

United Way of Merced County - Mini-Grant Funding Guidelines

The United Way of Merced County mini-grant is intended to support projects that will enhance the organization's central mission: *"Improving lives by mobilizing the caring power of the community to create lasting changes"*. The mini-grant should be used to directly support projects and/or involve community members in the Merced County area. It should enhance our ongoing work as well as support community engagement and participation. Examples of projects that may be funded include: a cultural arts conference that provides opportunities to engage residents or community partners, activities focused on health and promote physical activity, or community events that focus on enhancing community safety.

- United way of Merced County's three Prioritized Outcomes for implementation for 2011-2012 include:
 - **Education:** All children should have the opportunity to succeed in school – from preschool to graduation and beyond
 - **Health:** Communities support healthy behavior and lifestyles – strong focus on youth development
 - **Financial:** Community improvements and stability are linked to increased opportunities to create and maintain financial resources and enhance job skills for social enterprise and economic development
- Funding priority will be given to individuals and community serving groups within Merced County that have not received funding through the current annual allocation process. and to those applications where there is a demonstrated in-kind or monetary match from another funding source. Grants will be funded on a first come, first serve basis within the deadlines as laid out.
- Attempts will be made to distribute the funding throughout the 2011-2012 fiscal year
- Funding amounts can vary from \$250 to \$1,000, depending on the project and funding available. Total funds available annually through this source are \$10,000 maximum.
- Completed applications are to be submitted at any time throughout the fiscal year. Award notification will be announced within two weeks of submission.
- Adults, youth and/or community-serving organizations with non-profit 501(c) (3) status or those with a fiscal sponsorship may apply.
- If funded, conferences and events must include the United Way of Merced County name and logo.

Once awarded funding, the individual, group or organization will be required to provide a one page summary and short presentation of the mini-grant activity at a United way of Merced County Board of Director's meeting on how their project lead to a healthier Merced County. The final report, media clips, publications and photos of the funded project will be required 30 days after the end date of the project. Include how you spent the grant funds and show proof by providing receipts of items purchased or other financial documents.

The United Way of Merced County Board of Directors has authorized the Executive Director to consider and approve requests as he deems appropriate according to the guideline listed above. Please submit your application to: Flip Hassett, Executive Director, at Flip@unitedwaymerced.org or call (209) 383-4242.

What is a United Way of Merced County Mini-Grant?

Through the United Way of Merced County's strategic initiatives – Education, Financial Stability, and Health, we will be investing in Merced County to build healthy and safe environments where people live, attend school, work and play. Special attention will be given to youth activities. In many communities across California, there is a need for opportunities for youth to become involved in their community and to take pride in their community.

Mini-grants will improve leadership, community involvement and behaviors related to developing healthy and safe communities. Through the United Way of Merced County mini-grant funding, we hope that local individuals and organizations within Merced County will have opportunities to acquire new skills, participate in cultural arts and educational outings, take on community engagement projects and improve their health by becoming physically active.

Who can apply?

Eligible applicants are individuals, 501(c) (3) nonprofit organizations, or grass-root community organizations who have a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization as their fiscal sponsor. Individuals are encouraged to apply and must partner with a nonprofit organization that will serve as their financial sponsor.

How to apply:

Please complete the application on the next page. Applications must be received by United Way of Merced County by direct delivery or mail to:

Flip Hassett, Executive Director
Mini-Grants
658 W. Main Street
Merced, CA 95340)

or electronically to:

Flip Hassett at flip@unitedwaymerced.org ,

Funds are limited and preference will be given to non-TCE funded groups. The funding amount will range from \$250 to \$1,000. Only \$10,000 is available annually. Funds are awarded on a first come, first served basis.

2011-2012 United Way of Merced County

MINI-GRANT APPLICATION

UW Use Only

Application #

Project Title: _____

Address of the project: _____

Name/Title of Contact Person: _____

Telephone: _____ **Fax:** _____

Email Address: _____

Grant Amount Requested: _____

Please provide written responses to the following questions on a separate document:

- **Summary of the project** (two paragraphs). Describe how your proposed project builds on the goals and objectives of United Way of Merced County activities. Example: what are the activities you will provide? What is the expected change in behavior or policies that will take place? How long will your project operate?
- **How much will it cost?** (no more than a page) Show your entire budget for the activity/program. List the amount you are requesting and outline how the requested money will be spent.
- **What is the name of the community serving organization?** Are they the fiscal sponsor? Regardless, we will need a letter of determination from the applicant or fiscal agent organization.

Signature of the person permitted to sign for the organization

Print Name: _____ Title: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____