



2026 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

TRANSPORTATION REFERRAL PARTNERSHIP GRANT

Application Opens August 3, 2026

Application Closes September 11, 2026

Introduction

United Way of York County (UWYC), with input from countywide agencies and community partners, invites proposals from organizations to lead a Transportation Referral Partnership initiative.

This investment supports the development and launch of a new coordinated, countywide mobility strategy to reduce transportation barriers that limit access to employment, healthcare, education, social services, and other essential destinations.

This initiative is not a stand-alone program. It is a systems-level effort that requires deep, sustained collaboration across multiple organizations and sectors. The selected lead agency will serve as a backbone organization, responsible for convening partners, aligning services, and building a coordinated approach to mobility access in York County.

Unlike traditional transportation programs that focus on new means of transportation, this initiative aims to support individual mobility navigation, ensuring that residents can understand and access the full range of transportation and supportive services already available throughout the county.

Background & Need

Transportation barriers remain one of the most persistent challenges facing York County residents, affecting employment access, workforce participation, healthcare access, economic mobility, and self-sufficiency. Identified in the [United Way Transportation Study](#) (2024) and [Go York 2050 Plan](#), challenges include vehicle affordability, car repair needs, first/last-mile gaps, shift-work transportation issues, and limited awareness of resources. These are often connected to housing, financial hardship, and caregiving realities; residents need navigation support, not just transportation.

The Transportation Referral Partner Model

This initiative seeks a new comprehensive and coordinated mobility navigation model, supported by dedicated staff and partner agencies, to provide individualized, one-on-one support to residents.

Services may include:

- Public transit education and route planning
- Rideshare or on-demand transportation coordination
- Referrals for vehicle repair or financial assistance
- Employer-based transportation solutions
- Mobility coaching and trip planning
- Warm referrals to established resource connectivity entities such as 211 or ConnectYork

This model must be intentionally network-based, leveraging multiple organizations to ensure residents receive comprehensive, coordinated support. The success of the model depends on strong partnerships, shared processes, and consistent communication across participating agencies.

Purpose of This RFP

UWYC seeks a lead agency to design, implement, and manage this initiative in partnership with a network of collaborative partners, referral partners, and subject matter experts. As a new initiative, UWYC intends for this project to follow a phased approach, including planning, pilot, demonstration, and iteration.

The selected organization will be responsible for designing the program, and the overall program implementation, including but not limited to establishing a coordinated partner ecosystem with defined roles, shared processes, and accountability for outcomes. Proposals should clearly outline the partnership structure, roles, responsibilities, and approaches to coordination, communication, and shared accountability.

Funding & Grant Terms

UWYC expects to award up to \$240,000 to one lead agency to support a coordinated, multi-partner initiative. Funds may be used over a two-year period to support a phased implementation approach, including planning, pilot, demonstration, and iteration. UWYC anticipates that up to six months may be dedicated to planning and design prior to full implementation.

The lead agency is expected to allocate resources to subgrantees across partnering organizations, as appropriate, to support implementation.

No more than 20% of the funding requested may be allocated to indirect costs. Program personnel costs (salary + benefits) will be considered a programmatic expense.

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Lead Agency Expectations

Applicants should demonstrate prior experience in cross-sector collaboration, program coordination, and partnership management at scale. UWYC expects the lead agency to provide strong central leadership and operate with the level of coordination and accountability required for a large-scale, cross-sector initiative.

Responsibilities include:

- Convening and managing a network of partners across sectors (transportation, healthcare, workforce, human services, etc.)
- Establishing shared goals, performance measures, and accountability structures
- Designing and implementing coordinated referral pathways and mobility navigation processes
- Facilitating regular communication and collaboration among partners
- Managing and distributing subgrant funding, if applicable
- Ensuring consistent data collection, reporting, and evaluation across all participating organizations
- Leading ongoing program refinement, problem-solving, and adaptation
- Serving as the primary liaison to UWYC

Eligibility

- Organizations must be a tax-exempt non-profit organization or a tax-exempt government entity. Organizations without an eligible status must apply under an eligible fiscal sponsor.
- Organizations must be in existence for at least two years upon application submission and be able to demonstrate financial and organizational capacity to implement proposed initiatives.
- Organizations service area must include York County and the grant funding should demonstrate impact in York County.
- Organizations whose mission or projects exclude any group of individuals based on race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy, sexual orientation, or gender identity), national origin, age, or disability will not be considered eligible.

Considerations

- Proposals must include a detailed plan for data collection and reporting to demonstrate measurable impact, including transportation referrals completed, successful warm handoffs to social services, and long-term transportation sustainability outcomes. Closed-loop data tracking is preferred.
- Organizations must demonstrate alignment with UWYC's mission and vision of an equitably thriving York County, as well as financial and organizational capacity to implement proposed solutions.
- The lead agency is ultimately responsible for ensuring all partners meet these expectations.

Proposal Review Criteria

- Strength and authenticity of collaborative partnerships
- Lead agency's ability to convene and manage cross-sector efforts
- Clarity of roles across partners
- Feasibility of management plan, including coordination across organizations
- Alignment with United Way of York County Impact Agenda
- Potential for system-level impact and sustainability
- Ambitious and reasonable timeline for multi-phase approach
- Appropriate allocation of resources (budget) to support an integrated system

GRANT APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Organization Overview

1. Organization Name, Address, Contact, and Website URL
2. Organization's mission statement.
3. Total number of individuals or households served annually **by your organization?**
4. Describe how your organization's mission and the populations served align with UWYC's mission, vision, and Impact Agenda with a specific focus on how the work supports the needs of [ALICE](#) households in York County.

Grant Funded Activities

In this section, organizations must outline what they intend to do with the grant funding and how they are best equipped to create, pilot, iterate, engage partners*, and demonstrate impact for this initiative.

*Proposals with unclear or undeveloped partnerships will not be competitive.

1. Management/Program Plan
 - a. Lead Organization
 - i. Describe why your organization is best equipped to lead this collaborative effort.
 - ii. Describe how your organization will manage and coordinate a multi-partner network. Include communication structure, decision-making processes, and how conflicts or challenges will be addressed.
 - iii. How will you ensure that all partners adhere to agreed-upon roles, processes, and data reporting requirements?
2. Partner Engagement
 - a. Provide a high-level structure of the proposed partnership model (e.g., roles, flow of referrals, coordination points).
 - b. Named partner organizations and defined roles
 - c. Description of how partners were involved in proposal development
 - d. Clear plan for communication and coordination
3. Program Evaluation Plan
 - a. At the end the two-years, what evidence will you have to show that the program was well implemented?
 - b. At the end of the two years, what evidence will you have that community residents and program recipients were helped by this initiative?
4. Program timeline and sustainability plan
 - a. What is your anticipated timeline for planning, development, demonstration, iteration, and evaluation?
 - b. This initiative is intended to develop and pilot a scalable, long-term solution. Applicants should demonstrate how this work could:
 - i. Be sustained beyond the grant period.
 - ii. Integrate into existing systems (healthcare, workforce, human services)
 - iii. Leverage specific future funding or institutional support

Budget Request and Narrative

How much funding does your organization request to achieve the selected proposal and anticipated outcomes?

Proposal Engagement Meeting

We request that each applicant who meets basic eligibility criteria agree to a 60-minute virtual or in-person meeting for our review committee to gain deeper insight into your program.

Additional Documentation

Organizations must include the following documentation as part of their application:

- 501c3 IRS Designation, If applicable
- Most recent IRS Form 990, if applicable
- Current Bureau of Charitable Organizations certificate, if applicable
- List of current Board of Directors, including service terms and corporate affiliation, if any
- Most Recently Board Approved Organizational Budget
- Project Budget (template and example provided)
- Budget Narrative (template and example provided)
- Letters of Support from partners or collaborators
- Cost Estimates from vendors, If applicable
- Sample data collection Instruments, If applicable
- Annual audit, independent financial review, or board-approved financial statements, dependent upon organizational revenue size
 - Audit required for organizations with annual revenues greater than \$750,000
 - Independent financial review required for organizations with annual revenues between \$400,000-\$749,999
 - Financial Statements with narrative required for organizations with annual revenues under \$400,000

Impact Data

United Way of York County requires grant recipients to report output data related to funded initiatives. Please indicate your commitment to providing UWYC with data related to the number of clients served and transportation solutions implemented.

I agree ____

Impact Stories

United Way of York County relies on impact stories to continue our impact work and advocate for systemic change. Please indicate your commitment to connecting UWYC with clients who would be willing to share how UWYC funding impacted their life.

I agree ____