

## Community Investment Team Volunteer

United Way Waterloo Region Communities (United Way 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 service needs with the rising cost of living. 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 Affordable Housing & Homelessness; Children & Youth; and Mental Health & Addictions), 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 quarter.

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 Impact Fund applications, assessing how this work contributes to addressing poverty in our community within one of seven Issue Areas.

***Description:*** Volunteers will...

- Learn about the needs, issues and conditions 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).
- Be assigned a selection of applications and are supported by United Way WRC staff every step of the way.
- Provide input on funding recommendations that supports all parts of Waterloo Region and a diverse group of vulnerable or marginalized community members.

***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 12-13.5 hours per granting cycle (1.5 hrs orientation training, approximately 1 hour supplemental training, 7.5-9 hrs independent application review over 19 days, 2 hrs discussion meeting at the end of the review period)

- Independent review of assigned applications
- 1 virtual meeting per funding cycle, typically on a weekday – late afternoon/evening.
- Supplemental training dates/times are TBD, and are intended to enhance relevant knowledge & skills with respect to community needs, and Equity, Diversity & Inclusion.

Open calls for applications occur quarterly and are focussed on 1 – 2 Issue Areas. 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.

#### *Upcoming Opportunities:*

#### **General Community Fund**

##### ***Fall Application Reviews (Q4 Jan-Mar 2027)***

*Mental Health and Addictions; and Food Insecurity*

Application Reviews: Tuesday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> - Thursday, November 18<sup>th</sup> 2027,

Application Review Meeting: Monday November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 6pm – 8pm

##### ***Winter Application Reviews (Q1 Apr-Jun 2027)***

*Affordable Housing and Homelessness*

Application Reviews: Tuesday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> – Thursday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2027

Application Review Meeting: Monday February 22<sup>nd</sup> 6pm – 8pm

##### ***Spring Application Reviews (Q2 Jul- Sept 2027)***

*Children and Youth; and Hate, Gender-based and Family Violence*

Application Reviews: Tuesday, May 4<sup>th</sup> – Thursday, May 20<sup>th</sup> 2027

Application Review Meeting: Monday May 25<sup>th</sup>, 6pm – 8pm

##### ***Summer Application Reviews (Q3 Oct-Dec 2026)***

*Community and Social Supports; and Literacy, employment skills and assistive devices*

Application Reviews: Tuesday August 3<sup>rd</sup> – Thursday August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2027

Application Review Meeting: Monday August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 6pm – 8pm

#### **For more information, please contact:**

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