid approximately \$300,000 for services in Tarrant County for veterans, active-duty service members, and/or their families. It is expected that multiple proposals will be funded. Funds will be awarded for one year, January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025.

B. Background:

United Way launched its Veterans Fund in 2013 with a generous corporate contribution by Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company specifically designated for needs of “returning veterans” and an additional gift from Bell Helicopter.

In the fall 2016 campaign, United Way added “veterans” to the campaign pledge card which has generated additional donor-designated contributions and memorials.

In 2016, United Way Worldwide (UWW) formed a consortium of United Ways around the country that are serving or plan to serve veterans, using a model called MISSION UNITED™, developed by United Way of Broward County (Fort Lauderdale, FL). United Way of Tarrant County has joined this consortium, making a commitment to:

1. Convene a group of multi-sector stakeholders;
2. Conduct a local needs assessment, including planning to include local veteran population priorities, and set goals and target outcomes specific to the community;
3. Coordinate features of a system, such as a single point of entry, linked services, convened stakeholders; and use of a common database; and
4. Brand with MISSION UNITED™ and co-brand the initiative with UWW; and share marketing/communication plans/materials with the UWW network.

In 2018, United Way of Tarrant County, through its Mission United Initiative, launched TXServes – North Texas, a coordinated network of public, private and nonprofit organizations serving active-duty military, veterans, and their families in North Texas region. In 2020, in a partnership with Combined Arms, TXServes – North Texas transitioned to, and is now known as, the Texas Veterans Network.

In 2020, to address the impact of COVID-19 on our veteran community, Veterans Fund allocations were prioritized to address the immediate needs of families, as well as long-term recovery, and shifted to include veterans of all eras.

C. Target Population – Definition:

Mission United serves veterans, transitioning and active-duty service members, and military families from all branches of the US military, reserves and National Guard. For the purposes of this RFP, a veteran is defined as a service member of any era or current member of the U.S. Armed Forces or its Reserve or National Guard component who has been federally activated outside of training, veteran dependents: spouse, son, daughter, including stepchild or adopted child of a Texas veteran. Surviving spouses: Is a surviving spouse of a Texas veteran. Surviving spouse must be widowed to receive case management services.

Service Area

Beneficiaries of these services must be a veteran or military family living in Tarrant County.

D. Discharge Status:

Discharge status(es) (Character of Service) that the organization will serve under the proposed project.

Honorable
General Under Honorable Conditions

E. Community Investment:

United Way has a clear objective of identifying high-impact initiatives and applying financial investments in a targeted and meaningful way. In alignment with UWTC's mission and priorities, this RFP is specifically targeting immediate and long-term recovery efforts aimed at alleviating intergenerational poverty in Tarrant County with a focus on addressing equity gaps and disparities in the following areas:

1. Community Response: emphasis on basic needs and disaster relief;
2. Community Health: emphasis on physical, behavioral, emotional, and/or mental health;
3. Financial Empowerment: emphasis on financial health/capability, access to reliable transportation and stable housing;
4. Education and Learning: emphasis on affordable, quality childcare, early childhood education/literacy, college/career/workforce readiness and/or college completion;

This is inclusive of our veteran-focused allocations.

Therefore, the following priorities and gaps in services will be applied for the review of this RFP:

- Case management: assessment of clients who have multiple needs, referral to government and community services, and follow-up.
- Employment and training services, particularly those services which would provide training to companies about the unique needs of veterans and provide a career mentor within the company that hires the transitioning veteran.
- Supportive and transition services co-located at post-secondary schools and higher education institutions where veterans are enrolled, particularly where a consortium exists to share information across institutions.
- Homelessness services, particularly for women veterans with children who are seeking shelter, but cannot be housed in shelters with male sex offenders.
- Financial education services which couple classes with financial coaching and those that provide concrete help (for example, transportation).
- Services to children of military and veterans.
- Transportation services, particularly those which assist veterans living outside the reach of public transportation with transport to medical/mental health appointments, job interviews and benefits appointments.
- Mental health and addiction services, particularly for women veterans, related to post traumatic stress syndrome and military sexual trauma.
- Peer-to-peer support groups for veterans and their family members, particularly those that link well to services provided by non-profit organizations.
- Community mentoring services for returning veterans, particularly those provided by a network of faith-based organizations.
- Legal services for veterans and their families.

- Transition to civilian life services, particularly those that partner with the armed forces to begin the transition process before discharge and again at intervals after discharge, and link with community resources that aid with housing and skills translation.

F. Important Information:

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

1. Active nonprofit and civic organizations or institutions with a history of addressing or the capacity to address the needs/services of veterans, active-duty members, and their families in Tarrant County.

CASH MATCH

2. Applicants must provide a minimum of 20% cash match. Leveraged funding may be used to meet the cash match requirement. Additional in-kind is also expected.

EVALUATION AND REPORTING

3. Funded strategies will be required to track and report progress towards goals. Failure to submit timely reports may result in suspension or loss of funding as well as potentially impact future funding.

CO-BRANDING AND RECOGNITION

4. All proposals funded fully or in part by UWTC must recognize United Way funding in appropriate printed materials and online platforms.

FUNDING CRITERIA

5. The following criteria should be incorporated into your proposals:
 - Details of equity gaps to be addressed – Statement of Need
 - Research, proven results for selected approach – Strategy
 - Breadth and depth of experience addressing the issue – Background
 - Measurable outcomes – Evaluation
 - Leveraged funding opportunities – Budget, Sustainability
 - Fiscal viability/sustainability – Sustainability

G. SUBMISSION:

Applications are due to UWTC via an online platform no later than Wednesday, July 24, 2024, by 2pm. Access to the platform will be denied after the deadline.