

Notice of Funding Opportunity

Lumber River United Way



Key Dates

- Oct 31 Prequalifying Opens
- Nov 30 Prequalifying Documentation Due
- Feb 1 Full Application Opens
- Feb 28 Full Application Due



Lumber River United Way

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About Lumber River United Way

Vision: Lumber River United Way brings together people and resources to tackle complex issues and drive sustainable positive change.

We unite individuals, nonprofits, businesses, and government partners to fight for the health, education, and financial stability of each and every person in every corner of Bladen, Hoke and Robeson Counties.

Mission: We unite to create positive, lasting change for people in need. We are a volunteer driven organization dedicated to solving the most pressing health and human service needs by assisting people in Bladen, Hoke and Robeson Counties who need help the most.

Goal: We work every day to achieve our vision and mission by focusing on the four foundations for building better lives: Health, Education, Financial Stability, Basic Needs and Crisis Services.

Our Values:

1. We are accountable to investors and we strive to leverage every dollar to create the most impact in a cost-effective manner.
2. We strive for diversity and inclusiveness to empower all sectors of the community.
3. We adhere to the highest ethical standards in all endeavors.
4. We have care and concern for the wellbeing of individuals in need. We strive to stand in the gap for those who need us.
5. We are committed to necessary change to ensure the relevance of the Organization in the community.

Who we are:

Founded in 1985, Lumber River United Way formerly known as United Way of Robeson County (UWRC), United Way of Bladen County, and Hoke County United Fund serves as a community connector and communicator. We invest in programs that support and strengthen our local community. We initiate conversations in and about the community addressing pressing issues. We bring together all sectors of the community (government, business, and social service agencies) to work together for an amplified impact. On the following pages is an outline of our Community Investment Grant process.

Impact Areas Overview

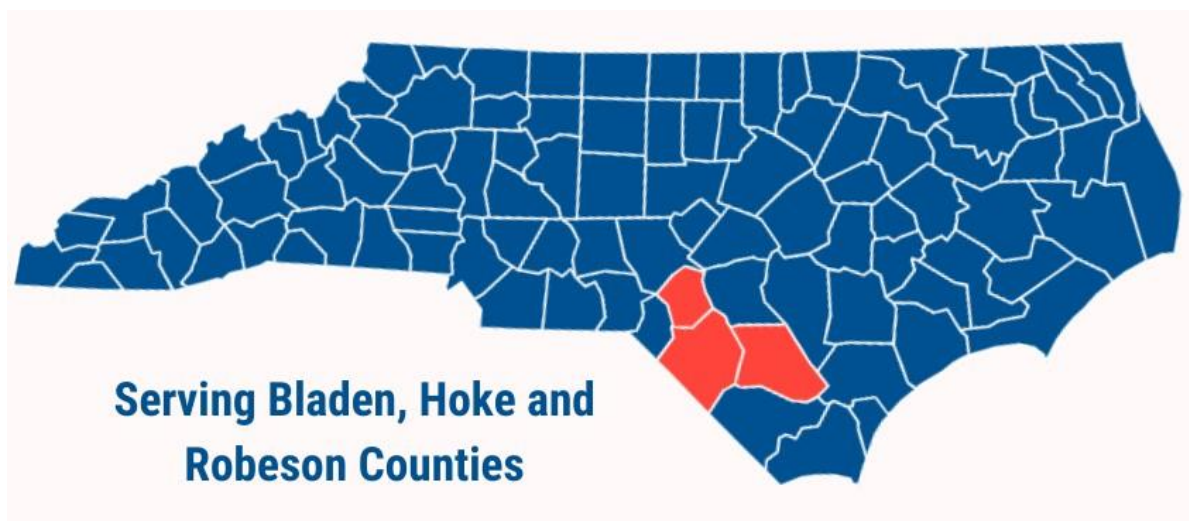
United Way is a driving force of change in Bladen, Hoke and Robeson Counties. We unite all of our efforts under four focused impact areas:

Education: Every Bladen, Hoke and Robeson County child develops and succeeds academically, socially and emotionally.

Financial Stability: Ensuring that all residents achieve and maintain financial stability.

Health and Wellness: Everyone in Bladen, Hoke and Robeson County has the knowledge, resources and opportunities to live a healthy lifestyle.

Basic Needs: Ensure all residents basic needs are met with dignity.



Agency Eligibility

LRUW is interested in partnering with the most efficient, effective and innovative nonprofit programs in Bladen, Hoke and Robeson County.

The application process is open to all nonprofits. Priority will be given to agencies that can provide high-quality programming and demonstrate an ability to achieve and record outcomes.

Any agency seeking funding must demonstrate the ability to operate programs in a manner consistent with the highest standards of quality, which includes compliance with the LRUW management and financial requirements. Programs must be in operation for a minimum of three years.

Your pre-qualification application must clearly demonstrate that your agency's mission and potentially funded program aligns with LRUW community impact goals. The total amount of funding requested should not exceed 50% of your program or agency budget. All agencies applying for funding must be registered with both 2-1-1 and NCCARE360.

LRUW invests in proactive programs with an emphasis on preventions and increasing people's ability to attain their potential.

The services most commonly requested from our office, NC211 and NC Care 360 are for housing, food, and utility assistance. Funding requests that address these issues over the long term, for the participant, will be given priority consideration. By long term, we are looking for programming that is more than a single food box or one-time assistance with a bill. While band-aids are necessary, more important are longer term solutions and prevention. We are looking for programs that will provide participants with a pathway to housing, utility, and food stability.



Agency Prequalification Checklist

My agency:

- Is a registered nonprofit in good standing with the State of North Carolina
- Is registered on both 2-1-1 and NCCARE360
- Provides high quality services to people living in Bladen, Hoke and Robeson County, NC
- Has a clearly stated mission that aligns with LRUW Impact Goals.
- Complies with all state and federal laws and regulations and upholds a 501(c)3 tax-exempt status
- Maintains a responsible volunteer Board of Directors that meets regularly and effectively governs the organization to fulfil its mission
- Has established administrative, management and personnel policies in place to assure the operational effectiveness of the organization.
- Develops plans for all programs, evaluates program implementation and effectiveness and incorporates its findings into program/agency improvements
- Tracks and evaluates client level data to show the effectiveness and reach of services and is able to report back to funders in a timely manner
- Has appropriate insurance coverage and can provide certificate of insurance upon request
- Conducts an annual audit, prepared on an accrual basis and executed by an independent CPA*
- Keeps complete and accurate financial records in accordance with the FASB
- Has filed a Form 990 or 990EZ for the most recent fiscal year, unless exempt
- Is willing to submit required statements and documents for the most recent completed fiscal year as part of the annual financial process
- Has a clearly stated non-discrimination policy consistent with local, state and federal law
- Facilities meet minimum health, fire and safety codes and present no architectural barriers to potential clients (seeks to comply with the American Disabilities Act of 1990)
- Is in compliant with the USA Patriot Act and other counterterrorism laws
- Is in good standing with all applicable accreditations and legal matters
- Holds a license to solicit as required by the Charitable Organizations and Solicitations Act-Act 169 of 1975
- With respect to employees, officers, directors and committee members, the Agency has an Inclusiveness and Diversity Policy that respects, supports and protects the dignity, uniqueness and intrinsic worth of every person.
- Services funded by the LRUW are provided to all persons without regard to age, gender, race, religion, national origin, disability, sexual orientation or any other barriers to participation.

*Agencies with budgets over \$500K must submit an audit every two years with a financial statement prepared by an Independent CPA (compilation) submitted in the off years. Agencies with budgets from \$100K-\$499K must submit an independent financial audit with management letter, a CPA Review or compilation. Agencies with a budget of less than \$100K must submit an audit, an independent public accountant's reviewed financial statement and opinion, a CPA review or tax returns/internal financial statements. If an agency is required to have an audit by some other oversight group or is required by organization's Board of Directors, then the LRUW requires copy of said audit.

Prequalifying Required Documentation Due by November 30

- Annual Report or Annual Brochure
- IRS 990 or 990EZ
- Copy of 501C3 nonprofit letter
- Most recent financial audit
- Most recent Board approved financial statement
- Board of Directors roster
- Analysis of client population served, as deemed appropriate, to describe how the Agency focuses on the most at-risk and/or underserved members of our community
- Copy of Agency Inclusiveness and Diversity policy

All documents should be scanned in order and submitted electronically in PDF format.

Community Investment Grant

LRUW Community Investment Grant is a biennial grant awarded out of the funds raised during our annual workplace campaign.

Expectations of Funded Partners

1. Submit reporting on time for each funded program
 - a. Community Partners report quarterly.
2. Keep in compliance and submit all financial documents as requested.
3. Take a proactive stance in building a relationship with other Community Investment Grant Recipients and LRUW and in fulfilling the annual agency agreement with LRUW, including but not limited to:
 - a. Notify LRUW of significant changes in any of the following: organizational structure, facilities, outcomes provided to the community, policies or program delivery structure. Discuss and resolve any problems that may arise
 - b. Understand that all funding is contingent upon the availability of funds.
 - c. Identify itself as a LRUW Funded Partner and use logos in recognition of shared work.
 - d. Accept and utilize funds for the period covered by the Agency Agreement, as indicated in the investment decision letter and for the purposes designated
 - e. Offer site visits (can be virtual) to funders, volunteers, donors etc.
 - f. Conducting an annual employee campaign in recognition that this community wide campaign and its success are in the mutual interest of both LRUW and its Funded Partners

Compliance

Funded Partners will be required to sign an annual Memorandum of Understanding. Funded Partners that do not comply with the expectations as outlined in the MOU may be subject to suspension or termination of funding.

General Information for Applicants

1. The LRUW funding year is from July 1 - June 30. Contracts may be extended at the discretion of LRUW.
2. The impact year (reporting schedule) runs from July to June.
3. Grant funds are issued quarterly.
4. Only agencies aligned with the LRUW's community impact goals, funding priorities and outcomes are eligible for funding.
5. LRUW has an established Community Investment Committee comprised of community volunteers. This committee and its subpanels are responsible for reviewing applications and providing funding recommendations to LRUW's Board of Directors.
6. All agencies are required to submit Pre-Qualifying Documentation through electronic submission. Submissions open October 31st and close November 30 at 5pm. **No late or incomplete submissions will be accepted. Due to anticipated high demand we will not contact you for corrections to your application. Please review your application for completeness prior to submission.**
7. Once agencies have passed the Pre-Qualifying Application they have until February 28 at 5pm to complete the full application for funding. **No late or incomplete submissions will be accepted. Due to anticipated high demand we will not contact you for corrections to your application. Please review your application for completeness prior to submission.**

Investment Process

Agency submits Pre-Qualification Documentation-> staff scores application

1. Agency earns high score-> agency is invited to complete full application
2. Agency earns low score-> agency does not receive full application
3. Agency earns middle score → CI Committee reviews pre-qualifying application-> agency is declined or agency is invited to complete full application

Agency completes full applications- application is reviewed by community investment panel: Education, Health and Wellness, Financial Stability or Basic Needs.

1. Agency outcomes do not align→ application for funding is rejected
2. Agency cannot demonstrate outcome achievement → application for funding is rejected
3. Agency aligns and achieves outcomes -> CI Panel recommends funding and reporting level to CI Committee -> CI recommends to Board of Directors-> Board of Directors approve and agency is notified

Funding Timeline

October 31	Prequalifying Application Opens
November 30	Prequalifying Documentation Due
February 1	Full Application Opens (as approved)
February 28	Full Applications Due
March-April	Presentations and Site Visits
May	Board of Directors Approves Funding
June	Agency is Notified
July	Quarterly Grant Award Begins

Funding Criteria

LRUW provides funding to agencies that demonstrate a commitment to providing high quality programming and an ability to achieve outcomes in one or more of our impact areas of Education, Financial Stability, Health & Wellness and Basic Needs.

Each agency submitting a full application for funding will be required to track and report results.

Applicants should review the outcomes and indicators to identify the primary strategy with which the proposed application aligns.

Awards made under this announcement are subject to the availability of LRUW campaign funds each year.

Agencies will be evaluated by LRUW volunteers using the following criteria.

1. Agency Alignment- 5 points
2. 2-1-1 and NCCARE 360 5 points
3. Target Population- 5 points
4. Impact/Outcome Alignment -10 points
5. Organization Capacity -25 points
6. Measurement-20 points
7. Funding Request/Budget: 25 points
8. Agency Partnership with LRUW- 5 points

High Score: 85+ points
Middle Score 70-84 points
Failing Score 0-69 points

Frequently Asked Questions

1) What are the funding areas available through LRUW?

Through the Community Investment grant process funding is available in the following program areas: education, financial stability, health and wellness and basic needs.

2) Who decides how much money is awarded to each application?

Trained volunteers, as part of the Community Investment team, make recommendations on funding after carefully reviewing the applications, and documents that potential agencies submit. LRUW's Board of Directors approves final funding decisions. Funding is contingent on the availability of funds.

3) When will my agency know if we received funding?

All agencies that complete a full application will receive notification in May of award year.

4) When will the funding cycle begin?

July 1 of award year

5) Who is eligible for receiving funding through this process?

LRUW's Community Investment Process is an open and competitive process. Any agency that is able to meet the qualifications as well as aligns with LRUW's impact focus is welcome to apply for funding through this process.

6) How does my agency apply for funding?

Interested agencies should complete a prequalification application by providing requested documentation. If an agency's prequalification application is approved, they will be invited to complete a formal application.

7) Can an agency apply for funding under more than one impact area?

Yes, agencies are welcome to submit an application under each impact area. Applications will be considered for funding under impact area, not on an agency level. Agencies are not guaranteed funding for all impact areas for which they apply.

- 8) Should we submit separate applications for each outcome, impact focus area and/or program?

Each impact focus area must have a separate application. An agency may choose to submit a separate application for each outcome or program.

- 9) Can my agency set its own outcomes?

Yes, the notice of funding opportunity only provides examples you may utilize or not. Please keep in mind the four impact areas provided.

- 10) Will my agency have to collect, track and report on client-level outcomes?

Yes. Your agency will be required to submit data regarding client-level demographics and outcome achievement.

- 11) How do I register for 2-1-1?

Visit <https://www.nc211.org/add-your-agency> and complete the form.

- 12) How do I register for NCCARE360?

Visit <https://nccare360.org/join/> and complete the form. You will then be sent software training information and can register your programs.

- 13) Who should I contact with assistance with questions?

For additional questions and assistance please contact Tomeika Munn 910-739-4249 or tmunn@lumberriveruw.org

Education Goals

1. An increased number of children enter school ready to learn and prepared to attain benchmarks of success.
2. Youth increase their capacity to stay in school and graduate to become productive citizens by being provided with layers of support that address barriers to success.
3. Adults increase their literacy skills and knowledge to become more successful in all areas of life.

Outcomes

- Adults develop essential academic skills.
- Clients gain essential soft skills (ex: career specific, time management, personal presentation, communication, team work, a positive attitude and self-confidence).
- Clients gain post-secondary employment, further education or credentials.
- Children are ready for kindergarten.
- Youth graduate high school on time.
- Children achieve developmental milestones.
- Children are proficient on school readiness by the end of their kindergarten year.
- Children read at grade level.
- Children/youth demonstrate targeted skills.
- Adults demonstrate targeted skills.
- Children and youth maintain satisfactory or improved school attendance.
- Middle School/ High School students earn C's or higher in English/Math OR maintain their B or higher grades. (Do not include students whose grades dropped).
- Youth transition from middle school on time.
- Adults earn job related licenses, certificates and/or credentials.
- Caregivers increase knowledge of age-appropriate child development.
- Caregivers improve parenting skills.
- Caregivers increase involvement in preschool and kindergarten activities.
- Youth improve their ability to interact appropriately with others.
- Children improve school attendance.
- Clients increase their vocational, language and literacy skills.

Indicators

- #/% of youth served who gained post-secondary employment, further education or credentials
- #/% of clients who developed essential academic skills

- #/% of youth who develop essential soft skills
- #/% of youth served who were connected to a career pathway
- #/% of clients who participated in academic skills training
- #/% of clients who participated in employment skills training
- #/% of caregivers who receive training and/or teaching skills on how to support and encourage academic success
- # of caregivers who were provided with information, resources, or tools related to their child achieving academic success
- #/% of children (third grade or younger) served who meet developmental milestones
- # of children receiving literacy supports K-3
- # of hours students participated in a mentoring, educational or instructional programming
- #/% of clients who successfully complete the program
- # of school age children who participate in out of school academic programs
- #/% of clients who improve test scores by one level or more
- #/% of clients who met academic goals
- #/% of clients who made progress towards identified goals
- # of children enrolled in and attending pre-school at a specified attendance rate
- #/% of parents/caregivers consistently demonstrate targeted behaviors or skills
- #/% of parents who increase knowledge by a specified amount
- #/% of youth who demonstrate targeted behaviors and/or attitudes
- #/% of children who increase school attendance by a specified amount
- # of children who increase attendance to comply with Compulsory School Attendance law
- #/% of children who advance to the next grade
- #/% of children who demonstrate maintained or improved math and/or reading skills

Financial Stability Goals

1. Families and individuals have increased access to supports that can elevate the family's financial stability and lift children out of poverty.
2. Individuals and families increase their preparedness in making responsible financial choices and conscientiously managing personal resources.

Outcomes

- Individuals gain employment with a livable wage.
- Individuals/Families increase their wages.

- Individuals/Families increase disposable income by accessing benefits or reducing costs.
- Adults earn job related licenses, certificates and/or credentials.
- Individuals have the knowledge and tools to successfully manage their finances.
- Individuals know how to reduce costs and develop a budget.
- Individuals increase knowledge of affordable and safe housing options.

Indicators

- #/%of adults served who receive job skills training
- #/% of individuals served who access affordable housing and/or financial products, services and education,
- #/% of individuals served who gained employment with a livable wage
- #/% of individuals served who increased their disposable income by reducing costs or accessing supports
- #/%of individuals referred for financial education
- #/% of participants who articulate and/or demonstrate targeted skills
- #/% of participants who develop a financial plan
- #/% of participants who demonstrate or report achievement towards their financial plan
- #/% of participants who are no longer homeless
- #/% of participants who obtain housing within a specified number of days
- #/% of participants who maintain safe, affordable and stable housing for a specified period

Health and Wellness Goals

1. Individuals improve their health by utilizing opportunities that decrease the prevalence of obesity.
2. Individuals have increased knowledge of the implications and prevention of teen pregnancy.
3. Youth have an increase ability to make informed choices about their health and personal relationships and avoid risky and abusive behaviors.
4. Families have increased skills and resources that will help them develop into a safe and effective family unit.

Outcomes

- Children and adults served will eat healthier, increase their physical activity and/or move towards a healthy weight.
- Babies served will experience healthy birth outcomes (carried to full term, born at a healthy weight, celebrate 1st birthday).
- Youth and Adults served will avoid or decrease risky behaviors.
- Individuals and families live in safer homes and have knowledge and skills to keep them safe.
- Children and youth have access to mental health supports.
- Adults have access to mental health supports.
- Individuals increase knowledge of the signs and progression of violence and abuse.

Indicators

- #/% of individuals served who participate in physical activity and/or healthy food access/nutrition programs
- #/% of individuals served with access to healthcare services and supports
- #/% of families who received training, information, tools or resources regarding child development and/or raising a healthy child
- #/% of individuals who reach healthy eating or exercise goals
- #/% of individuals who received safety implements (ex: smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors, wheel chair ramps)
- #/% of individuals who received training, information, tools or resources on inclement weather or disaster preparedness
- #/% of individuals served who created a family disaster plan
- #/% of individuals who received training, tools, resources and/or information on how to maintain a safe home environment
- #/% of children, youth or families receiving mental health services
- # %/of individuals served who receive peer support services
- #/% of babies and children with “medical homes”
- #/% of clients receiving prenatal care
- #/% of clients referred for medical care that received medical care
- #/% of participants who demonstrate increased knowledge by a specified amount
- #/% of participant who develop a personal safety plan
- #/% of participants who report improved sense of safety

Basic Needs/Crisis Services Goals

1. Victims of a personal crisis have increased access to basic needs assistance.
2. At risk children 0-10 have increased access to resources that address their basic needs in order to ensure a solid foundation for future positive development.

Outcomes

- Individuals are protected from the impact of economic shock, disasters and other crises.

Indicators

- # of individuals that accessed services that help alleviate the burden of food insecurity
- # of meals served to # of individuals
- # of individuals that accessed essential equipment and supplies (ex: medical supplies, ppe)
- # individuals that accessed appropriate interpretation/translation services
- # individuals that accessed emergency shelter
- # of shelter days/nights provided
- # of individuals that received assistance with housing supports
- # of individuals that used housing support resources that are above the poverty line
- # of individuals that accessed essential transportation supports
- # of individuals receiving emergency rent/utility assistance
- # of individuals that received clothing assistance



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**Please contact Tomeika Munn
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with all questions.**