



### **Introduction**

For 10 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 on the lives of Rhode Island children. To ensure its continued success, we must work to increase the initiative's effectiveness. In this request, 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 \$700,000 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.

This results in teachers having valuable class time in September, as they must attach 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:

- Promote 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, 21st-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 good fiscal standing.

1. Cooper H, Nye B, Charlton K, Lindsay L, and Hedges L (1996) The effect of summer vacation on achievement scores: A meta-analytic and theoretical review. *Review of Educational Research*, 66.