



## 2026 UMF Funding Structure and Schedule

The **UpMobility Foundation (UMF)** remains dedicated to funding high-impact initiatives that create sustainable, meaningful change. In 2026, we will continue advancing our goal of creating a stronger, more vibrant nonprofit ecosystem in the Mohawk Valley and beyond by strategically allocating resources with a particular focus on fostering structural changes across the nonprofit sector.

<b>Funding Mechanism</b>	<b>Application Open</b>	<b>Application Close</b>	<b>Funding Category/Theme(s)</b>	<b>Expected Notification</b>
Grant Round 1	April 1, 2025	April 30, 2025	<b>Capacity Building Grants (ROUND 1)</b>	<b>End of May</b>
Grant Round 2	June 1, 2025	June 30, 2025	<b>Coalition Building Grants</b>	<b>End of July</b>
Mohawk Valley Gives	September (internal)	September (internal)	<b>Mohawk Valley Gives Matching Grants</b>	<b>End of July</b>
Grant Round 3	October 1, 2025	October 31, 2025	<b>Capacity Building Grants (ROUND 2)</b>	<b>Mid-December</b>
Founder's & Sibling	December (internal)	December (internal)	<b>Founder's Grants &amp; Sibling Grants</b>	<b>Mid-December</b>
By Invitation	Ongoing	Ongoing	<b>Entrepreneurship Strengthening Democracy International Development</b>	<b>Ongoing</b>

Detailed program guidelines will be available at least one month prior to the beginning of each grant round. The summaries contained herein are intended to provide an overview of UMF's grant rounds for planning purposes only and do not constitute a final or complete call for proposals. UMF reserves the right to make changes to the schedule and structure of its grantmaking program at any time.

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## 1. Capacity Building Grants

**Capacity Building Strategy:** Funding focuses on **behavioral or systemic changes** that will amplify UMF's impact and provide systemic changes within the nonprofit ecosystem and increase sustainability of our nonprofit partners.

**Goal:** Strengthen organizational **capacity of nonprofit partner organizations** by fostering the development of astute leadership, strong and high-functioning boards, professional development for staff, increased fundraising capacity, the development of new revenue streams, acquisition and implementation of technology, improved evaluation methods, strategic planning, communications, and other key organizational functions that will improve the stability and sustainability of nonprofits.

- **One-time, short-term investments** designed to support an organization's internal effectiveness and long-term sustainability rather than provide programmatic support. One small round will be held early in 2026 for nonprofit organizations who have ready-to-launch projects. A larger second round will be held in the fall after outreach to nonprofit partners has been completed.
- Intended for nonprofits that can clearly articulate a **specific capacity gap** and that align with UMF's specific funding themes (see below).
- Activities could but *are not limited* to the following types of activities:
- Improved **communications and marketing** processes including branding/rebranding, web redesign, market/target audience analysis, and strategic communications plan development.
- **Financial planning and fundraising development** including feasibility studies, business model planning, risk assessments, fundraising strategy development, wealth screens, case statement development, revenue planning, and short- and long-term financial forecasting.
- **Human resource** planning and assessment including staff recruitment and talent pipeline development, culture building, policy/process/infrastructure assessment, and performance management and coaching.
- **Social enterprise development** including business plan development, market analysis, financial modeling, legal consultation/support, and facilities assessment.
- **Technology development** includes audits of technology needs, database design and/or acquisition and implementation, cybersecurity updates, software or program acquisition and implementation, and training.
- **Operations improvements** including CRM acquisition and implementation, finance or grants management software purchase and implementation, legal support or compliance activities, and other infrastructure needs.
- **Expansion planning** of high-quality, tested programmatic models that can be replicated in new communities, with a particular focus on bringing said models to the Mohawk Valley.
- **Staff, board, and leadership development** including organizational assessments and succession planning, leadership training, planning or organizational development sabbaticals for executive leadership, or organizational structural redesign.
- **Strategic planning includes** stakeholder needs assessment, SWOT analysis and scenario planning, and strategy development.
- All proposed activities must address the following funding themes: Advancing Education, Building Strong Families, Community Building, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging, Healthcare and Helping those with Special Needs.

- Investments may be made locally, regionally, or nationally.
- All proposals must include **metrics** that will be used to track that demonstrate improve long term outcomes related to capacity, sustainability, or increased ability to serve the community.
- Anticipated awards will be approximately **\$100,000** with award terms to be **two to three years**. Payments made in **installments contingent on acceptable progress reports/follow ups**.

## 2. Coalition Building Grants

**Coalition Building Strategy:** Funding focuses on the development of new or substantive changes to existing **collaborative relationships** that will enhance the nonprofit organization's ability to address root causes of social problems within the nonprofit ecosystem while also amplifying the impact of UMF's investments.

**Goal:** Provide support for **high-capacity organizations** to create a strategy to substantively improve the nonprofit ecosystem.

- Fund creation or development of **coalitions, collaborations, or partnerships** that will implement a **systems-change** or **social innovation strategy** that will address the root causes of societal issues.
- Coalitions, collaborations, or partnerships must be led by a **single trusted organization** who will retain fiduciary and contractual responsibility for the program; however, sub-grants or contracts are permitted.
- Both **planning** and **implementation** requests will be permitted. **Multi-year grants** will be encouraged.
- Activities may include the development of strategic alliances for organizations that provide similar services, administrative consolidations (i.e., shared finance or HR departments), mergers, resources partnerships (i.e., shared space, shared IT resources, etc.), or dissolution planning.
- All proposed activities must address the following funding themes: Advancing Education, Building Strong Families, Community Building, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging, Healthcare and Helping those with Special Needs.
- All proposals must include **metrics** that will be used to track that demonstrate improve long term outcomes related to capacity, sustainability, or increased ability to serve the community.
- Investments may be made locally, regionally, or nationally.
- Anticipated awards will be approximately **\$100,000** with award terms to be **two to three years**. Payments made in **installments contingent on acceptable progress reports/follow ups**.

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## 3. Mohawk Valley Gives

UMF will continue to offer matches to select organizations. Selection of organizations and details related to the matching agreements remain an internal process.