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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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United Way of Rhode Island Announces Release of Request for Proposals for Merger & Shared Services Fund

Available Funds to Help RI Nonprofits Enhance Delivery of Services

Providence, R.I. (February 17, 2012) United Way of Rhode Island (UWRI) has announced that it is now accepting applications for funding for the Merger and Shared Services Fund. The purpose of this funding is to free up monies presently used for administrative and fundraising functions in the nonprofit sector to increase dollars available for human services through facilitation of mergers, shared services agreements or collaborations in the Rhode Island nonprofit sector. The amount available is up to \$100,000 in total from UWRI.

“The challenges impacting our state’s nonprofit service providers are well-documented as they struggle to meet an unprecedented level of need,” said Anthony Maione, president & CEO, United Way of Rhode Island. “As our community partners work diligently to do more with less, funds available through the Merger and Shared Services Fund will make it possible for them to bring more efficiency to their organizations and strengthen the services they provide.

To be eligible to apply for a grant through the Merger and Shared Services Fund, an organization must have a letter of determination of 501(c)(3) from the IRS or who has a fiscal agent with 501(c)(3) status. Applications must include two or more human services organizations in Rhode Island planning to pursue a partnership to consolidate administrative functions and/or to enter into a merger, shared services agreement or collaboration. Special consideration will be given to organizations whose missions align with United Way of Rhode Island’s focus areas of Education, Housing, Income, and Safety Net.

“Our experience has shown that when nonprofit service providers work together and consolidate functions, the end-result is one that leads to a greater impact in our communities,” continued Maione. “The Merger and Shared Services Fund may be used to provide help with consulting fees, the integration of technology, outplacement services, and other similar needs.”

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All applications for funding through the Merger and Shared Services fund must include a succinct plan outline (up to 2 pages), a brief plan description (50-100 words) and itemization of action steps with a timetable. Applications must be postmarked no later than April 4, 2012. Additional information may be found by visiting the UWRI website at www.uwri.org. Any questions regarding the Merger and Shared Services fund should be directed to Chris Medici at (401) 444-0652 or via email at Chris.Medici@uwri.org.

UWRI also announced that the organization will once again co-host the Nonprofit Collaboration & Shared Services Forum with its partners on Friday, March 23 at the Providence Marriott Downtown from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. In conjunction with The Rhode Island Foundation, New Roots Providence and The Harvard Business School Association of Southeastern New England, this event will cover a wide range of topics that are relevant and important to Rhode Island's non-profit sector. Representatives from all Rhode Island nonprofits are encouraged to attend. Attendees will have the opportunity to listen, learn, network, and meet with local and national experts.

"It's important for those working within the nonprofit sector to recognize the changing landscape and take a pro-active approach to maximize limited resources," added Maione. "There is great work being done in our communities to help our struggling neighbors, and we must continue with this momentum to avert greater crisis."

Those interested in attending the March 23rd conference can register at <http://www.cvent.com/d/xcqimh>. The registration fee for the event is \$15 per person. Attendance is not mandatory to be eligible for funding.

About United Way of Rhode Island

United Way of Rhode Island has been working to improve the quality of life in Rhode Island communities for over 80 years. UWRI's mission is to mobilize the caring power of the community to improve the lives of people in need and address the issues Rhode Islanders care most about. United Way's goal is to create long-lasting changes that prevent problems from happening in the first place. We believe that all Rhode Islanders deserve the opportunity to have a better life, as when any one of us succeeds, we all succeed. At United Way, we refer to this as advancing the common good. For more information, visit www.LIVEUNITEDri.org.

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