



## **Request for Proposal Housing For All Fund Grant Cycle: September 2016 – August 2017**

### **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 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](http://www.LIVEUNITEDri.org).

### **Housing For All Summit**

In Rhode Island, 40% of households are cost-burdened, meaning they are paying 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 being cost-burdened has on households and 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/>.

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**Housing For All Funds Descriptions**

At UWRI, we believe there is great value in the ideas that were generated at the Housing For All Summit. Along with our partners at Bank of America and National Grid, UWRI has committed \$150,000 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 asking community partners to help us carry out the ideas that were generated at the event. UWRI will consider proposals for projects/programs that responds to the goals listed below. UWRI will fund organizations, coalitions, or community groups that are willing to work with one another to carry out all of these goals. Although UWRI has not set a cap on the amount an organization can request, it is UWRI's intention to use the \$150,000 to ensure all three initiatives are supported.

- **Community Coalition Building**

Community Coalition Building assists organizations, groups, and community advocates who are seeking to build, organize, and convene a community coalition that, once organized, will build awareness and implement changes that improve housing affordability conditions in Rhode Island. The organization leading the coalition will be required to employ a collective impact model that utilizes cross-sector and multi-disciplinary collaboration, including private, nonprofit, government entities, to address the statewide housing affordability crisis. The funding will be used to support the development of the coalition, the identification of mission, vision, and action steps, and initial phases of community organizing efforts.

- **Community Engagement**

The goal of supporting community engagement at the local or statewide level is to build or support a movement of advocates that will address the challenges of safe, healthy, and affordable housing. Applicants applying to this fund should currently be a part of an active local or statewide coalition/collaboration and will need to demonstrate in their proposal the nature of the coalition/collaboration in place. Evidence of the impact this coalition/collaboration will need to be demonstrated in the proposal. Applying organizations or groups will also outline the way in which they plan to raise awareness, engage, and mobilize the community around safe, healthy and/or affordable housing.

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- **Affordable Housing Education**

Affordable Housing Education supports campaign efforts that lead to the better understanding of affordable housing in the state of Rhode Island. The goal is for the public to better understand the benefits of affordable and mixed income housing within their own communities. Applicants for this fund will need to demonstrate in their proposal the nature of the advocacy campaign and evidence of successfully carrying out campaigns in the past.

**Criteria for Selection**

The following are points applications will be scored upon. For further detail and breakdown of points, please refer to pages 5-6 of this RFP.

- 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/>
- 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
- Applicant demonstrates capacity to complete the proposed program or project and willingness to collaborate with other Housing For All Fund grantees.

**Grant Period**

The grant cycle for this RFP is September 2016 to August 2017. All categories within the Housing For All Fund are a one-time grant. However, depending on effectiveness of project proposals and funding availability after the grant period, at the end of the grant period, UWRI will evaluate how to continue to work with the funded agencies with their efforts addressing housing affordability.

**Fund Eligibility Criteria**

Funding will go to organizations and coalitions that can address one or all of the following goals 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:

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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 proposes a project/program is located in and serving Rhode Island.
3. Are requesting funding that will be utilized between September, 2016 and August, 2017;
4. Are submitting no more than two (2) proposals per organization. Organizations may submit a maximum of two (2) applications. All applications must respond to one of the three Housing For All Funds: Community Coalition Building, Community Engagement , or Affordable Housing Education.

To begin the application process, please visit <https://uwriweb.org/housingforallfund> 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 be asked to submit a Project Narrative that is limited to no more than 6 pages, a Budget Proposal, and a Budget Narrative. Further details about the selection criteria about these required documents can be found when applicants access the online application at the above link.

The deadline for application submission for the Housing For All Fund is **July 22, 2016 by 3:00pm. Late and incomplete proposals will not be considered.** The following is an outline of the Housing For All Fund Timeline.

- July 22nd, 2016– Deadline for applications.
- August 25th, 2016 – Funding decision announced.
- October 1, 2016 – Applicants receive funding.
- By September, 2017 – Applicants complete site visit and complete final report.

For further questions or further information, please contact Naomi Leipold at [Naomi.Leipold@uwri.org](mailto:Naomi.Leipold@uwri.org). Thank you for your interest in participating with United Way of Rhode Island and helping to strengthen our communities, together.



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**Review Criteria for Project Narrative**

Applicants are expected to respond to the following questions in their project narrative.

**Context (30 points)**

- For which initiative are you submitting an application: Community Coalition Building, Community Engagement, or Affordable Housing Education?
- Please describe the proposed program/project.
- With what community will your project or program work? Do you have any existing connections with that community? If yes, please briefly describe those connections.
- How does this project address healthy, safe, and/or affordable housing?
- How has the community identified the need for healthy, safe and/or affordable housing?
- What data supports the need for this program or project within the community? If there is no data to support this need, please explain in more depth why the community has identified the need.
- Are other organizations addressing the need in this community? What gaps still exist in delivering programs or projects to address healthy, safe, and/or affordable housing?
- Why is this program or project needed at this time?
- What external factors will help or hinder this work? External factors may include attitudes, resources, policies, laws, timeline, regulations, geography, etc. What strategies will the organization or coalition use to mitigate or leverage these external factors?

**Design and Implementation (30 points)**

- How is this an appropriate response to the community need described in the Context section of this application?
- Is there a best practice this proposed project or program is based on? If yes, briefly describe what that is. If no, briefly describe how the proposed project or program is a unique approach.
- Who will benefit from this funding? List specific geographic areas, specific ethnic and racial communities, specific age groups, systems, etc.
- What results do you expect to achieve with this project or program? How do you plan to track your progress?

What will this project or program do? Please outline the specific action steps and milestones. Include a timeframe (start and end date) for each strategy listed.

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**Organizational Capacity (30 points)**

- Describe the focus of your organization or coalition, including its goals and objectives.
- Provide a short description of each organization or coalition involved with the project or program. This should include each organization or coalition's mission, key program focus and key accomplishments.
- What is the history of collaboration between the organizations proposing this work? What have been some of the strengths and challenges of the collaboration?
- What types of collaboration has the organization or coalition had with UWRI in the past, if any? (Note: Applicants will not be penalized if they have not had a history of collaboration with UWRI.)
- Who are the key program or project management staff that will be working on this project for each organization? If key staff have been identified, describe how those specific individuals add value to the project.
- Describe how your organization or coalition has the capacity to complete the proposed project.

**Review Criteria for Budget and Budget Narrative (10 points)**

Detailed and clearly explained budgets will be given higher points. You will be asked to provide a breakdown of the proposed project/program budget and a budget narrative. This includes personnel expenses, professional fees, program supplies, staff training, direct assistance to individuals, and equipment purchases.