

## **Introduction**

For 93 years, United Way of Rhode Island has invested in proven programs that make it possible for Rhode Islanders to help themselves, their families, and their communities. One such program, the Summer Learning Initiative, makes a lasting impact in the lives of Rhode Island children. To ensure its continued success, we must work to increase the Initiative's effectiveness; for this reason, we're announcing a departure from the way we've selected Summer Learning Initiative grantees in the past.

## **Important Process Changes**

In the upcoming 2020-2023 grant cycle, all summer learning **grantees will be selected from the same four Rhode Island communities**. This focused effort will result in a greater overall impact, as it allows us to invest a total of approximately \$550,000 each year into building connections and mitigating long-term summer learning loss in these communities.

## **Summer Learning Loss**

Regardless of socioeconomic status, summer learning loss causes young Rhode Islanders to lose an average of two months of grade-level math over the summer. In addition, students from families who earn a lower income also experience a loss of up to two months of reading achievement.<sup>1</sup>

This results in teachers losing valuable class time in September, as they must reteach material already covered. When compounded, summer learning loss accounts for much of the achievement gap that exists between students whose families earn a lower income and those whose families earn a higher income.

## **RFP Guidelines**

The following RFP provides the guidelines for United Way of Rhode Island's (UWRI) summer learning program investments; we look forward to receiving a diverse group of proposals that:

- Propose partnerships between summer programs, school departments, educators, and families to serve the community where the program is located.
- Reflect a results-driven, collaborative approach to improving student learning and outcomes.
- Provide a clear vision for how the applying agency will provide Rhode Island students with an innovative summer learning curriculum that mitigates summer learning loss and builds essential skills (e.g., academic, social-emotional, 21<sup>st</sup> century, and health and wellness).

## **Grant Period**

- This grant cycle is March 1, 2020 through February 28, 2023.
- 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 performance and be in sound fiscal standing.

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

**Request for Proposals**  
**Summer Learning Initiative**  
**Grant Cycle: March 2020 – February 2023**



**Information Session**

UWRI will hold an RFP information session for the community on Thursday, December 5, 2019, at 50 Valley Street in Providence, RI. It is highly recommended that each applying agency send at least one staff member to this information session.

- RSVP: [9:00 am session](#).
- RSVP: [11:00 am session](#).

**Grant Description**

The 2020-2023 Summer Learning Initiative looks to mitigate summer learning loss by using a multifaceted approach to support youth during the summer. This approach changes the focus from narrowly defined academic achievement to one that promotes the long-term development and success of all youth.

This is achieved through support for educators, families, community members, and policymakers as they assist youth with sustainable, collaborative actions. The purpose of UWRI's Summer Learning Initiative is to offer agencies the opportunity to submit proposals that enhance summer learning opportunities for children and youth in their communities.

**Key expectations for grantees:**

- Serve 130 youth in your community each year as a single-site or a multi-site collaboration.
- Commit to high-quality, comprehensive data collection.
- Open to evaluation.
- Participate in a learning community.
- Attend trainings organized by UWRI.
- Collaborate with school departments.
- Engage with families.
- Partner with UWRI to advance common goals on an ongoing basis.

**Grant Eligibility Criteria**

UWRI's summer learning model relies on collaboration to promote positive outcomes for students during the summer months. UWRI invites Rhode Island-based agencies to submit proposals if they're able to meet mandated criteria connected to our summer learning model, including:

**1. Collaboration**

- Applicants must collaborate with a main partner to achieve shared goals. If the agency applying is community-based, its main partner is a school district; if the agency applying is a school district, its main partner is a community-based agency.
- Applicants serving youth in the same geographical locations are expected to apply as multi-site collaborations.
- Applicants must show evidence of community and school support at all levels,

demonstrated through the program's design and supplemental documentation.

- Applicants must commit to assembling and convening a planning and implementation team, which includes both school-day and community-based educators and begin planning in the February preceding the summer months.
- Applicants must present a plan for family engagement.

## **2. Data and outcomes**

- Applying agencies must be able to measure, collect, and report on key performance measurements to track youth progress throughout their academic years, in collaboration with school departments.
- Applicants will apply social-emotional measurements, identified by UWRI, for the children they serve, and implement strategies to improve outcomes.
- Applicants will also consider health and wellness factors/outcomes for the children they serve.
- Application will be able to measure family engagement.

## **3. Curriculum and Structure**

- Applicants must demonstrate how they will create and deliver a hands-on summer learning curriculum that builds academic, social-emotional, and essential skills with real-world applications.
- Applicants must develop a programming plan that covers full days (7 hours), five days per week (35 hours), for at least six weeks (30 full days).
- Applicants must meet all state/district academic curriculum standards, as well as a robust, youth-driven service-learning curriculum that extends into the school year.
- The service-learning project must address a need within the same community where the summer program is located.
- Applicants are encouraged to have a plan to provide children with opportunities that fill the gap hours between the program's end time and a child's pick-up time.
- Applicants must be able to serve a minimum of 130 youth in their community per year. They may partner with other summer learning sites in their city/town.
- Applicants must hire a certified educator as program coordinator who is dedicated to lesson plan writing, implementation, classroom observations, social-emotional support, meeting regularly with classroom educators. This new role will not be factored into student-teacher ratios or used as a program administrator.

## **4. Professional Development**

- Applicants' planning and implementation team members must participate in professional development sessions connected to the summer learning model.
- Applicants must present an internal plan for professional development for classroom educators.

## **5. Sustainability**

- The agency must propose a plan for sustainable funding, including additional anticipated funding sources and/or resources outside of requested UWRI funding.
- This includes the need for agencies to contribute a portion of their own resources to the proposed program, outside of any current or requested UWRI funding.

## **6. Demonstrate Success**

- The agency must have past success in projects of a similar nature and demonstrate the capacity, competency, and qualifications to plan, implement, and manage this project.

## **7. Required Documentation**

- An IRS issued letter of determination of 501(c)[3] status or have a fiscal agent with 501(c)[3] status.
- A current IRS Form 990 and an IRS Form 990 from the prior year.
- Submit their most recent audited financial statements:
  - An agency with an annual expenditure over \$500,000 must have an audit prepared by an independent certified public accountant.
  - An agency with annual expenditure under \$500,000 may submit unaudited financial review. A letter of determination of 501(c)[3] status from the IRS or have a fiscal agent with 501(c)[3] status.
- Most recent audit/review and management letter.
  - 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, 2018. If on a fiscal year ending June 30, 2019, the most recent audit/review should be for the year ending June 30, 2018.
- A program budget using the template in the online application; include all intended funding sources that support the summer learning program.
- Letter of commitment from the Executive Director of the partner community-based agency to continue collaborative efforts with the school district throughout the school year leading into the subsequent summer.
- Letters of commitment from the superintendent of the partnering school district and the principal of the partnering school:
  - Sharing 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.
  - Agreeing to collaborative efforts with the community-based agency throughout the school year leading into the subsequent summer.

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**Process**

Proposals will be reviewed by the Volunteer Grant Review Committee, comprised of staff from UWRI and Hasbro, leadership donors, and community members. Using a scoring rubric, the committee will evaluate proposals and submit their recommendations to UWRI's Community Investment Committee.

**Timeline**

December 5, 2019	Summer learning RFP info session held.
December 17, 2019 2:00pm	Deadline for summer learning proposals.
December 2019 – January 2020	Proposals are reviewed and recommendations made
Mid-Late January 2020	Applicants are notified of funding decisions.
February – March 2020	Scope of work and contracts are sent to grantees.
February 2020	Assistance begins with grantees' planning and implementation teams.
March 2020	Installation payments begin for grantees.

**Submissions**

- Visit our [website](#) to learn how to access the online portal.
- Submit your proposal **by 2pm on Tuesday, December 17, 2019.**
- Late and incomplete proposals will not be considered.

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For more information, please contact Marlene Guay at [marlene.guay@uwri.org](mailto:marlene.guay@uwri.org)