

**Request for Proposals
 Summer Learning Grant Cycle: March 2016 – February 2019
 Frequently Asked Questions**



The following is a list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) regarding United Way of Rhode Island’s (UWRI) 2016-2019 Summer Learning grant cycle.

What is different in this UWRI funding cycle from the previous funding cycle?

There are a number of key differences between UWRI’s last grant cycle and the 2016 grant cycle. We listened to feedback that we received from previous grant cycles to craft these changes. The differences include:

THEN Last grant cycle	NOW 2016 grant cycle
RFPs based on issues areas	RFPs based on type of project (pilot, sustain, or scale)
UWRI Staff recruited volunteer reviewers	Volunteers reviewers applied through an open application process
Specific funding amounts for each funding category.	UWRI will fund the highest-rated proposals, regardless of category.
No indirect policy	12% indirect policy
Scoring guidelines not shared with applicants	Scoring guidelines are released with the RFPs
Feedback provided if requested	Feedback provided to applicants

To whom is this summer learning RFP open?

UWRI welcomes applications from the Rhode Island nonprofit community, school districts, or municipal government entities to seek summer learning funding that aligns with our strategic plan. We strongly encourage organizations to review our strategic plan, the RFPs, and the scoring guidelines to determine whether your organization’s work aligns with ours.

Are for-profit organizations eligible to apply for UWRI summer learning funding?

While for-profit organizations can be noted as supplemental partners in the application, UWRI will only fund non-profit organizations, school districts, or municipal government entities as the lead partner for summer learning.

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May a non-profit organization apply for more than one category of summer learning funding?

Organizations may apply to multiple funding categories; however, they may only apply for one funding category per specific summer learning program within the organization. In other words, a specific summer learning program cannot apply for two separate funding categories.

Is collaboration a requirement or a suggestion?

For summer learning funding, collaboration is a requirement. The language in the collaboration section of the summer learning RFP states the following: “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.”

UWRI asks that organizations identify current and potential partners as part of the planning and implementation team section of the summer learning proposal. These will be scored according to the scoring guidelines. (UWRI will also offer professional development and capacity building opportunities to grantees and occasional workshops on collaboration to the nonprofit sector.)

Will internal collaborations within large organizations count towards UWRI requirements?

No.

Data and evaluation are a key focus of these grants. What will UWRI do to support evaluation efforts?

UWRI will provide professional development, technical assistance, and information regarding the evaluation tools to successful applicants. UWRI also encourages grantees to consider their partners, the types of data they collect and how they measure impact with the goal of encouraging agencies with similar missions to share evaluation tools.

What is the Volunteer Grant Review Committee?

UWRI relies on the judgment of volunteer reviewers to submit program grant recommendations to its Board of Directors for funding decisions. In preparation for this grant cycle, UWRI conducted an open application process to identify volunteers from across the state who are committed to their communities and prepared to participate in an intensive volunteer training and review process.

What is UWRI’s indirect rate policy?

Applicants may request that up to 12 percent of their grant be used to fund organizational capacity not directly related to the program or project proposed. This indirect support may be used for fundraising, finance and administration, human resources, information technology, costs associated with the organization’s location, or other functions necessary to the organization to execute the grant. United Way will not entertain proposals that request more than 12 percent of the grant for indirect support.

Will UWRI award grants for capital projects or expenses?

No.

Where can I find the Summer Learning Proposal Submission Guide?

The submission guide can be found in the Library section of the agency portal. Once logged into the system, users will see “Library” on the left side of the page. In addition to the Submission Guide, this section includes RFPs, the LIVE UNITED 2020 plan, and scoring guidelines.

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Do I have to apply for the full amount of funding in a given fund?

No. You can apply for up to the cap in that fund, but organizations should prepare budgets that reflect the needs of the program. While we have set caps, organizations do not need to apply for the full amount up to the cap.

If I missed the information session, where can I find the presentation?

A PowerPoint presentation can be accessed by using this [link](#).

Should applying agencies submit a budget for the first year of the grant only?

Yes. UWRI expects budgets for year one only as the budgets of future grantees may change year to year and according to the progress of the project or program.

What if my agency, whose budget is under \$500,000, does not have a review prepared?

UWRI will accept compilations on a case-by-case basis. Please contact Joseph Morra (joseph.morra@uwri.org) for more information.

What if my agency does not have 501(c)3 status as a school district or municipal government entity?

UWRI will accept a full audit from tax-exempt organizations.

What is the age group that I can serve with this summer learning funding?

This funding is to be used for summer learning programs serving rising 1st graders to rising 12th graders. This funding is *not* available for summer learning programs serving preschool children or young people who have graduated high school.

Would you please define what “providing operational supports” means for summer learning funding?

Providing operational supports will *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*.

For programs that have *not* been funded by UWRI for summer learning between 2012 and 2015: If applying for this level of funding, there is an expectation that the organization commits to full adoption of UWRI’s summer learning model (i.e., the Hasbro Summer Learning Initiative, or HSLI) in year two of the three-year grant cycle.

UPDATED LANGUAGE (11.6.15): If an organization that *has not* been previously funded by UWRI for summer learning between 2012 and 2015 does receive funding as part of this current competitive grants process, there will be expectations in year one of the funding. *The expectation: In year one, grantees will need to move to a six-week model, five days per week, and at least five hours per day, for a total of 150 hours of programming.* In years two and three, as noted in the paragraph directly above, these grantees will adopt the full HSLI model: six weeks, five days per week, and at least seven hours per day, for a total of 210 hours of programming.

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Would you please define what “piloting promising practices” means for summer learning funding?
UWRI 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.

Applicants seeking this level of funding will commit to pilot/implement the innovative HSLI model for their 2016 summer learning program.

Would you please define what “scaling up” means for summer learning funding?
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.

Please note that funding for “scaling up” is reserved exclusively for organizations that have been funded by the Hasbro Summer Learning Initiative at any point between 2012 and 2015.

I am an HSLI-funded site. What is the difference between my organization piloting and scaling up?

[1] **Piloting** would mean that your organization would like to use the HSLI model to serve a *new and decidedly different* group of children than with whom you are currently working. For example, if you are an elementary school program serving second and third graders and want to use the HSLI model for a summer learning program that serves seventh and eighth graders, this would be a pilot option, as this *new* age group is *decidedly different* from who you currently serve with your HSLI summer learning program. Another example would be if your organization wishes to engage a new school and neighborhood for a summer learning program. This would be considered piloting, as this is a new planning and implementation team that you will be creating in order to serve a *new* group of children in a *decidedly different* school and neighborhood.

[2] **Scaling up** would mean that your organization would like expand the program to serve *new or larger populations*. In order to apply for scaling up, *you must serve more children* with this funding than what you have in your previous summers that have been funded by HSLI dollars. These “extra” children can either: [a] be the same age population you are currently serving, **or** [b] you can add an *adjacent grade* to the age population of children you currently serve. The adjacent grade can be on either side of the age population of children you currently serve. For example, if you serve second and third graders, you may add either first graders or fourth graders to your current program in order for students to continue through multiple summers with your program.