



UNITED WAY
North Central
Florida

UNITED FOR ALICE

CATALYST GRANT

United for ALICE Catalyst Grant

Grant Amount: \$25,000 | Grant Term: 18 months

Application Deadline: December 17, 2025

Apply online at <https://unitedwayncfl.org/apply>

Overview

The United for ALICE Catalyst Grant empowers small nonprofit organizations serving North Central Florida to innovate, expand, or strengthen their capacity to better serve ALICE® (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) households.

This one-time \$25,000 grant is designed to spark new ideas, pilot creative approaches, or build sustainable infrastructure that helps working families achieve stability and thrive. It is not intended to fill budget gaps, replace lost funding, or maintain existing programs.

In North Central Florida, 32% of households are classified as ALICE® – hardworking individuals and families who earn above the Federal Poverty Level but still struggle to afford basic necessities such as housing, childcare, food, transportation, and healthcare. Despite being employed, ALICE households often live paycheck to paycheck, just one unexpected expense away from financial crisis.

As the cost of living continues to rise, wages have not kept pace. In 2023, a family of four with two working adults, an infant, and a preschooler needed to earn \$92,820 in Alachua County and \$73,476 in Dixie County to meet the ALICE Household Survival Budget – the bare minimum needed to cover essentials, even after accounting for tax credits.

The United for ALICE Catalyst Grant aims to fuel creative, community-based solutions that address these challenges and build a more resilient, equitable region for all North Central Florida families.

Purpose

The United for ALICE Catalyst Grant seeks to ignite innovation and strengthen the capacity of smaller nonprofit organizations working to improve the lives of ALICE households across North Central Florida.

This funding opportunity encourages nonprofits to test new ideas, pilot emerging solutions, or build organizational infrastructure that expands their ability to serve working families more effectively. Projects should be creative, collaborative, and sustainable, leading to measurable impact and long-term benefit for ALICE households in the region.

Application Timeline

Grant Process	Date and Time
Notice of Funding	November 17, 2025
ALICE Catalyst Grant Information Session Registration Link	December 1, 2025 12:00 – 12:30 PM; 2:30 – 3:00 PM December 2, 2025 9:00 – 9:30 AM

ALICE Catalyst Grant Application Deadline for Submissions	December 17, 2025
Application Review & Selection	December 18, 2025 – January 14, 2026
Award Notification	February 2026
Funding Disbursement	February 2026
Spending Period	February 2026 – July 2027

Eligibility

To ensure equitable access and meaningful local impact, the United for ALICE Catalyst Grant is open to smaller, community-based nonprofit organizations that meet the following criteria:

- **Nonprofit Status:** Must be a registered 501(c)(3) organization.
- **Budget Size:** Must have an annual operating budget of \$750,000 or less.
- **Geographic Service Area:** Must serve residents in one or more of the following counties: Alachua, Bradford, Dixie, Gilchrist, Levy, or Union.
- **Mission Alignment:** Must demonstrate alignment with United Way North Central Florida's mission to improve lives by mobilizing the caring power of communities and address one or more of the following priority impact areas:
 - Financial Security – Helping families achieve stability and build assets.
 - Healthy Community – Promoting health and well-being for all.
 - Youth Opportunity – Preparing children and youth for success in life.
 - Community Resiliency – Strengthening communities to respond to and recover from challenges.
- **Governance:** Must have a board of directors providing active oversight and financial accountability.
- **Fiscal Responsibility:** Must demonstrate strong financial and program management practices.
- **Reporting:** Must agree to participate in UWNCF's grant reporting, evaluation, and storytelling efforts throughout the grant period.

Use of Funds

The United for ALICE Catalyst Grant is designed to encourage bold ideas and innovative solutions that strengthen the local safety net for working families. Funds may be used for:

- Launching new or pilot programs that address barriers faced by ALICE households.
- Building organizational capacity, such as staff development, technology improvements, or program infrastructure in service to ALICE households.
- Expanding existing services to reach more ALICE households in underserved communities.
- Strengthening collaboration through partnerships or shared-service models to serve ALICE.

Funds may not be used to:

- Fill existing budget gaps or offset general operating deficits.
- Replace other funding sources or pay down debt.
- Provide direct cash assistance to individuals or households.
- Support partisan, political, or religious activities.
- Pre-pay expenses or make retroactive payments.

Application Process

Applications must be submitted through UWNCFL's online application portal. Responses should be well-organized with all fields completed.

1. Organizational Overview
 - a. Mission, vision, and year founded
 - b. Service area and target population
 - c. Current annual operating budget
 - d. Alignment with UWNCFL's mission and geographic focus
2. Project Summary
 - a. Description of the proposed project or capacity-building initiative
 - b. How the project addresses the needs of ALICE households
 - c. What makes the approach innovative, catalytic, or unique
3. Expected Impact and Outcomes
 - a. Anticipated short- and long-term benefits for ALICE families
 - b. Anticipated number of ALICE individuals and households to be served
 - c. How success will be measured or evaluated
4. Budget Summary
 - a. A simple breakdown of how the \$25,000 will be spent
 - b. Explanation of any leveraged or matching funds (if applicable)
5. Sustainability Plan
 - a. How the project will continue or be scaled beyond the grant period
6. Supporting Documents
 - a. IRS Determination Letter confirming 501(c)(3) status
 - b. Most recent Form 990 or Form 990-EZ
 - c. Most recent financial audit, review or compilation
 - d. Board of Directors roster with affiliations and meeting frequency
 - e. Non-discrimination, equal employment, and anti-terrorism policies
 - f. Proof of liability insurance (including Directors and Officers coverage)

Submission Instructions

Applications must be submitted through UWNCFL's application portal at <https://unitedwayncfl.org/apply>. Proposals must be submitted by 11:59 PM on December 17, 2025. Incomplete or late applications will not be reviewed.

Review and Selection Process

All applications will be reviewed by UWNCFL staff for eligibility and completeness. Eligible proposals will then be presented to the UWNCFL Board of Directors who will select the final grantee based on the following criteria:

- **Innovation:** Does the project present a new or creative approach to addressing ALICE needs?

- **Impact:** Will the project create meaningful, measurable benefits for ALICE households?
- **Feasibility:** Is the proposal realistic and achievable within the 18-month grant term?
- **Sustainability:** Is there a clear plan to maintain or expand the impact beyond the grant period?
- **Mission Alignment:** Does the organization's work align with UWNCF's mission and priority impact areas?
- **Equity and Reach:** Does the project serve rural, underserved, or underrepresented communities within the six-county area?

The United for ALICE Catalyst Grant recipient will be approved by the UWNCF Board of Directors and publicly announce in February 2026.

Grant Term

- Award Amount: \$25,000 (one-time)
- Grant Period: 18 months from the date of award
- Funds must be fully expended within the 18-month grant period
- The grant is designed to enable innovation and capacity-building, not to sustain existing programs or cover past expenses.

Reporting Requirements

To ensure accountability and capture impact, grantee is expected to provide:

- 1. Interim Report (9 months)**
 - a. Narrative update on project progress
 - b. Service data/outcomes to date (if applicable)
 - c. Summary of funds expended to date
 - d. Early insights or lessons learned
- 2. Final Report (18 months)**
 - a. Overview of accomplishments and outcomes
 - b. Service data/outcomes (if applicable)
 - c. Financial summary of grant expenditures
 - d. Lessons learned, sustainability plan, and potential for scaling
 - e. Success story or case study highlighting ALICE household impact
- 3. Additional Check-ins**
 - a. UWNCF may schedule virtual or in-person meetings during the grant period
 - b. Grantee may be invited to present outcomes to the Board of Directors or at public events

Next Steps

Once awarded, grantee will receive a grant agreement outlining terms, reporting requirements, and any additional expectations. UWNCF staff will provide support and guidance to ensure successful implementation and storytelling throughout the grant period.