



United Way
of Greater New Bedford

Changemaker Grant Guidelines

What is United Way?

United Way of Greater New Bedford was founded in 1953 and for the past 68 years has been working to address the most pressing needs in the community. As a leading non-profit in the SouthCoast, we have raised and invested nearly \$10M dollars into community programs over the past decade.

In addition to investing money in the community through grants, United Way is committed to making an impact by providing direct services to the community through the New Bedford Shannon and SSYI Programs, the Family Resource & Development Center, Hunger Commission, and New Bedford Community Connections Coalition.

Our Mission: We mobilize people, partnerships, and resources to catalyze change that strengthens the communities we serve.

United Way of Greater New Bedford serves New Bedford, Acushnet, Dartmouth, Fairhaven, Freetown, Mattapoisett, Marion, Rochester, or Wareham

What are Changemaker Grants?

United Way of Greater New Bedford is a leader in promoting volunteerism throughout the region. Through Changemaker Grants, formerly the Community Building Mini-Grants Program, all-volunteer groups are empowered to create positive change by identifying needs in their communities.

You don't have to be part of an established non-profit organization to apply for a Changemaker Grant. These grants go to all-volunteer groups with annual budgets of less than \$40,000 that have one thing in common: they have great ideas for building and helping their community. So if you are a member of a neighborhood association, a group of concerned parents, or a small group looking to do big things for your community, we urge you to contact us and apply.

Since 1995, United Way has supported 825 community projects created by over 427 local all-volunteer based groups for over \$850,314. In 2021, 17 projects were funded a total of \$30,000 to complete projects.

Whether you want to start a neighborhood cleanup program, establishing a community garden, providing sanitary items for the region's homeless, or have another great idea for creating change, Changemaker Grants can give you the seed money to get started.

Do I have to be a 501(c) 3 organization to apply?

No, you don't. You can be a member of a neighborhood association, a group of concerned parents, or a small group looking to do big things in Greater New Bedford. As long as you have at least 3 members and are fully volunteer run, you can apply.

How much can my group apply for?

Groups can apply for up to \$2,500 to build stronger connections between people by accomplishing extraordinary things in the community .

How do I know if my group is eligible?

To be eligible for Changemaker Grants, groups and organizations must:

- Be all-volunteer with an established membership

- Have an annual budget/income of \$40,000 or less
- Complete their projects within 1 year of the funding announcement
- Be based in New Bedford, Acushnet, Dartmouth, Fairhaven, Freetown, Mattapoisett, Marion, Rochester, or Wareham
- Have an all-inclusive membership, i.e., does not exclude people on the basis of gender, race, religious differences, etc.

Should our project focus on something specific?

Changemaker Grants will invest in projects that are creative solutions to problems in our community. They should be engaging, community driven, solutions-focused, and foster unity through community action. Projects should also have the potential for long-term impact.

Changemaker Grants should focus (with rare exceptions) in United Way's priority areas of:

- Health
- Education
- Financial stability
- Basic needs
- Diversity, equity, inclusion

Is there anything you won't fund?

There are some things we are not able to fund through Changemaker Grants. These include:

- Salaried positions
- Rent or utilities
- Food – for sale or nonessential to the project
- T-shirts and other promotional items that you plan to sell for fundraising purposes
- Office equipment- computers, printers, laptops, etc.
- Paid advertising
- Insurance, Security, Police/Fire Detail
- Application/Registration/Membership Dues/Fees
- Scholarships, Pageants, Contests etc.
- School-based field trips
- Projects that are in and of themselves fundraising
- Capital Improvements

Anything else I should know before applying?

- All funds are disbursed on a reimbursement only basis. Groups must submit reimbursement requests via United Way's CommunityForce platform over the course of the funding cycle.
- Funded projects/events must begin after the date of award decision of April 8, 2022 and reach completion by April 2023.
- Approved funds will be made available for reimbursement as of April 14, 2022
- If you applied for funding from United Way of Greater New Bedford the previous year(s), you are eligible to submit a new application as long as you completed your previous project and submit a final progress report to United Way. Your group must have an all-inclusive membership, i.e., does not exclude people on the basis of gender, race, religious differences, etc.

How can I apply?

Changemaker Grant applications will be accepted beginning February 1st through United Way's CommunityForce platform. Visit www.unitedwayofgnb.org/changemaker-grants to apply. Applications are due March 10th.

Who can I contact if I have more questions?

For questions, contact Victoria Grasela, Vice President of Marketing & Community Engagement, vgrasela@unitedwayofgnb.org, (508) 994-9625 ext. 210.