Introduction
For 90 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 collaborating with partners and investing in proven programs that work over the short-term and are scalable over the long-term, we can strengthen our communities. UWRI’s goal is that only 25% of households in our state will be cost burdened by 2025. As part of a comprehensive strategy to increase stability and security Rhode Islanders and their families, UWRI offers grants to organizations that deliver basic supports and lifelong learning opportunities providing the skills and resources Rhode Islanders need to be successful. To accomplish the goals of our organization’s strategic plan, UWRI will fund promising ideas or programs designed to improve the lives of Rhode Islanders and collaborative efforts that are advancing cross-sector work. For more information on our plan, visit www.LIVEUNITEDri.org.

Housing For All Summit
In Rhode Island, 40% of households are cost-burdened, meaning that they pay 30% or more of their income on housing. Because of this, many families have to choose between putting food on the table, going to the doctor, or going without using electricity in their homes.

On March 14th, 2016, UWRI hosted the Housing For All Summit. The goal of the Summit was to address the negative impact of being cost-burdened on households and to develop solutions to this problem. UWRI gathered a diverse group of community members to ask them, “How can we ensure that all Rhode Islanders have access to housing that is safe, healthy, and affordable?” Nearly 300 Rhode Islanders including the housing advocacy community, healthcare community, educators, for-profit businesses, banking professionals and more participated in the Housing For All Summit. Participants were led through a design thinking activity in which they were asked to identify barriers, root causes, and emerging needs surrounding this question. Participants were then asked to identify strategies that can address the barriers, and who should be responsible to implement the strategies: individuals, government, or other organizations. More information about what we learned at the event can be found in the Housing For All Summit Report at http://www.uwri.org/2016/05/housing-summit-report/.

Housing For All Fund Description
UWRI has made a commitment to implement ideas and strategies that were proposed by the participants at the Housing For All Summit. Through this Request For Proposal (RFP), we are seeking community partners to help us carry out the ideas that were generated at the event. UWRI will consider proposals for projects/programs that meet criteria listed below. UWRI will fund organizations, coalitions, or community groups that are willing to work together to make progress toward these recommendations found in the Housing For All Report. Applicants can apply for a maximum of $50,000 per proposal.
Criteria for Selection

The following are points applications will be scored upon:

- Proposal responds to the needs and recommendations provided within this RFP and the Housing For All Summit Report [http://www.uwri.org/2016/05/housing-summit-report/](http://www.uwri.org/2016/05/housing-summit-report/)
- Applicant demonstrates a clear understanding of the challenges surrounding safe, healthy, and affordable housing in our communities
- Applicant provides evidence of prior success addressing similar initiatives as proposed program or project
- Application demonstrates Context (How compelling is the need or opportunity?), Design (How strong is the program/project design?), Feasibility (How feasible is the implementation of the program/project?), Alignment (How closely aligned is the proposal with the RFP and Housing For All Summit report?), and Accountability (How well will this program/project evaluate and report its effectiveness?)
- While the Housing For All Fund is a one-year grant, UWRI will be looking at whether submitted applications have long-lasting impacts. If the proposed project is multi-year, the sustainability of the work beyond the one year of UWRI funding will be an important consideration.

UWRI is accepting proposals for new and existing programs. Previous Housing For All grantees are welcome to apply for a second round of funding. Please note that all applicants and/or programs -regardless of whether they were funded previously - will be evaluated under the same criteria.

Finally, as mentioned above, we strongly encourage applicants to refer to the Housing For All Summit Report to learn what UWRI has heard from the community about solutions to the affordable housing crisis. A key takeaway from the Summit was that the solution to the affordable housing crisis in our state has to be an intersectional one, “There are a wide variety of factors that impact access to housing, inequities and challenges around education, health care, and workforce participation arouse frequently” (Housing For All Summit Report page 13). While collaboration with other organizations is not required, UWRI will be looking for proposals that incorporate an intersectional approach to affordable housing.

Grant Period

The grant cycle for this RFP is January 2018 - December 2018. All categories within the Housing For All Fund are a one-time grant. At the end of the grant period, depending on project effectiveness and funding, UWRI will evaluate how to continue to support the funded agencies in their efforts addressing housing affordability.
Fund Eligibility Criteria
Funding will go to organizations and coalitions that can address one or all of the criteria listed above and that are willing to work together to make Rhode Island a more affordable place to live. Individual organizations and consortiums are invited to apply if they:

1. Have a letter of determination of 501(c)[3] status from the IRS or have a fiscal agent that has 501(c)[3] status;
2. Are located in Rhode Island, OR propose a project/program is located in and serving Rhode Island.
3. Are requesting funding that will be utilized between January, 2018 and December, 2018;
4. Are submitting no more than two (2) proposals per organization. Organizations may submit a maximum of two (2) applications.

To begin the application process, please visit https://uwriweb.org/oppfundappreq to request access to the online application form. Applicants will be asked to enter general information about the organization/agency. As part of the application process, applicants will submit a Project Narrative that is no more than 6 pages, a Budget Proposal, and a Budget Narrative. Further details about these required documents can be found when applicants access the online application at the above link.

The deadline for proposal submission for the Housing For All Fund is October 31, 2017 by 3:00pm. Late and incomplete proposals will not be considered. The following is an outline of the Housing For All Fund Timeline.

- October 31, 2017 – Deadline for applications.
- December 1st, 2017 – Funding decision announced.
- Beginning January 2018 – Applicants receive funding.
- By December 2018 – Applicants complete site visit and complete final report.

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