



**UNITED WAY OF
GREATER LOS ANGELES**



SHELTER IMPROVEMENT REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Key Dates

Application Opens: Monday, February 27, 2023

Informational Webinar #1: Thursday, March 9, 2023 from 3:30-5 p.m.

Informational Webinar #2: Tuesday, March 21, 2023 from 10-11 a.m.

Application Closes in UWGLA Portal: Thursday, March 23, 2023 at 11:59 p.m.

BACKGROUND

United Way of Greater Los Angeles (UWGLA) believes we can accomplish more together than alone. By combining community power, donations, and new solutions to long-standing challenges, we can support neighbors in crisis and close the prosperity gap. Through investments like the Shelter Improvement Request for Proposals (RFP), we aim to support our unhoused neighbors with access to shelters and support networks that can dramatically change the outcomes of their lives and connect them to pathways to permanent housing.

Recent efforts like A Bridge Home, Project Roomkey, and Project Homekey created a 62% increase in shelter beds since 2019 and increased the shelter count by 12%. At the same time, LA continues to have the largest unsheltered population in the nation with 70% of the 69,144 people experiencing homelessness identified through the 2022 Homeless Count living unsheltered. While the long-term solution to unsheltered homelessness is creating more affordable and permanent housing, the existing interim housing is a key resource for unsheltered individuals to connect to services, shelter, safety and privacy. By better utilizing our existing shelter supply, we can serve more unhoused residents and improve the flow from street to home.

Through this RFP, made possible with support from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation and the Home For Good Funders Collaborative, UWGLA will invest \$2.5M to support year-round interim housing shelter sites in Los Angeles County that serve people experiencing homelessness with one-time physical site upgrades. These upgrades will integrate [trauma-informed design principles](#) in order to create increasingly welcoming and dignified spaces that not only encourage unhoused individuals to come inside, but to also promote their engagement and connection to shelter and housing services. As a result of these investments and the collective work of the shelter providers selected, we aim to increase bed utilization at existing shelters and reduce time from street to home.

ELIGIBILITY

All organizations applying for Shelter Improvement funding must meet the following minimum criteria to apply. Additional eligibility requirements are noted within each funding category.

- A 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization in active and good standing with the IRS (or a fiscal sponsor who meets that definition).
- Cities are eligible to apply for funding for their interim housing sites. If awarded, funds will be granted to the shelter site's service provider or to a non-profit entity of the city.
- The identified shelter site must:
 - Be physically located in Los Angeles County.
 - Operate on a year-round basis.
 - Shelter unhoused, unaccompanied adults as the primary population.
 - Meet the definition of an interim housing provider as determined by the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) for Los Angeles County: "An intervention that provides people experiencing homelessness with temporary housing intended to resolve their immediate experience of unsheltered homelessness, to connect participants to permanent housing opportunities in their communities, and to provide various other services." While not comprehensive, this includes crisis housing, bridge housing, recovery bridge, recuperative care, stabilization housing, Safe Haven, tiny homes, A Bridge Home, and Project Homekey sites.

FUNDING CATEGORIES

Eligible providers can apply under the two categories listed below. Only one application will be accepted per organization. Providers eligible in both categories must select and **apply under only one**.

Funding Category	Shelter Type	Maximum Award Amount
CATEGORY 1: Trauma-Informed Enhancements	All eligible shelter types, no bed minimum	Up to \$25,000
CATEGORY 2: Trauma-Informed Physical Site Upgrades	Congregate shelter with a minimum of 25 beds	Up to \$150,000

Category #1: Trauma-Informed Enhancements

Qualifying Shelter Sites: All eligible shelter types, no bed minimum. Current Shelter Improvement partners can apply for funding only through this category and for a shelter site not currently under contract with UWGLA.

Maximum Award Amount Available: Up to \$25,000 per shelter provider is available through this category. Funds can be distributed across multiple site sites where relevant to the request, but we recommend not exceeding three shelter sites to ensure the investment is able to make a meaningful impact at target sites.

Eligible Uses of Funding

- **Enhancements:** One-time enhancements that integrate trauma-informed design principles into the site's existing indoor spaces. For example, this can include one-time design and space modifications that use paint, furniture, biophilic design (i.e. plants and nature), art, acoustics, lighting, and flooring in rooms and common areas regularly used by shelter guests to promote a healing environment.

This category prioritizes funding for trauma-informed enhancements so that we can demonstrate the immediate impact of making enhancements to client-shared spaces. However, we recognize that access to funding for formal assessments to analyze long-term capital needs is of interest so applicants for this category are able to request up to 30% of their award amount to hire a consultant to assess the provider's existing shelter site(s) as a way to inform the organization's future planning and strategy to address capital needs.

Category #2: Trauma-Informed Physical Site Upgrades

Qualifying Shelter Sites: A congregate shelter site with a minimum of 25 year-round beds. All shelters must be owned by the shelter provider or a fiscal partner; no leased properties will be considered in this category. If you are applying on behalf of a city-owned shelter, UWGLA will request documentation about your partnership with the shelter's service provider.

Maximum Award Amount Available: Up to \$150,000 per shelter provider is available through this category. Funds can only be utilized for upgrades at a single shelter site.

Eligible Uses of Funding

- **Upgrades:** One-time, physical site upgrades that integrate trauma-informed design principles into the site's existing indoor spaces. For example, this can include construction to offices, rooms, or common areas highly utilized by shelter clients with a purpose to rethink the space in a way that promotes a healing environment. This funding can be applied towards a provider's existing or anticipated capital projects.

This category prioritizes funding for trauma-informed physical site upgrades so that we can demonstrate the immediate impact of upgrading client-shared spaces. However, we recognize that access to funding for formal assessments to analyze long-term capital needs is of interest so applicants for this category are able to request up to 5% of their award amount to hire a consultant to assess the provider's existing shelter site(s) as a way to inform the organization's future planning and strategy to address capital needs.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Submission Process

Application will be open through March 23, 2023, via electronic submission on Survey Monkey Apply – accessed through [United Way Grantseekers webpage](#). Applicants that have previously applied for UWGLA funding should use their existing Survey Monkey login. If your organization is unsure if it has a login, contact rfp@unitedwayla.org.

Only one application will be considered per organization. Late or incomplete applications may not be considered.

Informational Sessions

Two informational sessions will be hosted related to this RFP and application process. We encourage all applicants to attend one of the following informational sessions:

1. Thursday, March 9, 2023 from 3:30-5 p.m. via Zoom. To register, click [here](#).
2. Tuesday, March 21, 2023 from 10-11 a.m. via Zoom (<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84468088936?pwd=SURxWDJNQ0xpT2R4Y0MxYXFRTXJCZz09>) No RSVP required.

RFP Questions Information

UWGLA will provide updates to this RFP and a Frequently Asked Questions on the [United Way Grantseekers webpage](#). Application questions may be emailed to rfp@unitedwayla.org with subject line "Shelter Improvement RFP." Relevant questions will be answered within 2 business days through Monday, March 20, 2023.

REVIEW & SELECTION

All applications will undergo an initial screening for completeness, satisfaction of minimum requirements, and alignment with Shelter Improvement goals and priorities. Only applications meeting the minimum eligibility criteria will be considered, reviewed, and scored.

Application Review Considerations

Applications satisfying initial screening will be assessed and scored based on the considerations outlined below.

- Impact the project will have on shelter programs/services, bed utilizations, housing outcomes, and client/staff experiences.
- Clear demonstration of how funding will promote trauma-informed design principles in shelter spaces highly utilized by shelter clients. Examples include intake and reception areas, common areas for clients, groups spaces primarily used for meals, workshops, and support programs.
- Potential scale of client impact, including number of and types of beds at the shelter site(s) and geographic location of shelter site(s).
- Current/potential of partner involvement in countywide efforts and systems to address homelessness.

In addition to the above, the following will be taken into consideration for requests related to Category #2: Trauma-Informed Physical Site Upgrades.

- Organization's capacity to take on a construction project and staff's level of expertise and comfort with managing the project.
- Cost and timeline for construction, including any pre-construction requirements like permitting and design work.
- Applicant's plans to secure or leverage additional funding for the requested project, where project's cost exceed requested amount.

While Category #1 will have only an application review that will lead to selection, requests submitted under Category #2 will be reviewed and a set of finalists will be selected. Currently, UWGLA anticipates working with shelter providers selected as Category #2 finalists to visit in order to learn more about your shelter needs and operations. This visit is intended to help finalize awards by UWGLA staff, but also to create space for finalists to work with UWGLA to refine ask as needed and uplift other opportunities for assistance for future consideration.

Award announcements are anticipated for late April.