

Community Investment Team Volunteer

United Way Waterloo Region Communities (WRC) relies heavily on the support of hundreds of volunteers who give their time each year. One key group of volunteers is the Community Investment Team (CIT).

The CIT is a group of community-minded individuals, who are passionate about social change and making a difference in our community, particularly when it comes to addressing poverty and the increased services needs following the pandemic. They lend their expertise and varied experience to assist in reviewing applications for funding from community agencies, assessing alignment with United Way issue areas (such as housing & homelessness; mental health; and equity), and making recommendations for funding based on a set of established criteria. Reviewers are drawn from the CIT “pool” of volunteers as application calls occur. Volunteers have the flexibility to commit to specific application review calls and are not expected to participate in every opportunity. With the number of application opportunities in early 2023, the need for volunteer reviewers is significant.

United Way WRC is seeking a team of volunteers that represent the broader community, including from multiple sectors, geographic locations, and under-represented communities. United Way WRC values hearing and having input from voices that have been excluded from investment decision making - including those identifying as 2SLGBTQ+; Black, Indigenous and Racialized people; People with Disabilities; and newcomers.

Purpose: Volunteers to review United Way Waterloo Region Communities Community Investment applications assessing how this work contributes to addressing poverty in our community within one of three Impact Strategies.

Description: Volunteers will...

- learn about the needs, issues and opportunities affecting the lives of community members.
- participate in the review of Community Investment applications. Criteria includes assessing alignment with United Way WRC focus areas, impact for participants, and accessibility of the service(s).
- ensure funding reaches all parts of Waterloo Region and a diverse group of vulnerable or marginalized populations.
- be assigned a selection of applications and are supported by United Way WRC staff every step of the way.

Skills for Role: While there is no pre-requisite skills needed, Knowledge of United Way WRC issue areas and/or prior community investment experience would be an asset. Knowledge about and skills in community issues and local social service agencies are also an asset.

Training Details: Volunteers will be trained on United Way WRC's investments and review processes. Training will also be provided on community issues, needs and opportunities; best practices and promising models; and measurement and evaluation, as appropriate.

Timing: Estimated commitment of 11-12.5 hours per granting cycle (1.5 hrs one time training, 7.5-9 hrs independent application review, 2 hrs application review meeting)

- Independent review of assigned applications
- 1 virtual meeting per funding cycle, typically on a weekday – late afternoon/evening.

Open calls for applications occur quarterly and there is one review meeting for each funding cycle. Grants are reviewed independently prior to the review meeting. There is no obligation to commit to every granting cycle. Refer to dates below for specific opportunities over the next year.

NEW: The Community Services Recovery Fund from the Government of Canada is to support charities and non-profits as they build resilience by making investments in their people, organizations, and program innovation. There will be specific training made available in early 2023 for volunteers interested in this opportunity, with additional details to come.

Upcoming Opportunities:

Community Services Recovery Fund

Application Reviews: February 22nd – March 10th, 2023

Application Review Meeting: Week of March 13th, 2023

General Community Fund

Winter Application Reviews

Application Reviews: January 30th – February 10th, 2023

Application Review Meeting: Week of February 13th, 2023

Spring Application Reviews

Application Reviews: May 1st – May 12th 2023

Application Review Meeting: Week of May 15th, 2023

Summer Application Reviews

Application Reviews: July 31st – August 11th, 2023

Application Review Meeting: Week of August 14th, 2023,

Fall Application Reviews

Application Reviews: October 9th – October 20th, 2023

Application Review Meeting: Week of October 23rd ,2023

For more information, please contact:

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