Learning Loss Grant – Frequently Asked Questions

Eligibility

• Can organizations outside United Way of Greater Atlanta’s (UWGA) 13-county region apply for this grant? Yes, the Learning Loss grant is a statewide grant program. A number of regions around the state will receive higher priority. You can find details on those regions on page 6 of the RFP.

• My organization does not impact individuals in UWGA’s 13-county region. How do I answer the question on the eligibility quiz that asks if my organization impacts individuals in the UWGA 13-county region? Learning Loss grant applicants should answer yes to this question to move forward with the grant application, even if the organization is outside the metro Atlanta region.

• My organization is a faith-based organization that is not required to have 501(c)(3) status from the IRS to be considered a charitable organization. How do I answer the question on the eligibility quiz that asks if my organization is a registered nonprofit or government agency? Learning Loss grant applicants should answer yes to this question to move forward with the grant application. UW knows faith-based organizations have an exception from the IRS and staff will approve your registration if your organization meets the other eligibility criteria.

• Are collaborative agencies applying for this grant chosen in advance like was done with other grants? For example, Georgia Alliance of YMCAs. No, they were not.

• Why are schools and school districts not eligible for these grants? For example, Georgia Alliance of YMCAs. No, they were not.

• Why are schools and school districts not eligible for these grants? Schools and school districts received funding through the ESSER Fund). Learning Loss funds have been designated for community-based organizations.

• If the nonprofit organization is a 501(c)(3) within a school system, are you eligible? No.

• Can a school system serve as an applicant’s fiscal agent? No, they can’t. Because school systems are not eligible applicants, they are not eligible to serve as fiscal sponsors.

• I see the RFP indicates organizations are eligible if they are 501(c)(3), but not if they are independent schools. What if you are both? If you are a nonprofit independent school and you serve children and youth who meet the guidelines, you may apply.

• Is the grantee/fiscal agent able to partner with a school system for programming? Yes.

• Why can’t childcare centers that only serve children under age 5 apply? Similar to the ESSER Funds (mentioned above), childcare centers across Georgia have been eligible for relief funds awarded to and administered by the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL).

• Are for profit organizations able to apply, if they are not charging fees for their services under this program? No, for-profit organizations are not eligible to apply.

• Is a nonprofit that has a current UWGA grant eligible to apply for this Learning Loss grant? Yes.

• What are the youth participant requirements? As outlined in the RFP on page 3, youth participating within the organization’s Learning Loss funded program MUST meet the following requirements: be a U.S. citizen or legal immigrant; AND be a Georgia resident; AND currently receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)/Food Stamps, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Medicaid or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or have a household income 300% or less of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL); AND be 5 - 17 years old or be 18 years old and meet other criteria outlined in the RFP.

Application Process & FLUXX

• How do I apply? The application must be submitted online. Incomplete applications and those not submitted by the deadline will not be considered for funding. Only one application will be accepted from each organization. The only exception will be for a youth development organization that also serves as a fiscal agent for another program/organization.
• I thought the deadline was February 2nd, but I see that it says February 9th on the website. Would you confirm the correct deadline? The deadline was moved to February 9th at 11:59 p.m.

• I went to FLUXX but have not obtained my credentials to use the portal. How do I get my credentials? Within 48 hours of completing the registration, applicants will receive an email with their username and password. If it has been more than 48 hours, please reach out to United Way staff at grantee@unitedwayatlanta.org.

• How should I enter my EIN in FLUXX? Please enter your EIN with the dash in it.

• Can you enter information into the online application without initially submitting it? Yes, you can. Click Save and Continue OR Save and Close at the bottom of your screen before exiting the browser. If you don’t, the information entered will not be saved.

• The application portal isn’t working well for me. Can I apply another way? No, applications must be submitted online through FLUXX. Make sure you’re using Google Chrome to access FLUXX as the application portal works best with Google Chrome.

• Who do I contact if I have problems with the online application portal? If you are having problems with the application portal, please contact United Way staff at grantee@unitedwayatlanta.org. Please include “Learning Loss grant question” in your email subject.

• Some of the questions in the application are confusing. Who can I contact to help me? Make sure that you visit United Way’s College & Career Ready webpage for the updated RFP that includes detailed Application Guidance. The Application Guidance gives guidance on almost every question asked in the application. Also review the recording of the Applicant Workshop found here. If you still have questions after reviewing these resources, please contact United Way staff at grantee@unitedwayatlanta.org. Please include “Learning Loss grant question” in your email subject.

• I emailed my questions to grantee@unitedwayatlanta.org but haven’t gotten an answer. When will someone reply? All emails will receive a response within 48 hours, except those sent on Friday afternoons. Those emails should expect to hear back from United Way staff no later than Tuesday afternoon. If you have not received a reply within 48 hours, please resend your email and be sure to include “Learning Loss grant question” in your email subject. Staff is fielding many questions and is doing the best they can to ensure all emails receive a response.

Questions related to the Application

• If we have a fiscal sponsor, do we fill out the application under our organization or under the fiscal sponsor’s information? Your organizational profile needs to be for your organization, so enter that information when completing the profile. You’ll be asked to provide information on your fiscal sponsor later in the application.

• Is the number of young people served annually our current or predicted number? The number you enter in the application should be the number you anticipate serving in the upcoming year with any funds received through the Learning Loss grant.

• Can you explain the difference between the required and preferred program components? Applicants are required to select at least one academic support strategy from the list to qualify for funding. Applicants may choose as many strategies as apply to their program. Preferred components are not required of all organizations, but applicants that identify either or both preferred components will receive priority points in the scoring process.

• Is it required for programming to occur at the same level throughout the grant period or is it ok to ramp up and really develop majority of programming for summer months only? Program dosage can vary throughout the year. Be sure to provide detailed information about how your program is structured and how dosage varies in the application.
• **My program does not serve any of the target populations identified in the RFP. Should I apply?** Any eligible organization that offers a program that meets the Learning Loss grant’s criteria should consider applying. While serving one or more of the target populations is not required, applicants that serve one or more of the target populations will receive additional points in the scoring process.

• **My organization is a grantee of the DFCS Afterschool Care Program. Should I apply?** Any eligible organization that offers a program that meets the Learning Loss grant’s criteria should consider applying. Applicants that are not current DFCS grantees will receive additional points in the scoring process.

• **My organization received state and/or federal funds to support learning loss and offer additional educational and enrichment opportunities to young people. Should I apply?** Any eligible organization that offers a program that meets the Learning Loss grant’s criteria should consider applying. Applicants that have not received any of these funds will receive additional points in the scoring process.

• **Should an organization offering more than one program apply for funding for each program or include all programs in one application?** Organizations may only submit one application and are welcome to include all programs that address learning loss in one application.

• **My organization is not located in one of the Georgia DFCS regions that are identified in the RFP. Should I apply?** Any eligible organization that offers a program that meets the Learning Loss grant’s criteria should consider applying for funding. Serving young people in one of the priority regions is not a requirement; however, applicants that serve young people in those regions will receive priority points in the scoring process.

• **What types of goals are you seeking?** Applicants are asked to describe what success looks like moving forward and the impact its program will have on the young people served. United Way and Georgia Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS) are not establishing outcomes grantees are expected to report on. You do not need to include exact numbers or goals. United Way staff will work with grantees once they have been identified to finalize goals.

• **What data will organizations be required to report on?** The report template is not ready yet. However, organizations can expect to report on the number of youth served, demographics of youth served, and program attendance. United Way and DFCS will also request qualitative data about the program. Grantees will also report on their specific agreed-upon goals/outcomes.

• **Do grantees have to collect information on each youth participating in the program or can we use community-level data?** Grantees will be required to collect information on the DFCS form and have it on file. Grantees will not be required to submit these forms to United Way or DFCS but may be asked to make them available during the grant period. Grantees will be required to maintain these records through 2028.

• **What about community-based learning programs that may not collect the DFCS information? Like experiential learning activities in public spaces?** Grantees will be required to collect the data included in the DFCS form on all youth served.

• **We do not currently gather SNAP, TANF, household income, etc. We look at FRPL qualification to determine need. Do we have to track this prior to applying or receiving an award or is it something we can begin tracking?** Grantees will not be required to track this data prior to receiving an award. Applicants are encouraged to conduct an informal survey of their youth participants or to conduct a community scan to ensure they will be able to serve the youth they propose prior to applying.

• **Do you have to separate children who do not qualify for the program?** No.
• **How much funding can I request?** Organizations can request up to $50,000. Note that organizations with budgets less than $50,000 may receive grants that are less than $50,000. More information on this will be made available later.

• **Is it $50K per organization or per application? What if 2-3 organizations apply together?** Organizations can request up to $50,000, even if you are applying as a collaborative.

• **Is there a match requirement on this funding?** No.

• **Is this a reimbursement grant?** No. United Way anticipates processing the grant in two payments.

• **What are the eligible expenses for the Learning Loss grant?**
  - Salaries, wages, and fringe benefits for program staff
  - Rent, utilities (phone, cable, and internet only), and telecommunications for the program facility or staff
  - Operating expenses associated with the program: printing, advertising, audit, insurance, postage, snacks/meals, subscriptions/memberships, non-vehicle equipment maintenance/repair, youth participant educational support (testing fees, college entrance exam fees, etc.), computer software, program curriculum, program supplies and materials, criminal history checks, vehicle renewal fees
  - Consultant/contractual expenses for direct program support (e.g., dance instructor) or indirect program support (program evaluator)
  - Student transportation: costs to transport youth participants including gas
  - Indirect costs: costs not directly accountable to a cost object that are either fixed or variable and may include clerical or auxiliary costs of operating the program. May not exceed 10% of the Learning Loss grant request.

• **What are the ineligible expenses for the Learning Loss grant?**
  - Student incentives
  - Field trips
  - Professional development
  - Staff travel, including conference registration fees
  - Technology hardware
  - Childcare
  - Office furniture
  - Land or building purchase (full or partial)
  - Major renovations/building projects
  - Office equipment
  - Outdoors expenses including landscaping, playgrounds, yard maintenance, fences, or driveway/parking lot paving
  - Electricity, natural gas, fuel oil, water and sewage charges
  - Vehicles: purchase of or maintenance expenses of vehicles

• **Given the correlation between mental health and academic success/ability to learn, can our proposal include the mental health services we provide (therapy, skill-building, etc.) at no cost to students/families?** Yes, especially since the Learning Loss grant will give priority points to organizations implementing either or both preferred program components: promoting two-generation outcomes and securing basic needs. The learning loss component of the program, however, must be an essential component of the program.