

Request for Proposals
Summer Learning
Grant Cycle: March 2016 – February 2019
Annual Grant Amount Range: \$30,000 – \$50,000

Introduction

For 89 years, United Way of Rhode Island (UWRI) has been helping Rhode Islanders help themselves by connecting them with the resources and tools that not only improve their lives, but can change them. We believe that Rhode Islanders want to do better for themselves and their families, and that by working together with our partners and investing in proven programs that work over the short-term and are scalable over the long-term, we can strengthen our communities.

In 2014, UWRI launched a new strategic plan, [LIVE UNITED 2020](#), with the goal of changing the lives of 250,000 Rhode Islanders by 2020. As part of this comprehensive strategy to provide stability and security to Rhode Islanders and their families, UWRI offers grants to organizations that deliver basic supports and lifelong learning opportunities that provide the skills and resources Rhode Islanders need to be successful. To accomplish the goals of the strategic plan, UWRI will fund promising ideas or programs designed to improve the lives of Rhode Islanders and collaborations of organizations that are advancing cross-sector work. For more information on our plan, visit www.LIVEUNITEDri.org.

UWRI Community Investments: Summer Learning

Summer learning loss is a very real condition for children and youth. Most students, regardless of socioeconomic status, lose about two months of grade-level equivalency in math when they spend their summers under stimulated. Low-income students also experience up to two months of loss in reading achievement.¹ When school starts in September, teachers must often reteach students in material from the previous year, rather than starting with the new curriculum for their grade. These learning losses, when compounded year after year, account for a large portion of the achievement gap between lower-income and higher-income students.

This request for proposal (RFP) is focused on **summer learning** and includes the following three funding levels:

- Providing Operational Supports (up to \$30,000 per year)
- Piloting Promising Practices (up to \$40,000 per year)
- Scaling Up for Success (up to \$50,000 per year)

The total amount of funding to be awarded for summer learning programs for all three levels is \$550,000 per year.

This RFP provides the guidelines for UWRI's summer learning program investments. UWRI looks forward to receiving a diverse group of proposals that:

- Respond to the goals and desired results outlined in LIVE UNITED 2020.
- Reflect a results-driven, collaborative approach to improving student learning and outcomes.
- Provide a clear vision for how the applying organizations will provide Rhode Island students with innovative summer learning curriculum that mitigates summer learning loss as well as builds essential skills (e.g., academic, social-emotional, 21st century, and health and wellness).

¹Cooper, H.; Nye, B.; Charlton, K.; Lindsay, J.; and Greathouse, S. (1996). The effects of a summer vacation on achievement test scores: A meta-analytic and narrative review. *Review of Educational Research*, 66.

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Grant Period

The grant cycle for this RFP is March 1, 2016 – February 28, 2019. Grant awards will be made on an annual basis, renewable for years two and three, dependent on fund availability and grantee performance. Grantees must demonstrate successful achievement of performance measures and be in sound fiscal standing to be eligible for grant renewals.

Information Session

UWRI will hold an RFP information session for the community at its office at 50 Valley Street in Providence. It is highly recommended that each applying organization send one or more staff members to this information session, which will be held on Monday, October 19, 2015, at 10:00 AM.

Grant Description

In recognition of the fact that solutions to our state’s challenges are ever-evolving, UWRI has developed this RFP to provide opportunities to organizations that are working to advance the goals outlined in LIVE UNITED 2020.

The purpose of UWRI’s new three-level funding structure is to offer organizations the opportunity to submit proposals that enhance summer learning opportunities for children and youth in their community/ies.

Key expectations for grantees receiving funding will include: [1] a commitment to high-quality data collection; [2] evaluation; [3] active participation in a learning community; [4] attendance at UWRI-organized trainings; and [5] ongoing partnership with UWRI to advance common goals.

Grant Eligibility Criteria

UWRI’s summer learning model, also known as the Hasbro Summer Learning Initiative (HSLI), is based on collaboration to promote positive outcomes for students during the summer. Therefore, UWRI invites Rhode Island-based organizations to submit proposals if they are able to meet the following **mandated** criteria connected to our summer learning model:

Data and outcomes

- Applicants must be able to advance the LIVE UNITED 2020 goals and results. Applying organizations must be able to measure, collect, and report on key performance measures linked to one or both of the following UWRI-identified results: [1] Children are prepared for success in school, and [2] Young adults are prepared for college and careers.
- Applicants will apply social-emotional measurements identified by UWRI for the children they serve, and endeavor to implement strategies to improve outcomes.
- Applicants will also consider *health and wellness factors/outcomes* for the children they serve.

Collaboration

- Applicants must collaborate with a *main partner* to achieve shared goals. If the organization applying is a community-based organization, its main partner is a school district; if the organization applying is a school district, its main partner is a community-based organization.

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- Applicants must show evidence of community and school support at all levels, demonstrated through the program design and supplemental documentation.
- Applicants must commit to assembling and convening a planning and implementation team that includes both school-day and community-based educators—and that will begin planning in earnest in the February preceding the summer months.

Curriculum Structure

- Applicants must demonstrate how they will co-create and co-deliver a summer learning curriculum that builds academic, social-emotional, and essential skills, and is delivered in hands-on, experiential ways with real-world applications.
- Applicants must develop a plan for **full-day** programming five days per week, for at least six weeks. Full-day programming is defined as a minimum of seven (7) hours per day, 35 hours per week. Six weeks is defined as 30 days of programming.
- Applicants must intentionally and authentically incorporate robust, youth-driven **service learning** fully into their summer learning curriculum that also extends into the school year. Technical assistance will be provided to help grantees implement service learning into their program.
- Applicants are encouraged to have a plan and commitments to provide children with opportunities that fill the gap hours between the program's end time and the time parents end their work day.
- Applicants must embed **common core state standards** and academic curriculum into hands-on, engaging learning opportunities. Technical assistance will be provided to support programs in their efforts to achieve this goal.

Professional Development

- Applicants' planning and implementation team members will be required to participate in professional development sessions connected to the HSLI summer learning model.

Sustainability

- The organization must demonstrate a sustainable funding plan for current and proposed levels of services, including anticipated sources of funding and any efforts to ensure the long-term fiscal health of the program or project. This includes the need for organizations to contribute a portion of their own resources to the proposed program, outside of any current or requested United Way funding.

Demonstrate Success

- The organization must have a successful track record in projects of similar nature and demonstrate the capacity, competency, and qualifications to plan, implement, and manage this project.

Documentation

Applicants must provide the following documentation:

- A letter of determination of 501(c)[3] status from the IRS or have a fiscal agent that has 501(c)[3] status;

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- A current Form 990 and the Form 990 from the prior year; and
- A copy of their most recent audit/review and management letter.
 - UWRI expects that the most recent audit/review will have been completed nine months after the end of the applicant’s fiscal year. If on a calendar year, the most recent audit/review should be for the year ending December 31, 2014. If on a fiscal year ending June 30, 2015, the most recent audit/review should be for the year ending June 30, 2014.
 - An agency with annual expenditures over \$500,000 must have an audit prepared by an independent certified public accountant. An agency with annual expenditures under \$500,000 must have a review prepared.
- Letter of commitment from the Executive Director of the partner community-based organization to continue collaborative efforts with the school district throughout the school year leading into the subsequent summer.
- Letter of commitment from the superintendent of the partner school district and principal(s) of partner school(s), to: [a] share fourth-quarter student data from the previous school year and first-quarter student data of the next school year with both their community-based partner and UWRI; and [b] continue collaborative efforts with the community-based organization throughout the school year leading into the subsequent summer; and
- A program budget using the template in the online application process. Programs must demonstrate an investment of other funding sources equivalent to *at least* thirty-three percent (33%) of the funding request from UWRI. All intended funding sources that support the summer learning program will be listed and shared.

Funding Level Option 1: Providing Operational Supports (up to \$30,000 grant award)

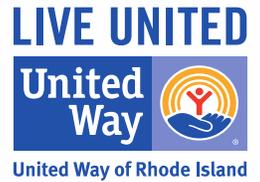
The purpose of UWRI’s fund for Providing Operational Supports is to *sustain* the operations of summer learning programs directly attributable to mitigating student summer learning loss and building their academic, social-emotional, and essential skills. Supported summer learning programs will integrate quality improvement efforts and collaboration to increase efficiency and improve delivery, and have a demonstrated service learning component. Each of these components is considered crucial to the sustainability and long-term success of the summer program. Additionally, applicants will be scrutinized for their ability to demonstrate that their summer learning program has clearly yielded positive and desirable results in the community, and are critical to the future development and success of Rhode Island students.

UWRI will entertain proposals for Providing Operational Supports for up to \$30,000 per year.

Funding Level Option 2: Piloting Promising Practices (up to \$40,000 grant award)

United Way of Rhode Island has identified its Hasbro Summer Learning Initiative (HSLI) as a promising practice for summer learning, based on quantitative and qualitative data collected over the past four years. The collaboration of community- and school-based educators to plan and implement a summer learning curriculum fusing service learning, academics, enrichment, and recreation to help mitigate summer learning loss for youth has been a success. In 2014, average gains by HSLI students from pre-test to post-test [data](#) showed gains of 35% in literacy and 47% in math.

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Applicants seeking this level of funding will demonstrate a commitment to embrace all aspects of the innovative HSLI model.

UWRI will entertain proposals for Piloting Promising Practices for up to \$40,000 per year.

If awarded a Piloting Promising Practices grant, grantees are required to implement the HSLI model for their summer leaning program in summer 2016. They must also have a strategy for continuous, consistent, and open communication between/among all entities to build trust, ensure mutual objectives, and create common motivation.

Funding Level Option 3: Scaling Up for Success (up to \$50,000 grant award)

The purpose of UWRI’s fund for Scaling Up for Success is to expand the reach of successful summer programs to new or larger populations. UWRI defines “scaling up” as replicating a successful program at new geographic locations, or expanding the capacity of existing sites to serve a larger number of student participants. Successful applicants will be expected to develop plans to sustain the expansion or replication by diversifying funding or identifying new long-term funding sources or models.

UWRI will entertain proposals for Scaling Up for Success for up to \$50,000 per year.

NOTE: Applicants seeking this level of funding will be reserved exclusively for organizations funded by the Hasbro Summer Learning Initiative between 2012 and 2015.

Process and Timeline

Proposals will be limited to no more than seven (7) pages in length. Proposals will be reviewed by UWRI’s Volunteer Grant Review Committee. Using a scoring rubric provided by UWRI to applicants and volunteers, the Volunteer Grant Review Committee will evaluate proposals and submit their recommendations to UWRI’s Community Investment Committee for final approval. Applicants will be notified of UWRI’s funding decisions in January 2016, and awards to successful applicants will be distributed beginning March 2016.

Timeline

October 14, 2015	UWRI summer learning request for proposal (RFP) released to public.
October 19, 2015	Summer learning RFP information session is held.
November 9, 2015	Deadline for UWRI to receive summer learning proposals.
November 2015 – January 2016	UWRI’s Volunteer Grant Review Committee reviews proposals and submits recommendations for funding to UWRI’s Community Investment Committee for final approval.
January 20, 2016	Applicants are notified of proposal funding

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	decisions.
January 25 – February 12, 2016	Scopes of work and contracts are developed and sent to summer learning grantees.
February 15, 2016	Technical assistance begins with summer learning grantees’ planning and implementation teams.
March 1, 2016	Installation payments begin for UWRI summer learning grantees.

Submission Directions

To begin the application process, please visit our [website](#) to get directions on how to receive access to UWRI’s online portal.

Proposals will be due on Monday, November 9, 2015. Proposals received after November 9, 2015, will *not* be considered for funding.

For questions or further information, please contact Joseph Morra at joseph.morra@uwri.org. Thank you for your interest in partnering with United Way of Rhode Island and helping to strengthen our communities, together.