**Examples of a Grant Call:**

**Sample Community Development Grant Call from United Way**

**Background**

You and your group have conducted a community needs assessment in a neighbourhood where your agency works. Pretend that you and your group members are working with the agency (XYZ) that you have interviewed for your community needs assessment purpose.

You and agency staff are now having better understanding about the pressing community needs in the neighbourhood. Pretend that your agency XYZ, a registered non profit Charity, is a member agency of United Way Greater Toronto (UWGT) and UWGT funded your agency during 2016- 2018 for a project which helped marginalized women and newcomers of Toronto.   
  
Currently Building Strong Neighbourhoods Strategy (BSNS) of UWGT asking grant proposals from community and social service agencies working in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA).

**Funding Opportunity: Building Strong Neighbourhoods Strategy (BSNS)  
Greater Toronto Region BSNS Development Grants**

1. [Information Sessions](https://www.unitedwaygt.org/peel-BSNS-grant#info)
2. [Funding Guidelines](https://www.unitedwaygt.org/peel-BSNS-grant#guidelines)
   * [Context](https://www.unitedwaygt.org/peel-BSNS-grant#context)
   * [What Are BSNS Development Grants?](https://www.unitedwaygt.org/peel-BSNS-grant#what)
   * [Purpose and Deliverables](https://www.unitedwaygt.org/peel-BSNS-grant#purpose)
   * [Application Requirements & Criteria](https://www.unitedwaygt.org/peel-BSNS-grant#requirements)
   * [Funding Available](https://www.unitedwaygt.org/peel-BSNS-grant#available)
   * [Use of Funding](https://www.unitedwaygt.org/peel-BSNS-grant#use)
   * [Organizational Eligibility](https://www.unitedwaygt.org/peel-BSNS-grant#eligibility)
   * [Timelines](https://www.unitedwaygt.org/peel-BSNS-grant#timelines)
   * [Contact](https://www.unitedwaygt.org/peel-BSNS-grant#contact)

**Information Session**

United Way Greater Toronto (UWGT) staff will be offering an in-person and online information session following the opening of the online application to take place on September 27th, 2019. It is highly recommended that you attend the information session.

**Funding Guidelines**

**CONTEXT**

Income is increasingly polarized by neighbourhood and where you live, and your background, increasingly determine your opportunities for the future. United Way Greater Toronto’s (UWGT) focus on neighbourhood development has its roots in a decade of work in Toronto through the Building Strong Neighbourhoods Strategy (BSNS) as well as the Neighbourhood Development Grant program launched by United Way GTA in 2012/13. United Way also collaborated with the Region of GTA to develop the [Neighbourhood Information Tool](https://www.peelregion.ca/planning-maps/nit/) which along with other resources will support applicants to understand local trends in GTA neighbourhoods.

BSNS Development Grants in GTA Region will bring together our experience from Toronto, York & GTA Regions while ensuring that BSNS remains locally relevant to neighbourhoods in each jurisdiction.

The strategy intends to build local leadership among residents and other key stakeholders to enhance the capacity of low-income residents in neighbourhoods to tackle critical issues.

1. Neighbourhood stakeholders progressively develop skills to engage and find solutions to the issues most relevant to neighbourhoods
2. Neighbourhood networks expand and deepen to include diverse partners — within and beyond neighbourhoods — to tackle the issues most relevant to neighbourhoods
3. Neighbourhood assets become progressively more diverse and responsive to community needs

UWGT will ensure strong neighbourhoods in GTA Region by supporting BSNS Development Grants in 2020.

**WHAT ARE BSNS DEVELOPMENT GRANTS?**

BSNS Development Grants in GTA Region are available for up to two years. The grants will be provided to community service agencies or collaboratives in GTA Region to support community development and resident engagement initiatives using a place-based approach.

**PURPOSE & DELIVERABLES:**

Grants will be awarded in 2 streams to community service agencies or collaboratives in GTA Region to support neighbourhoods to:

**STREAM 1: NEIGHBOURHOOD READINESS**

This stream supports neighbourhoods to put in place the necessary pre-conditions to enable effective strategies for addressing key issues facing the neighbourhood. Community leadership at the local level among low-income residents and other stakeholders will be strengthened as a result of initiatives in this stream.

More specifically, communities (residents and stakeholders) in GTA Region in this stream will:

* be equipped with basic community organizing, collaboration tools, techniques and approaches
* create the platforms (such as a local network) where they can bring issues forward, strengthen collaborative activities and facilitate neighbourhood visioning
* develop trust and connections among one another so people will begin to feel a sense of ownership over their community
* deepen their knowledge of local needs to put into place strategies or plans that will help enhance local neighbourhood assets or address key neighbourhood issues

**STREAM 2: FOCUSED ISSUE**

This stream supports neighbourhoods to leverage change work with a foundation to act **on a specific issue** using a community development and resident engagement approach. Neighbourhoods must identify an issue within one of the following three domains:

* **Economic Opportunities** is about fostering a desirable place that is conducive to attracting and growing new investments and a skilled workforce. It looks at promoting local economic development by supporting an environment in the neighbourhood that will enable communities to develop and strengthen relevant skills as well as access economic and employment opportunities.
* **Social Well-Being** involves enabling people to coexist inclusively and contribute positively to strengthen the social fabric of neighbourhoods. This is often characterized by equitable and accessible services, local food security, a sense of community safety, a sense of cultural belonging, etc.
* **Neighbourhood Infrastructure** looks at supporting places & spaces that are welcoming and can be safely accessed by local residents. These revitalized areas can enable the neighbourhood to respond to local needs and help to drive social cohesion. (For example: an animated and vibrant local park or enhancing local amenities in a high-rise community)

**APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS & CRITERIA**

**APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:**

Submissions will require the following:

* Basic information about the applying organization; as well as any project collaborators
* Trustee information (if applicable)
* Project details including geography, description, duration, applicable stream, rationale, existing opportunities and how low-income residents & other stakeholders would be engaged in the work
* Experience of the applicants to deliver the work
* Project work plan
* Financial information
* Other attachments per instructions in application form (optional)

**CRITERIA:**

Agencies or collaboratives will be reviewed based on the following criteria:

* Clear rationale for project including an understanding of opportunity and need in the selected neighbourhood
* Project alignment to the correct stream and purpose of fund
* Applicant demonstrates how low-income residents and other equity seeking groups will be involved in the project
* Diversity among the successful projects (example: geographic focus)
* Demonstrated community development and resident engagement expertise and knowledge of applicant(s) of the local community
* Capacity to act as a local convener
* Previous experience providing service or leading community development projects within the proposed geography
* Willingness to work with UW as a partner in sharing best practices and ensuring monitoring and evaluation activities are linked to UWs broader BSNS
* A clear workplan and financial information in alignment with eligible activities and services
* Adherence to the grant pre-screening guidelines and eligibility requirements (see below)

**FUNDING AVAILABLE**

Agencies can apply for up to $75,000 per year for one or two year projects. Applications will include a workplan which must articulate how the agency or collaborative will tackle the above activities.

**USE OF FUNDING**

The following types of activities are **eligible** for funding:

* Community meetings
* Information sessions
* Community planning sessions
* Community outreach
* Partnership and stakeholder meetings
* Research and surveying
* Community gatherings (i.e., neighbourhood festivals, neighbourhood walks)
* Trainings and workshops

The following types of costs are **eligible** for funding:

* Staffing or consulting costs to support local engagement, partnership and planning efforts
* Outreach to the community
* Capacity building activities
* Barrier reduction costs to support the involvement of local community members and groups
* Supports to local planning activities and partnership

The following types of activities are **ineligible** for funding:

* Direct services and programs (e.g. after school program, yoga activity, leisure trips, etc.). This includes staff time dedicated to program/service delivery.
* Community events or activities not aligned to the stream of focus for steam 2 submissions (e.g. selected issue)
* Please note that under Stream 2:
  + applicants proposing work related to food security/community food systems will not be eligible from the City of Mississauga
  + applicants proposing projects related to funding existing community hub operations will not be eligible
* Activities currently funded by other UWGT funding envelopes
* Political/partisan activities
* Religious activities

**ORGANIZATIONAL ELIGIBILITY**

This is an open call and all eligible organizations are welcome to apply. Interested parties must contact UWGT by **November 1st, 202X at 5 p.m.** to ensure their application aligns to the purpose and eligibility criteria for the BSNS Development Grants.

Applicants can apply on their own or as part of a larger collaborative of 2 or more agencies. The lead applying agency must meet the eligibility requirements and will be responsible for the stewardship of the funds and deliverables.

Once alignment and eligibility are confirmed, UWGT will provide applicants will a web link to submit the online application. Details on how to access and use the online system will be provided.

Organizations that are not currently funded by United Way will have to complete a Basic Organizational Requirements Assessment, along with the application, and staff will provide the necessary web link. Organizations currently funded by United Way have already completed this assessment and therefore are not required to do so.  To be eligible for United Way’s BSNS Development Grant funding, agencies must:

* Be a registered charitable organization, OR
* Be an incorporated non-profit organization, trusteed by a registered charity
* Have audited financial statements for at least two consecutive years (fiscal 202X and 202Y years; or 202A and 202B years), or be trusteed by a charity that has audited financial statements for at least two consecutive years
* Provide social, community services, or relevant community development activities in GTA Region
* Provide services or otherwise engage people living in, or at risk of, poverty

**United Way will not support the following:**

* For-profit organizations
* Organizations that do not have charitable status or are not trusteed by a charitable organization
* Government or government agencies, boards and/or commissions
* Hospitals and long-term-care facilities
* Universities, colleges and school boards
* Organizations located either outside City of Toronto, York Region or GTA Region
* Organizations whose purpose is solely related to political activity, as defined by the Canada Revenue Agency
* Organizations without a clear demarcation between religious and community service as evidenced in the organization’s by-laws
* Organizations that could be deemed discriminatory, as defined by the Ontario Human Rights Code
* Foundations
* Unions
* Professional Associations

**TIMELINES**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Activities** | **Timeframe** |
| BSNS Development Grant Launched | XXXXX (Date) |
| Information Session | YYYYYY (Date) |
| Final day for applicants to register with United Way for funding opportunity | ZZZZZZ (Date) |
| Grant Submission Deadline | AAAAA (Date) |
| Communication with agencies | BBBBBB (Date) |
| Funding released | CCCCCC (Date) |

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

Agencies are expected to contact UWGT to register their interest in the BSNS Development Grant Stream and confirm grant alignment by contacting the Neighbourhoods Team by no later than **XXXX (**Date) **at 5 p.m.**

XXXXX  
Manager, Neighbourhoods  
[XXXX@uwgt.org](mailto:XXXX@uwgt.org)

Note:

The following Grant call was adopted from United Way Greater Toronto.

Source: United Way Greater Toronto [https://www.unitedwaygt.org/GTA-BSNS-grant#guidelines](https://www.unitedwaygt.org/peel-BSNS-grant#guidelines), Retrieve on Oct 23, 202X.