

2026 Community Impact Application

Each year United Way provides the opportunity for non-profit organizations providing human services in Lewis, Marion, Monroe, Ralls, or Shelby Counties to apply to become a Community Impact Agency.

Community Impact Agencies benefit financially from the United Way's Annual Campaign, but are also granted a membership into the United Way providing additional publicity opportunities, notoriety, training, and more. This application is to apply for the distinction as a Community Impact Agency from May of 2026 to April of 2027.

In order to be eligible to apply, the work of organizations must align with United Way's areas of focus and priority areas as well as be in line with priorities outlined in the Community Health Improvement Plan. In depth information on those can be found on the United Way website at

<http://unitedwaymta.org/community-impact> and <https://unitedwaymta.org/community-needs>

Applications and all required documents are due to United Way by Saturday, February 15th at 11:59pm.

Email *

mmccclusky@loqw.com

Agency Name

Monroe City Food Pantry

Agency Director

Sherri Lemongelli

Director E-mail

rlemongelli138@gmail.com

Agency Address

101 South Washington Street

City, St, Zip

Monroe City, MO, 63456

Agency Phone Number

573-231-6952

Website

<https://www.facebook.com/MonroeCityFoodPantry>

EIN

27- 3899988

Fiscal Year Start and End Date

January 1 to December 31

Application Contact Name

Toni Hunter, Board President, Sherry Lemongelli, Agency Director

Application Contact E-mail Address

toni.hunter@edwardjones.com or rlemongelli138@gmail.com

Application Contact Phone Number

(319) 651-3767 (Toni)

I certify I have the authority to submit this application on behalf of the organization.



Yes

Organization's Mission Statement

To reduce regional hunger by mobilizing community resources, providing emergency food assistance, and offering essential support services to individuals and families in crisis.

Organization's Vision Statement

To ensure every community member has access to the food and household supplies necessary for health and stability, serving as a reliable safety net during times of hardship.

Provide a 25-word summary of your organization.

The Monroe City Food Pantry provides vital nutritional assistance and emergency support to vulnerable populations through strategic partnerships and a dedicated volunteer network to combat regional hunger.

How many dollars are you applying for from the United Way of the Mark Twain Area?

\$5,000

Are you currently receiving dollars from the United Way of the Mark Twain Area?

☒ Yes

☐ No

Have you ever received dollars from the United Way of the Mark Twain Area?

☒ Yes

☐ No

What is your organization applying for funding from United Way for?

☐ Specific Project/Program - dollars will be designated to only be utilized for a specific purpose.

☒ General Support - dollars will be considered general revenue to the organization.

If applying for dollars for a specific project/program, name of the project/program.

United Way dollars will be used for our general operating expenses.

Give a **brief** overview of the program(s) your organization implements. Provide headings above each program.

*****If applying for specific project/program dollars give the overview of that project/program FIRST*****

Monthly Nutritional Distribution The Monroe City Food Pantry serves as a critical pillar of the local social safety net. We operate a monthly food distribution program (third Friday and Saturday of each month) designed to bridge the gap for families facing systemic or temporary food insecurity. Our operations include the intake, quality control, and distribution of shelf-stable goods, high-quality proteins, and fresh produce.

Home Delivery Outreach To ensure equitable access, we maintain a robust home delivery service for individuals who are homebound due to age, illness, or disability. This program removes the barrier of transportation, ensuring that our most isolated neighbors do not go without essential nutrition.

Emergency Support Services Beyond scheduled distributions, the Pantry acts as an emergency resource for households facing sudden displacement or crisis (e.g., house fires or immediate job loss). We provide immediate-need food boxes and serve as a referral point for long-term community resources.

What data shows the work you would do with United Way dollars is needed in our community? Share the correlation between the programs you hope to implement with United Way funds and this data. Share the source of the data.

The Monroe City Food Pantry addresses a documented rise in food insecurity across Northeast Missouri. According to the 2025 Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA), economic pressures and the rising cost of living—particularly food and utilities—have significantly impacted the "ALICE" (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) population in our five-county service area.

Current Reach: In our most recently completed fiscal year (2025), the Monroe City Food Pantry served a total of 5,688 individuals.

Economic Correlation: National and state data show a 20%+ increase in grocery costs over the last three years. United Way funding allows us to maintain the quality of our food offerings (specifically fresh produce and meat) in the face of these rising wholesale costs.

How will your organization measure the success of the programs it implements in the community? What kind of change/improvement does your organization anticipate seeing in the community by doing your work?

Success is measured through a combination of volume and stability metrics:

Quantitative Reach: We track unduplicated headcounts to ensure we are identifying and serving the growing number of households in crisis.

Qualitative Stability: We monitor the impact of our services on household financial health; by providing food assistance, we allow families to reallocate limited funds toward housing, heat, and medical care.

Are there other organizations in our community addressing the same need and implementing similar programs who serve the same geographic area as your organization?

The Monroe City Food Pantry is the sole provider of direct food assistance within the city limits. There are no other organizations within our service area that offer comparable programs. This unique position underscores the critical role the pantry plays in addressing the urgent needs of our community.

If your organization would receive United Way funds, which focus area(s) would your work with these dollars align to?

- ☒ Healthy Community
- ☐ Youth Opportunity
- ☐ Financial Security
- ☒ Community Resiliency

Explain how your work would align with the selected focus area(s). Please ensure you have reviewed how United Way defines these focus areas.

The Monroe City Food Pantry acts as a foundational partner in the Healthy Community focus area. By providing consistent access to high-quality proteins and fresh produce, we address a primary social determinant of health. Proper nutrition is the baseline required for chronic disease management and physical well-being; without our intervention, many residents would be forced to rely on low-cost, high-sodium, or nutrient-deficient alternatives that lead to long-term health complications.

Our alignment with Community Resiliency is demonstrated through our role as a "first responder" to economic and personal shocks. Resiliency is the community's ability to bounce back from hardship. When a family faces a sudden job loss, medical emergency, or house fire, the Food Pantry provides immediate stabilization. By securing their food source, we prevent these families from falling into a deeper cycle of poverty, allowing them to focus their limited financial resources on regaining housing and employment stability.

If your organization would receive United Way funds, which priority area(s) would your work with these dollars align to?

☒ Supporting Critical Services

☐ Providing Opportunities for Upward Mobility

Explain how your work would align with the selected priority area(s). Please ensure you have reviewed how United Way defines these priority areas.

Our organization aligns with the priority of Supporting Critical Services by ensuring that the most basic human need—food—is met for the vulnerable populations within the Mark Twain Area. We view food security as a "gateway service"; when a family's nutritional needs are unmet, all other interventions (such as employment assistance or educational support) are less effective.

The Pantry provides a reliable, dignified delivery system for these critical goods. By maintaining a monthly distribution schedule and a dedicated home-delivery program for homebound residents, we serve as a consistent safety net. This reliability is crucial for the "ALICE" population and seniors on fixed incomes, as it provides a predictable resource that mitigates the volatility of current economic conditions. Our service ensures that no resident in our geographic footprint has to endure a crisis without access to life-sustaining nutritional support.

If your organization would receive United Way funds, which priority health need(s) outlined in the Community Health Improvement Plan would your work with these dollars align to if applicable?

- ☐ Mental Health & Substance Use Disorders
- ☒ Access to & Affordability of Care
- ☐ Housing & Homelessness
- ☐ Transportation
- ☒ Chronic Disease Prevention & Management
- ☐ Workforce Development (Health & Social Sectors)

Explain how your work would align with the selected priority health need(s). Correlate your work to what is shared in the Community Health Improvement Plan.

The 2026-2028 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) identifies nutritional access as a primary driver for preventing chronic disease. Our work aligns with Chronic Disease Prevention by providing low-sodium and nutrient-dense food options that help residents manage conditions like diabetes and hypertension. Furthermore, we support the Affordability of Care by reducing the "food vs. medicine" dilemma; when a family's nutritional needs are met by the Pantry, they are better able to afford prescriptions and medical co-pays.

Describe the demographic makeup of the clients you would serve with funding from United Way. United Way prioritizes the needs of individuals who are marginalized (individuals living in poverty, minorities, children without parental support, etc.).

The Monroe City Food Pantry exclusively serves residents within the Monroe City R-1 School District, encompassing portions of Marion, Monroe, Ralls, and Shelby counties. We prioritize marginalized groups, including:

Seniors on Fixed Incomes: Who are disproportionately affected by inflation.

Children and Families: Ensuring that nutritional gaps do not hinder academic or physical development.

Individuals with Disabilities: Provided for through our dedicated delivery program.

Dollars from the United Way of the Mark Twain Area can ONLY be used to support programs in Marion, Monroe, Ralls, Lewis, and Shelby Counties in Missouri. If you serve additional counties, how can you prove dollars are only used to support the work of these counties?

The Monroe City Food Pantry exclusively serves residents within the designated service area of the United Way of the Mark Twain Area in Marion, Monroe, Ralls, Lewis, and Shelby Counties in Missouri. We only serve residents within the Monroe City R-1 School District, encompassing portions of Marion, Monroe, Ralls, and Shelby counties. All programs and services funded by United Way dollars will be strictly limited to this defined geographic area.

What other revenue streams are utilized to support the program you are applying to the United Way to receive funding for?

Our operations are sustained by a diverse funding mix, including individual donations, congregational support, and community-driven fundraisers such as the "War of the Banks." We also secure in-kind support from retail partners like Walmart, C&R Market, CVS and local producers through the Share the Harvest and Hogs for Hunger initiatives.

Explain the impact funding from United Way will have on the work of your organization if selected to receive funding from May 2026-April 2027.

Funding for the 2026-2027 cycle will be transformative. It will allow us to:

Stabilize Inventory: Mitigate the impact of wholesale food price volatility.

Expand Nutrition: Increase the proportion of fresh, perishable goods (produce and dairy) provided in each box.

Strengthen the Safety Net: Ensure that no resident in our five-county service area faces an emergency without a reliable source of food.

Explain any collaborations with other agencies.

We maintain high-impact partnerships with Quality Works, Inc. for logistics, the Missouri Central Food Bank for procurement, and the Monroe City R-1 School District for volunteer recruitment and youth outreach.

For organizations that have been a United Way Community Impact Agency previously: How has your organization shown that your organization receives funding from United Way and partnered with the United Way organization?

The Monroe City Food Pantry proudly acknowledges the vital support of the United Way of the Mark Twain Area. We publicly recognize this partnership through various channels, including:

Visible displays: Prominent placement of United Way logos and plaques within the pantry facility.

Marketing materials: Inclusion of the United Way logo and partnership acknowledgement in all marketing and promotional materials, such as brochures, newsletters, and social media posts.

Community outreach: Highlighting the United Way partnership during community events and presentations to raise awareness of the impact of United Way support.

If your organization previously has been a United Way Community Impact Agency, outside of receiving monthly financial support, how else has your organization benefited?

Beyond financial support, our partnership with United Way has provided invaluable benefits. United Way's recognition has enhanced our credibility within the community, strengthening our relationships with other local organizations and potential donors. Their network has also connected us with valuable resources, including training opportunities for staff and board members on topics such as fundraising and governance. This capacity building has improved our operational efficiency and long-term sustainability. Furthermore, the partnership has amplified our visibility, raising awareness of food insecurity in our service area and attracting additional volunteers and community support. These non-monetary benefits have significantly strengthened our organization's capacity to serve our community.

Organization Best Practices Questionnaire

Complete the following form answering questions relating to organization best practices. This information will not necessarily make an organization ineligible for status as a Community Impact Agency with United Way, but might result in the need for additional information for United Way.

PROGRAMS & MISSION:

Is your organization's mission statement able to be found prominently at your organization, on your organization's website, and on printed materials about your organization?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Need more information

Does your organization ensure all programs of your organization align with the mission of the organization?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Need more information

Does your organization have a strategic plan?

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No
- ☐ Need more information

BOARD:

Does your organization have a board of directors that meets at least once a year to oversee the affairs of the organization?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Need more information

Does your organization have a board of directors made up of a diverse group of people (age, gender, education, background, ethnicity, etc.)?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Need more information

Does your organization have a process to recruit new board members?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Need more information

Does your organization provide training to new board members?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Need more information

Has your organization reviewed its bylaws in the last 12 months?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Need more information

Does your board approve the annual budget?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Need more information

Does your board review financial statements on at least a quarterly basis?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Need more information

Does your board annually disclose conflicts of interest?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Need more information

Does your organization maintain meeting minutes for all board meetings?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Need more information

How frequently does your board meet?

The Monroe City Food Pantry Board of Directors meets every 3 months.

Does your organization's bylaws include term limits for board members?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Need more information

Do all of your organization's board members give financially to the organization, or if they are unable to give financially, do they volunteer their time to the organization?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Need more information

EMPLOYER QUESTIONS:

If your organization has employees, do you have an employee handbook?

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No
- ☐ Need more information
- ☐ N/A

If your organization has employees, are there up to date job descriptions for those employees?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Need more information
- ☐ N/A

If your organization has an Executive Director, is that director evaluated on an annual basis by the board of directors?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Need more information
- ☐ N/A

FINANCE & LEGALITY:

In the last year has there been any government agency led investigations of your organization?

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No
- ☐ Need more information

Is your organization registered with the Secretary of State's Office and is that registration up to date?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Need more information

Did your organization file the IRS Form 990, 990-EZ, or 990-N in a timely manner (within ten and a half months of your last fiscal year end)?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Need more information

Was a copy of the IRS Form 990 provided to the organization's board of directors before it was filed?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Need more information

Has your organization reviewed its policies and procedures in the last 12 months?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Need more information

Does your organization have a financial policy in place to oversee the paying of invoices?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Need more information

Does your organization have a policy in place to reimburse employees or volunteers for expenses?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Need more information

Does your organization have a policy in place for receiving cash and making deposits?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Need more information

How much does your organization have in operating reserves per your most recent financial statement?

The Monroe City Food Pantry maintains an operating reserve of approximately \$11,000

How many months does that operating reserves equate to in regards to average monthly expenses?

The Monroe City Food Pantry reserve equates to approximately 6 months of operating expenses.

Any details you want to share about your organization's operating reserves?

File Uploads

Following are the required documents - United Way must receive ALL required documents by Saturday, February 15th in order to be eligible to become a Community Impact Agency.

NUMBER SERVED: Please submit your numbers served using THIS link:

[2026 Number of People Served at the Agency – Fill out form](#)

Number of Individuals Served - USE THIS LINK: [2026 Number of People Served at the Agency – Fill out form](#)



Form Submitted

Organization Budget - Form found on Website or can use own format - Upload as Spreadsheet



Organization Bud...



Add file

Program/Project Budget (if applying for program/project dollars) - Form found on Website - Upload as Spreadsheet

 Add file

Most Recent IRS 990



MC Food Pantry I...

 Add file

Federal IRS Determination Letter - Not required for returning applicants

 Add file

For budgets over \$300,000 please upload your most recently completed audit.

 Add file

For budgets of \$20,000-\$300,000 please upload a Compilation Report prepared by a CPA (or bring a copy to the United Way Office if no full audit).

 Add file

For budgets under \$20,000, please upload most recent approved financial statement.

 2025 Cash Flow -...

 Add file

Board Member Listing - Form Found on Website - Upload as Spreadsheet

 Board Member Li...

 Add file

Key Employee Listing - Form Found on Website - Upload as Spreadsheet

 Key Employee Li...

 Add file

Organization's most recent Annual Report (if applicable)

 Add file

Upload Agency's Bylaws - Required for new applicants, required for returning applicants if any changes have been made in past year.

 Add file

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