

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT GRANTS

Thank you for your interest in applying for a 2025-26 Community Investment Grant. To apply, visit heartaruw.org/apply. For more information, to schedule “office hours” for grant support, or if you have any questions, please contact Mollie Palmer at mpalmer@heartaruw.org or 501.435.3203.

Requirements

All applicants must meet and provide evidence of the following requirements:

- Recognized 501(c)3 non-profit, tax exempt organization and/or a tax-exempt entity by the IRS
- Locally based volunteer board of directors or management body that meets at least quarterly, makes policy decisions and holds election of officers
- Registration with the Arkansas Secretary of State, if required
- Compliance with all applicable anti-terrorist financing and asset control laws as outlined by the federal Patriot Act
- Serve or operate in Pulaski, Lonoke, and/or Saline Counties.
- Financial Requirements: Signed copy of IRS form 990 (or 990EZ)

Guidelines

- Community Investment Grants are:
 - Intended as an investment in the long-term stability, security, and success of everyone in our community;
 - Focused on pursuing outcomes in youth opportunity, financial security, or mental health; and
 - Targeted at serving those living below the ALICE threshold.
- Community Investment Grants are not intended as basic needs funding.
- Organizations may apply for funds to start a new program or support an existing program.
- Community Investment Grants will be awarded in August, based on volunteer review of grant applications, and paid out in two payments, made in September and December. In winter of 2026, volunteers will conduct site visits. The site visit will serve as the opportunity to renew the grant for two additional payments in March and June, contingent on United Way campaign results.
- Funding Range: \$3,000-\$12,000 for half-year, with opportunity to renew after site visit in Winter 2026.
- Awarded funds will not have restriction on use toward administrative expenses associated with the program, with two exceptions: grant funds may not be directed toward capital campaigns or used solely for reserve funds. However, applicants should be prepared to demonstrate how the requested expenses will lead toward program outcomes.
- Heart of Arkansas United Way does not typically fund: Arts and Culture; Sports teams and recreation; Environmental projects; Capital expenditures such as building, plans, construction, or renovation; Proselytization or direct religious activities.

Timeline

June 16: Grants Available

July 18: Grant Applications Due

Late August: Grant Announcements made

September and December 2025: Grant payments

Winter 2026: Site visits for opportunity to renew grant for two additional payments

February 2026: Renewal Grant Announcements made