



2025-26 UWGC Community Investments Updates



Community Investments Team



Brian Beaulieu
Director of Community
Investments & Partner
Relations



Abby Garrison
Vice President of
Community Investments



Cassie Nice
Community Investments
Manager

Overview



- Background & Where We're Headed
- 2030 Impact Agenda Highlights
- ALICE & Two-Generation Approach
- Core Changes
- Available Funding Types
- Application Highlights & Updates
- Nonprofit Support & Innovation
- Next Steps & Timeline

Community Investments Background



- Prior to 2022
 - Traditional closed allocation model
 - Supported ~35-40 nonprofits each year
 - Three-year step-down transition
- 2022 - 2025:
 - An open, competitive community-driven allocations process.
 - Supported ~100 nonprofits (60+ new)
 - Introduction of the Steps to Success model

Where We're Headed



- Investments in two-generational approaches serving ALICE families with children
- Multi-year funding for Impact
- Increased investments towards innovation and collaboration
- Investments in capacity & shared measurement framework
- Commitment to financial support of 211 partners providing basic needs



Impact Agenda / ALICE / 2Gen

2030 Impact Agenda

Our Aspiration: *Unite our community to advocate for children and working families living in financial hardship.*

Six Core Action Areas



Build an Ecosystem of Nonprofits



Drive Public Policy Advocacy



Align Investment Strategy



Empower Local Businesses to Act



Strengthen Basic Need Services



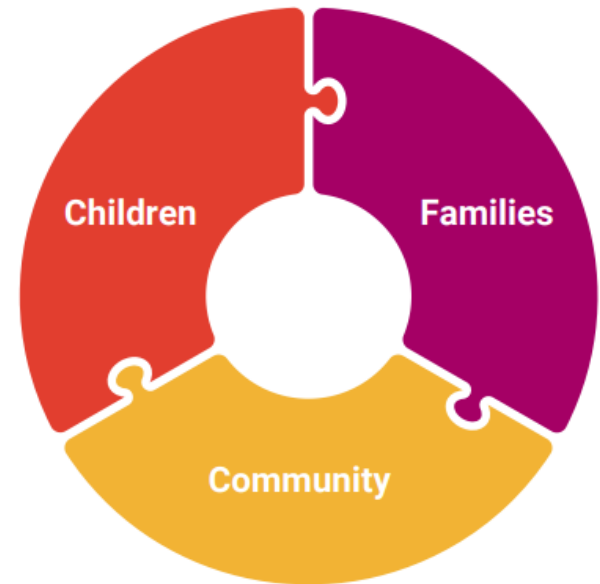
Engage Volunteers & Donors to Support



[Click to Learn More!](#)

Impact Priorities

- 1. Opportunities for all Children:** We are supporting a healthy start and quality learning experiences for all children, regardless of race, income, neighborhood, or ability.
- 2. Economic Mobility for Families:** We are investing in efforts to help working families obtain stable, high-quality jobs and take control of their financial future.
- 3. A More Connected Community:** We are helping to build a vibrant, engaged, and equitable community where children and families can thrive.



ALICE



ALICE = **A**sset **L**imited, **I**ncome **C**onstrained, **E**mployed

- Households that earn more than the Federal Poverty Level, but less than the basic cost of living for the county (the ALICE Threshold).
 - **54,835** households (**36%**) in Hamilton County
 - **44%** of children in Hamilton County
 - **77%** (TN) and **82%** (GA) of Single-Female-Headed households

TWO-GENERATION (#2GEN) APPROACHES CENTER WHOLE FAMILIES



CHILD-FOCUSED



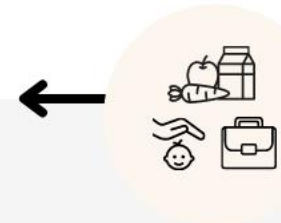
**CHILD-FOCUSED WITH
PARENT & CAREGIVER
ELEMENTS**

This could include early childhood development with parenting skills; family literacy with health screenings; and/or other child-focused services that also identify ways to support the adults in their lives.



WHOLE FAMILY

Two-generation (2Gen) approaches build family well-being by intentionally and simultaneously working with children and the adults in their lives together.



**PARENT- & CAREGIVER-
FOCUSED WITH CHILD
ELEMENTS**

This could include workforce programs offering child care referrals; food and nutrition supports for student parents; and/or other adult-focused services that also identify ways to support their role as parents or caregivers.



ADULT-FOCUSED



Community Investments



Core Changes

- **Focused Funding**: Invest in high-impact initiatives, some for multiple years, that emphasize collaboration and capacity building to serve ALICE households with children.
- **Concentrated Impact Area**: Optimize funding in surrounding counties to support basic needs and our 211 helpline.
 - **North GA** – Bridge & Catalyst 2025-26, Bridge Only Beyond
 - **Marion/Sequatchie**- No grant applications accepted in 2025-26
- **Transparency and Partnership**: Establish a shared measurement framework to focus on children, families, and a connected community, enhancing trust and engagement across the grant cycle.

Available Funding Types

- **Impact Collaborative**: Investing in local nonprofits through competitive grants for collaborative and transformational work to find solutions to systemic issues in our community.
- **Catalyst Accelerator**: Accelerating impact by investing in and supporting innovation and collaboration efforts.
- **Bridge Funds**: Supports programming which provides direct support for those who find themselves in a moment of immediate need.

Impact Collaborative



- Data-backed programs and initiatives addressing solutions to systemic issues in our community
- Heavy emphasis on programing incorporating two-generation approaches that largely serves families with children under the ALICE threshold
- Requests can be program specific or for General Operating Support
- Participation in a collaborative cohort for shared learning and measurement
- Max Funding Request – None (limitations may apply)
- Multi-year funding – July 2025 thru June 2028 (3 years)

Catalyst Accelerator



- Types of Applications for Innovation
 - A new program or new aspects of an existing program
 - Scaling up or expansion of a current program
 - Test a potential solution to a root cause issue or barrier to effectiveness in your work
- Innovative growth, emerging ideas, or creative solutions to accelerate impact
- Emphasize and encourage collaboration with one or more organizations
- Max Funding Request – \$50,000
- Single-year funding – July 2025 thru June 2026

Bridge Funds



- Supports programming which provides direct support for those who find themselves in a moment of immediate need (food, health services, transportation, disaster relief, housing, or childcare).
- All dollars goes directly towards client's needs
- 211 closed-loop referral partners will be prioritized
- Max Funding Request – \$35,000
- Single-year funding – July 2025 thru June 2026

Community Investments, 2025-26

What's Staying the Same?

- Impact, Catalyst & Bridge Funds
- Commitment to Equity
- Investments are Volunteer-driven
- Bridge & Catalyst Grants to remain 1-year funding cycle
- All funding streams available in Hamilton County
- Seat at our table for all nonprofits, regardless of CI partner status
- **Every dollar raised in the six-county coverage area, will continue to stay in the county it was raised in**



Community Investments 2025-26

What's New for 2024?

- Foundant replaces Survey Monkey Apply as UWGC's grantmaking platform.
- Steps to Success model replaced by new metrics aligning with the 2030 Impact Agenda.
- Impact-shift to 3-year funding model, w/ required participation in cohort for measuring outcomes.
- Catalyst– Focus on innovation (not capacity) & collaboration with the intention of scaling up.
- **North GA:** Only eligible for Bridge & Catalyst.
- **Marion/Sequatchie:** Grants are not available 2025-26. Resources to focus on 2-1-1 helpline and services access to Emergency Assistance funds.



Application Highlights

- Register for [Dec 10](#) or [12](#) webinar to learn how to access 2025-26 app
- Application window: January 15 - February 27 (w/ LOI/Pre-App due 2/5)
- Streamlined Application
 - Reduced number of application questions
 - Organizations can apply to multiple funding streams with a single application
- Clear alignment with Impact Agenda focus areas & priorities
 - ALICE families with children
 - 2-Generation programming
 - Collaboration opportunities with outside organizations
 - Equity

Volunteer Support



Community-led approach

- UWGC team will guide, facilitate, share data and community needs, and help frame the process based on best practices. Ultimately, funding decisions are directed by community members representing the community itself.
- Volunteer Grant Reviewers & the Community Investment Committee evaluate applications and recommend investments to the UWGC Board of Directors for approval.
- Scoring rubric and conversations are to reflect UWGC's Impact Agenda priorities.

Nonprofit Support

UWGC offers support beyond the dollar to any nonprofit in our region, regardless of grant funding status.

- Nonprofit Support Events
 - Trainings and workshops to grow organizational capacity-building – in partnership with TN Nonprofit Network (TNN)
 - Cross-sector collaboration opportunities
 - Quarterly Coffee Talks – sponsored by Be Caffeinated
 - Day of Caring & Volunteer opportunities
 - [Monthly Newsletter](#) to keep you informed



Next Steps



Next Steps & Timeline

- **December 10 & 12, 2024:** Live Grant Application Info & Training (recording will be posted on website)
- **January 15, 2025:** Grant Portal Opens (via Foundant)
- **February 5, 2025:** Deadline for Pre-Application/LOI submission (via Foundant)
- **January 16, 2025 – February 27, 2025:** CI Staff Office Hours – every Tuesday & Thursday from 11am-12pm EST via Zoom
- **February 27, 2025:** Deadline for Full Application submission by 5:00pm (EST)



Resources and Links

- UWGC [Community Investments](#) page
- UWGC [Nonprofit Support](#) page
- [UWGC 2030 Impact Agenda](#)
- ALICE Resources: [Tennessee](#) / [Georgia](#)
- Two-Generation Resources – [Ascend at the Aspen Institute](#)

Questions?

Email us at: impact@uwchatt.org



Greater Chattanooga