

# United Way of Harrisonburg and Rockingham County Community Impact Team Information Sheet

## Overview

United Way of Harrisonburg and Rockingham County (UWHR) invites members of the community to join a Community Impact Team and play an integral role in our grant-making process. United Way is a leader in bringing together the greatest assets of our community needed to address the most pressing issues. We combine the resources of our business sector, the passion of individual donors, the energy of volunteers and the expertise of our nonprofit community partners to create the greatest social capital available in the Shenandoah Valley. At United Way, we recognize in order to use our social capital wisely we must operate from a strategic plan designed to maximize our impact.

United Way funding priorities are primarily focused on the ALICE Report. ALICE® is a project that focuses on community members who are **A**sset **L**imited, **I**ncome **C**onstrained, and **E**mployed. The United Way ALICE Project is the umbrella of work to both reveal and address the needs of this population. The project includes research, United Way ALICE Reports, the National ALICE Advisory Council, state-based Research Advisory Committees, the ALICE Learning Community, and local community impact work to address the needs of this population. United Way of Harrisonburg and Rockingham County along with local United Ways throughout Virginia have come together for the first time to produce the Virginia ALICE Report.

In our community, a significant percentage of the population in Harrisonburg City and Rockingham County are living below the ALICE threshold. Through strategic partnerships, intentional dialogue and targeted grant funding, United Way seeks to positively impact those living below the ALICE threshold, empowering them to move from crisis to survival to sustainability.

In order to do this, United Way aims to provide direct, strategic support to organizations that serve clients living below the ALICE threshold. There are two tiers of funding: Tier 1 investments will focus on supporting people living below the ALICE threshold while Tier 2 investments will address other pressing needs in our community.

## What is the role of the Community Impact Team (CIT) volunteer?

- Serve on a team of community members from varying professional backgrounds to evaluate United Way community impact grant applications for a total commitment of approximately 15 hours from February-April 2019
- Represent United Way of Harrisonburg and Rockingham County as an informed decision-maker to determine which applications best align with United Way's investment priorities
- Utilize our scoring criteria to evaluate how well each application aligns with the United Way investment priorities

## What are the requirements to be a CIT volunteer?

- Volunteers must be an active member of the Harrisonburg and/or Rockingham County community.
- Volunteers must commit to the entire process (February through mid-April).
- Volunteers must be able to objectively review grant applications and will be required to apply review criteria and the scoring rubric that will be provided by UWHR. Unfortunately, staff at agencies that have applied may not volunteer. However, volunteers otherwise affiliated with a prospective community partner (board members, volunteers, etc.) will not be assigned to review that organization's application, but are still encouraged to volunteer to review other applications.

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## What is the term of service?

CIT volunteers will serve from February through April 2019 for a total of approximately 15 hours.

## What is expected of CIT volunteers?

- Attend the training and orientation session on Wednesday February 13<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 – 10:30 a.m. UWHR will provide training materials to equip volunteers with the skills they will need to effectively evaluate grant applications. No prior experience is required.
- CIT volunteers will be assigned applications and will be expected to thoroughly review each application prior to the oral presentation.
- Submit questions to the applicant prior to the site visit so that the organization's representative be prepared to answer the questions.
- Complete a site visit at each agency corresponding to the applications to be reviewed.
- Collectively, with the rest of the CIT, make a funding recommendation to the UWHR Vision Council based on total scores.

## Important Dates:

Date	Deadline/Meeting
February 8, 2019	Deadline for CIT sign-up
February 13, 2019 (8:30-10:30 a.m.)	CIT Volunteer Training & Orientation Session (2 hours)
March 6, 2019	CITs submit questions to grant applicants
Weeks of March 11 and 18, 2019	CIT volunteers complete site visits with agencies (2 hours) CIT volunteers submit all scores
Weeks of April 1 and 8, 2019	CIT meetings to determine grant awards (2 hours)

## What are the benefits that a CIT volunteer can expect from the process?

- Contribute to UWHR's efforts to strengthen the community and improve the lives of people in Harrisonburg and Rockingham County
- Become engaged in making important decisions regarding financial support to the Harrisonburg and Rockingham County community
- Gain a better understanding of the human service needs in our community and which organizations are working to address them
- Network with other community leaders, all of whom share a passion for improving lives right here where we live and work

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### How do you become a CIT volunteer?

If you are interested in serving as a CIT volunteer, please respond via Get Connected ([http://getconnected.uwhr.org/need/detail/?need\\_id=386894](http://getconnected.uwhr.org/need/detail/?need_id=386894)). We will contact you with further instructions if you meet the eligibility requirements. If you have questions regarding this volunteer opportunity, please contact Tashfia Hasan, Community Impact Coordinator at [Tashfia.hasan@uwhr.org](mailto:Tashfia.hasan@uwhr.org).