



2025-2026 Community Mental Wellbeing Grant Pre-Application Information Session



Agenda

- Background
- Granting Goals
- Process Overview
- Focus Areas & Priorities
- Eligibility
- CommunityForce Platform
- Application Walk-Through
- Rubric
- Post Acceptance
- Questions



Background

- Community needs assessment
- Our response
- Mental wellbeing identified
- Strategies developed



Big Goal

Improve Mental Wellbeing

- Prevent mental health crises
- Fund community work fostering mental wellbeing
- Meet basic needs as a foundation



Basic Needs Grants



Food



Shelter



Safety

**Basic
Needs**

**Invested
\$350,000**



Community Mental Wellbeing Grants



**Investing
\$1.5 Million over 3 years
supporting community work**

Process Overview

Determine Granting Goals

- Fundraising Success
- Community Needs

Application Process

- Announcement of funds available
- Applicant guide
- Applicant training / Q&A

Volunteer Reviewers

- Recruit
- Train
- Assign applications

Volunteer Meetings

- Discuss assigned applications with a group who rated the same applications
- Determine final application scores as a group

Allocate Funds

- Fund Distribution Steering Committee uses panel scores
- Makes funding recommendation to the Board of Directors

Community Mental Wellbeing Granting Focus Areas



Community

- Foster Social Connection
- Uplift Belonging, Meaning, and Purpose
- Decrease Toxic Stress



Youth and their Support Systems

- Increase Resilience
- Increase Peer Connection and Supportive Relationships
- Increase Youth Involvement in the Community



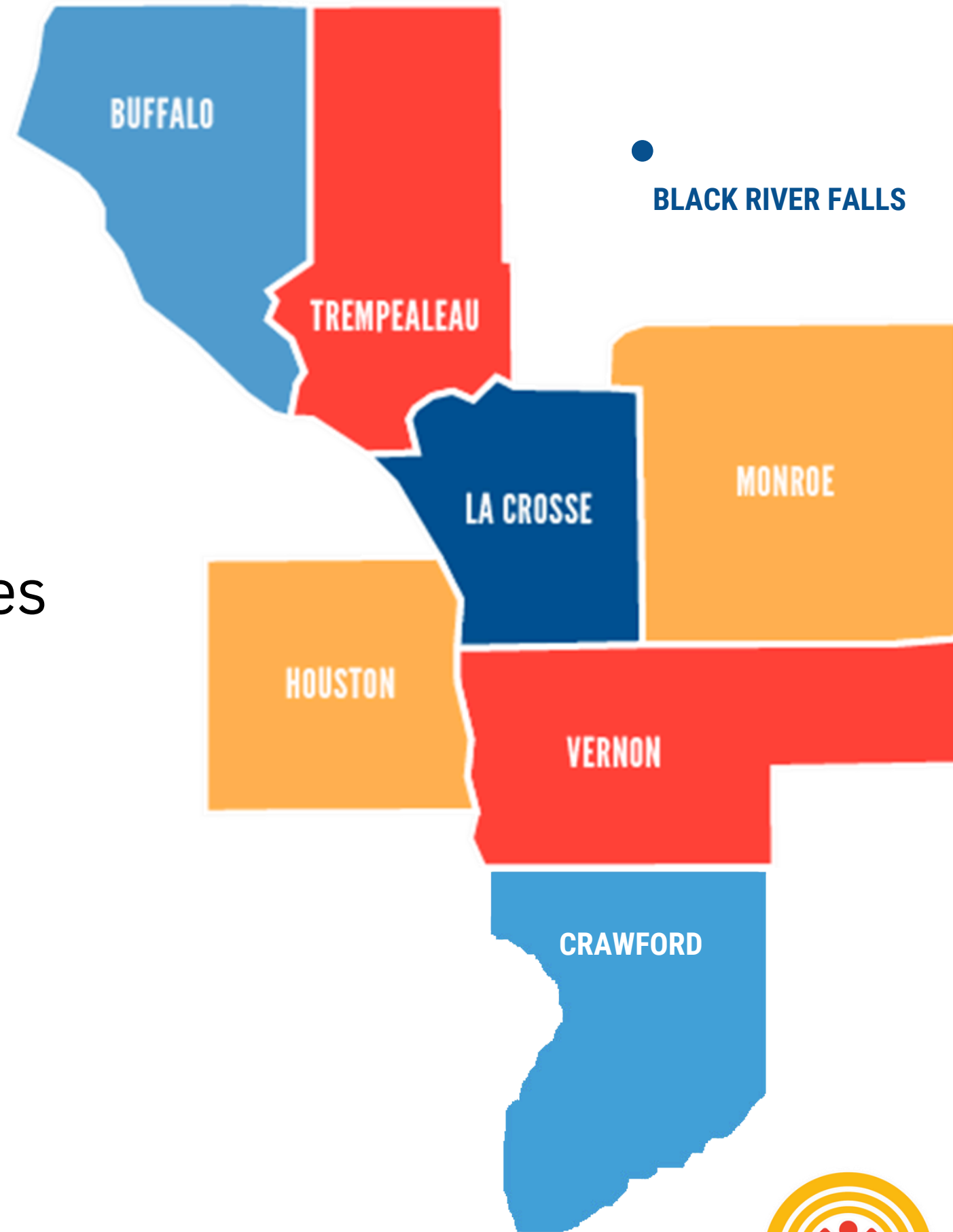
Strong Foundations

- Promote Healthy Brain Development
- Develop Social Emotional Learning
- Increase Stability



Priorities

- Collaborative Projects
- Vulnerable Populations
- Regional Reach
- Scientifically Supported Strategies
- Proven Practices
- Promising Innovations



Great Rivers
UNITED WAY

Eligibility

- Tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code
- Registered as a charitable organization with the state in which they do business unless exempt from such requirement
- Provide human services within the Great Rivers United Way service area
- Active Board with Fiscal Oversight
- Provides services aligned with the goal of improving overall mental wellbeing in the community

OR

- Has a fiscal sponsor that meets all the above requirements and is willing to take on grantee responsibilities

**Basic Needs Grantees are eligible to apply for
Community Mental Wellbeing Grants**



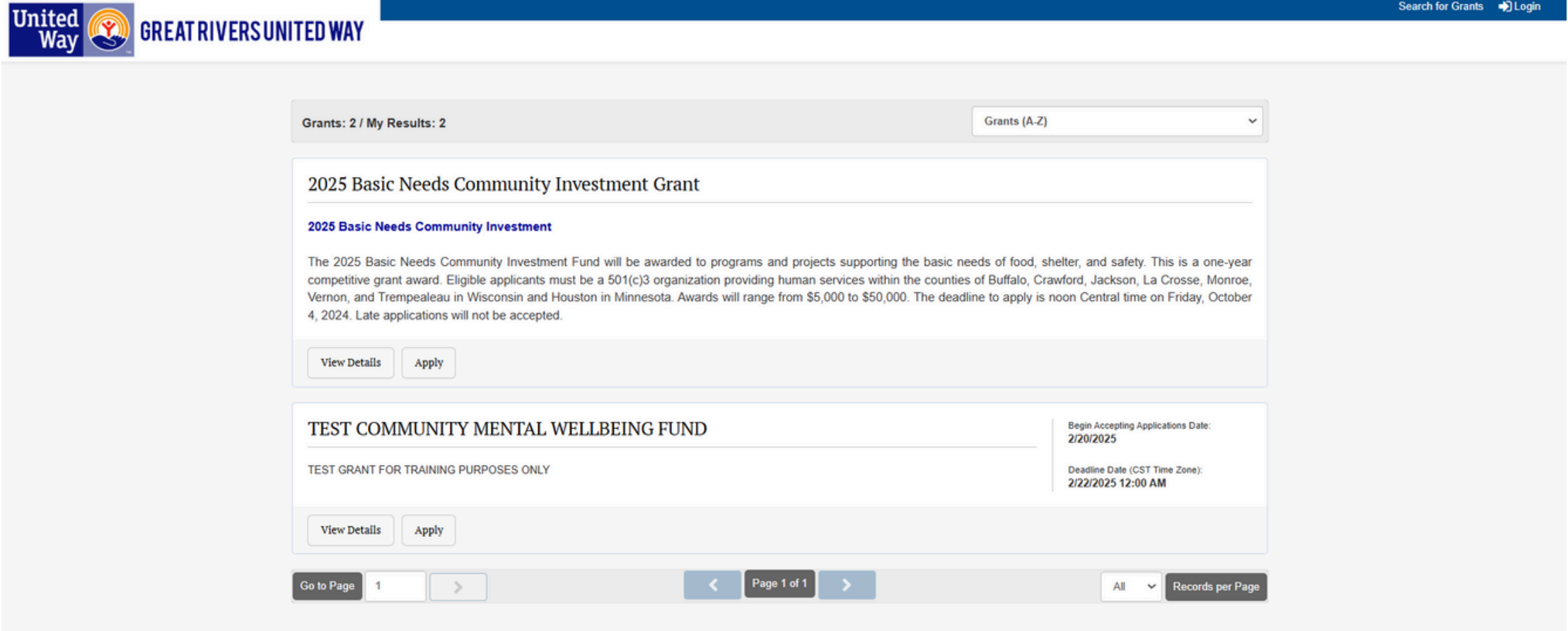
Application Platform

gruw.communityforce.com

Click Apply

Answer Eligibility Questions

Log In or Create Account



The screenshot shows the 'GREAT RIVERS UNITED WAY' application platform. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the United Way logo and 'GREAT RIVERS UNITED WAY' text. On the right side of the bar, there are links for 'Search for Grants' and 'Login'. Below the navigation bar, the main content area displays a list of grants. The first grant is titled '2025 Basic Needs Community Investment Grant'. Below the title, there is a sub-heading '2025 Basic Needs Community Investment' and a detailed description: 'The 2025 Basic Needs Community Investment Fund will be awarded to programs and projects supporting the basic needs of food, shelter, and safety. This is a one-year competitive grant award. Eligible applicants must be a 501(c)3 organization providing human services within the counties of Buffalo, Crawford, Jackson, La Crosse, Monroe, Vernon, and Trempealeau in Wisconsin and Houston in Minnesota. Awards will range from \$5,000 to \$50,000. The deadline to apply is noon Central time on Friday, October 4, 2024. Late applications will not be accepted.' Below the description are two buttons: 'View Details' and 'Apply'. The second grant is titled 'TEST COMMUNITY MENTAL WELLBEING FUND'. Below the title, there is a sub-heading 'TEST GRANT FOR TRAINING PURPOSES ONLY'. To the right of the sub-heading, there are two dates: 'Begin Accepting Applications Date: 2/20/2025' and 'Deadline Date (CST Time Zone): 2/22/2025 12:00 AM'. Below the description are two buttons: 'View Details' and 'Apply'. At the bottom of the page, there is a pagination bar with 'Go to Page 1', 'Page 1 of 1', and 'Records per Page'.



Application

- Organization Information
- Program Narrative
- Program Budget & Funding
- Operations, Oversight & Grant Management



Tips

Reviewers are community volunteers!

- Reviewers may not be familiar with your organization or program
- Be clear and concise
- Avoid jargon and acronyms
- Use formatting tools

Use tools provided

- Applicant guide contains detailed instructions
- Reviewer rubric in appendix of guide
- Open office hour
- Technical assistance appointments can be made



Awards

- \$5,000 - \$50,000
- Multiple submissions acceptable, but no more than \$50,000 per organization will be awarded
- One year with possibility of renewing for 2 additional years

Grantee Expectations

- Learning community participation
- Measuring progress
- Six Month & End-of-Year Reports
- Partnership in United Way Annual Campaign



Questions?

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