LEARNING LABS

Focus Areas:

- Housing
  - ◊ Homelessness
  - ◊ Eviction Prevention
  - ◊ Rapid Rehousing
- Food Access
  - ◊ Meal preparation and delivery
  - ◊ Food pantries
  - ◊ Access to fresh produce
- Access to Healthcare
  - ◊ Direct service delivery
  - ◊ Support in benefits enrollment for government supports
  - ◊ Maternal and infant health
  - ◊ Women's health
- Youth Development
  - ◊ Early childhood education
  - ◊ Tutoring
  - ◊ Mentorship
  - ◊ Social Emotional Learning
  - ◊ After and out-of school learning

Questions + Guide

2025 Learning Labs Application Guide

If you would like to use video, audio, or an already prepared document to answer questions, please read!

- Through Submittable we have the opportunity to accept photos, videos, audio recordings, and previously prepared documents via file uploads. If you would like to respond to questions via any of these methods, please use the following steps:

- In the question's required text response please put "Answer uploaded titled *insert title here*"
  - ◊ When you are uploading the file, please save it as "OrgName_Question#" to help our reviewers.
  - ◊ Audio and video recording are not to exceed 2:30 in length and text uploads are not to exceed the word count noted in the question.
  - ◊ OrgName is the name of the organization applying for funding
  - ◊ Question # is the number of the question you are responding to
  - ◊ *example* "UnitedWay_Question2"

I hereby give to United Way of the Greater Triangle, to their nominees, agents and assigns, my free and unlimited consent and permission, waiving all claims for any compensation by reason thereof or for damages by reason thereof, to use, to publish, republish or exhibit in the furtherance of its work—with or without identification of me by name—photograph/s or video images and story, for purposes such as publicity, illustration, advertising, social media, and/or online content.

- Organization's Preferred Name
- Organization Website
- Organization Mission Statement
- Organization Logo
- Executive Director Name
- First Name
- Last Name
- Executive Director Email
- Executive Director Phone
- Executive Director Headshot
- Executive Director Race/Ethnicity
- Executive Director Gender
- Is the Executive Director also the founder
- Grant Contact Name
- First Name
- Last Name
- Grant Contact Email
- Grant Contact Phone
- Board Demographics   250 words
  - ◊ % of each race/ethnicity and gender represented on your Board of Directors, which should total 100%

- Staff Demographics   250 words
    - ◊ % of each race/ethnicity and gender represented in your staff, which should total 100%
- Current year's projected expenses
- For which grant size are you applying?
    - ◊ $10,000
    - ◊ $25,000
    - ◊ $50,000
- Which counties will this funding have impact?
- Which focus area does your work most identify with?
    - ◊ Housing
    - ◊ Food Access
    - ◊ Access to Healthcare
    - ◊ Youth Development
- Which outcome(s) are best aligned with your work associated with this funding?
    - ◊ # of individuals housed for a short term (less than 3 months)
    - ◊ # of individuals housed for a long term (more than 3 months)
    - ◊ # of individuals prevented from experiencing homelessness
    - ◊ # of meals AND people served
    - ◊ # of individuals seen/served in Preventive Health
    - ◊ # of individuals seen/served in Maternal Health
    - ◊ # of individuals seen/served in Dental Health
    - ◊ # of individuals seen/served in Medications/Prescriptions
    - ◊ # of children who enter kindergarten ready to learn and succeed.
    - ◊ # of 3rd graders reading at proficiency
    - ◊ # of GEDs/high school diplomas received
    - ◊ # of young people with access to a mentor and supportive development environment
    - ◊ # of parents that have the skills to positively support the learning development of their children.
- How many **individuals** do you expect to be impacted by this funding?

1. **Values of United Way of the Greater Triangle are:**

   a. Anti Racism

   We seek to understand and disrupt the ways racism shows up in our organizational culture, our work, and the Greater Triangle region.

   b. Centering Community

   We listen to, learn from, and amplify the voices of the people and communities most impacted by poverty and racism.

   c. Solidarity

   We leverage our tools, resources, and networks to partner with communities in achieving the change they seek.

   d. Intentional Care

   We recognize the inherent worth and dignity of all individuals by prioritizing relationships over transactions and extending care to ourselves, our partners, and our communities.

   e. Sense of Possibility

   We listen to, learn from, and amplify the voices of the people and communities most impacted by poverty and racism

How does your work explicitly align with our values in strategy, execution, and evaluation? Please choose 3 values.   500 words.

2. **What engagement opportunities are available through your agency? How do you provide experiences for the community to deepen their understanding of your work?   500 words**

   The questions above are key to our impact in the region. We are in relationship with many corporate partners and individual donors across our four-county region. A key component to our work and impact is connecting our communities with engagement opportunities where they can deepen their understanding of needs and issues in our community along with how they can be a part of the solution.

3. **Using demographics and statistical data, what are the characteristics of the clients you are serving (race, gender, income, age, etc.)   250 words**

   This section of questions seeks to demonstrate an understanding of the makeup of the communities you are working within. We belief that using data to understand those you work with will allow organizations to be responsive in their services provided.

4. **What are the strengths of your community?   250 words**

   We believe in using an asset-based mindset when looking into solutions to the issues our communities are working through. By identifying strengths, we shift the mindset of our work and humanize the folks benefiting from this work.

5. **What do you wish people knew about your community?   250 words**

So often there are misconceptions about individuals utilizing services and programs that advance a false narrative about our most vulnerable communities. This question allows us to gain a deep understanding of those misconceptions and allows our readers to dispel some of the myths they have been told to believe.

6. **How would you describe the work of your organization, your impact in community, and why is this work so important for your community?   250 words**

In this question we are seeking clarity around the work you do, how you know you are being successful, and a relationship with the community you are serving to understand the importance of this work for their inevitable success.

7. **How are those with lived experience integrated into decision making?   250 words**

We also believe that those closest to the pain should be centered in the solutions to those issues. Here we are trying to understand how you use this information to drive improvements and delivery of your programs.

8. **What partners in the community do you work with?   250 words**

We understand that the goals we are all working towards are bold and ambitious. We also recognize that these goals require us to work with partners to provide holistic support, share best practices, and come together to solve complex issues. We place a strong value on organizations working with other partners to deepentheir impact.

9. **Why do you want to be funded by UWGT? Why do you want to be in a relationship with UWGT? What do you value about the potential of this partnership?   250 words**

Learning Labs Evaluation Rubric

1. Alignment with UWGT Values

Prompt: How does your work explicitly align with our values in strategy, execution, and evaluation? (500 words)

- **Low (1–3):** Limited or vague connection to UWGT values; values are mentioned but lack actionable details. Examples (if provided) are unclear or unrelated to core operations.
- **Moderate (4–6):** Some alignment with UWGT values, offering examples but lacking integration across strategy, execution, or evaluation. Describes intentions but lacks measurable outcomes.
- **High (7–10):** Strong, explicit alignment with 3 UWGT values, integrated into strategy, execution, and evaluation. Clearly demonstrates how values guide decisions and includes evidence of sustained alignment through evaluation mechanisms.

2. Engagement Opportunities

Prompt: What engagement opportunities are available through your agency? (500 words)

- **Low (1–3):** Few or generic opportunities provided, with no actionable details or connection to community/donor engagement.

- **Moderate (4–6):** Provides some engagement opportunities with moderate detail. Engagement activities are meaningful but may lack innovation or accessibility for all stakeholders.
- **High (7–10):** Describes a diverse range of well-designed engagement opportunities that deepen connections between donors, the public, and communities. Clearly connects activities to fostering understanding and advancing community solutions.

3. Demographics and Statistical Data

Prompt: What are the characteristics of the clients you are serving? (250 words)

- **Low (1–3):** Vague or incomplete demographic data provided. Little or no connection between data and program relevance.
- **Moderate (4–6):** Provides basic demographic data that partially demonstrates understanding of the population served. Data is relevant but lacks depth or actionable insights.
- **High (7–10):** Comprehensive, accurate, and relevant demographic data. Clearly connects data to program design, demonstrating a deep understanding of the client population and community needs.

4. Community Strengths

Prompt: What are the strengths of your community? (250 words)

- **Low (1–3):** Generic or limited strengths listed, showing little insight into the community's unique attributes.
- **Moderate (4–6):** Highlights some strengths with moderate detail but doesn't strongly connect them to the organization's work.
- **High (7–10):** Clearly identifies specific strengths of the community, demonstrating how they are leveraged in the organization's approach and programs.

5. Misconceptions About the Community

Prompt: What do you wish people knew about your community? (250 words)

- **Low (1–3):** Little effort to identify misconceptions or dispel them; response lacks depth or narrative.
- **Moderate (4–6):** Addresses some misconceptions with limited depth; provides examples but misses an opportunity to elevate community voices.
- **High (7–10):** Effectively identifies and dispels key misconceptions with powerful, narrative-driven examples that humanize and highlight the community's assets.

6. Organizational Impact and Importance

Prompt: How would you describe your work, impact, and why it's important? (250 words)

- **Low (1–3):** General, vague description of work and impact, with limited connection to community needs or outcomes.
- **Moderate (4–6):** Provides a reasonably clear description of work and impact but lacks examples of measurable outcomes or deep community relevance.
- **High (7–10):** Demonstrates transformative impact with compelling, measurable examples of success, clearly showing alignment with community needs and outcomes.

7. Integration of Lived Experience

Prompt: How are those with lived experience integrated into decision-making? (250 words)

- **Low (1−3):** Minimal or no inclusion of lived experience; decision-making appears top-down with no community voice.

- **Moderate (4−6):** Some integration of lived experience, with limited scope (e.g., occasional input). Examples of the impact on decisions are vague.

- **High (7−10):** Meaningful and sustained integration of lived experience into decision-making. Provides specific examples of how community voices influence key decisions and lead to measurable outcomes.

8. Community Partnerships

Prompt: What partners in the community do you work with? (250 words)

- **Low (1−3):** Few or generic partnerships listed, with no details on collaboration or impact.

- **Moderate (4−6):** Highlights partnerships but provides limited detail on how collaboration strengthens community outcomes.

- **High (7−10):** Demonstrates robust, meaningful partnerships with clear examples of collaboration leading to measurable community impact and shared goals.

9. Why UWGT?

Prompt: Why do you want to be funded by UWGT? (250 words)

- **Low (1−3):** Generic or vague response; lacks clear connection to UWGT's mission or values.

- **Moderate (4−6):** Provides reasons for seeking funding but lacks depth or a compelling case for partnership.

- **High (7−10):** Articulates a clear and compelling rationale for funding, demonstrating strong alignment with UWGT's mission, values, and goals.