

Please complete the application below in its entirety. You may attach additional pages as needed. Applications will be accepted for up to \$100,000.00 for direct services and \$50,000.00 for indirect service projects. Funds are limited due to the amount of settlement received and projects may not receive full request. A 20% match of funds will be required for all projects; however, a waiver of match may be requested and will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Waiver Request forms are available upon request. Funding decisions are at the sole discretion of the City and the City reserves the right to deny any request for funds and/or waivers of match for any reason.

Once submitted, this application and any supporting documents are considered a public record and will be posted on the City's website and made available to the public and the media upon request.

- X CERTIFY THAT YOU HAVE REVIEWED EXHIBIT A, SCHEDULE A - CORE STRATEGIES and SCHEDULE B APPROVED USES**
- X CERTIFY THAT YOU UNDERSTAND THAT A REPRESENTATIVE(S) OF THE CITY MAY MAKE VISITS DURING THE APPLICATION PROCESS AND DURING THE GRANT PERIOD FOR MONITORING PURPOSES *WITHOUT* PRIOR NOTICE.**

Section One: Contact Information

Name of Organization and Contact Persons Name for application*

Tygart Valley United Way – Brett White

Address*

221 Washington Street, Fairmont, WV 26554

Website, if applicable:

Tvunitedway.org

Phone Number*

[Redacted]

Email address*

[Redacted]

FEIN*

[Redacted]

UEI*

[Redacted]

Registration in SAM.gov Yes No

**If yes, please list expiration date* October 2026

Are you in good standing Yes No

Executive Summary

The Fairmont-Marion County Unsheltered Task Force, in collaboration with the Tygart Valley United Way, seeks \$61,500 in funding to support the creation of a full-time Substance Abuse/Homelessness Outreach Worker position to serve the City of Fairmont. This role is essential to addressing the intersecting crises of opioid use disorder and homelessness in our community.

The Outreach Worker will serve on the front lines, conducting street outreach, providing direct support and navigation services, and connecting individuals to treatment, shelter, and supportive services. Housed at the Tygart Valley United Way and guided by the Fairmont-Marion County Unsheltered Task Force, this position will work closely with service providers, local government agencies, and healthcare partners to ensure a coordinated and person-centered approach.

Core Strategies and Approved Uses Met

- ✓ Naloxone or other FDA -Approved Drug to reverse opioid overdoses
- ✓ Prevention Programs
- ✓ Treat opioid use disorder (OUD)
- ✓ Support people in treatment and recovery
- ✓ Other: Direct outreach and case management for individuals with co-occurring substance use and housing instability

How Project Meets Approved Uses

The Outreach Worker will directly support individuals experiencing substance use disorder and homelessness by:

- Conducting regular street-level outreach and follow-up
 - The outreach worker will conduct 20 hours of community outreach per week, meeting individuals where they live and providing a consistent presence, regular check-ins, non-judgmental engagement, and peer support.
- Connecting clients to detox, rehab, and Medication-Assisted Treatment providers
 - The outreach worker will be actively engaged in connecting clients to needed health services through scheduling appointments and can assist in navigating detox services and counseling options.
- Assisting with vital documentation (IDs, birth certificates) needed for treatment, employment, and housing
 - The outreach worker will help with obtaining identification documents, insurances, or benefits, as well as applications for shelter and food securities.
- Coordinating transportation to appointments
 - The outreach worker will coordinate with Fairmont-Marion County Transit Authority and/or local transportation providers to obtain bus passes or rides to and from appointments. They will also assist individuals with navigating public transit by providing bus routes and schedules.
- Distribution of harm reduction materials and referrals
 - The outreach worker will carry and be trained on use of Naloxone and administer as needed to reverse opioid overdoses while performing outreach. They will carry hygiene kits and other harm reduction materials during street outreach and participate in community-led efforts, such as Save a Life Day.
- Providing overdose prevention education
 - The outreach worker will work with local prevention programs, like Communities of Shalom, to expand opioid awareness, prevention, and cessation.
- Performing crisis intervention and offering immediate support during psychological distress
 - The outreach worker will meet with individuals to provide connections to therapy, psychiatric services, mental hygiene hearing officers, and legal aid as needed. They will be available during evening and weekend hours on occasion.
- Addressing basic needs
 - The outreach worker will provide assistance and connections to food, shelter, clothing, and other basic needs through partnerships with pantries and other agencies.

Key Anticipated Outcomes

- At least 100 unduplicated individuals engaged through street outreach.
- 30 individuals connected to substance use treatment or recovery services.
- 100 individuals assisted in obtaining identification documents.
- 25% follow through on referrals and appointments made by the outreach worker.
- Improved service navigation, health outcomes, and housing stability.
- Increased access to harm reduction tools.
- Greater trust in public health and social service programs, as identified by pre- and post- engagement surveys.
- Decrease in instances of public drug use and improperly discarded paraphernalia.
- Stronger collaboration between local agencies, providers, and law enforcement through case conferencing.
- Fewer emergency room visits or hospitalizations for substance use disorders.
- Better data and stories that can inform local policy and funding.

Individuals/Communities Served

This project serves individuals in the City of Fairmont and the surrounding Marion County community experiencing homelessness, housing instability, and substance use disorder—particularly those most disconnected from traditional systems of care. Demographics could include those most at risk of overdose, youth leaving foster care with limited or no support systems, those with mental health conditions, those vulnerable to relapses, veterans, and individuals that are recently incarcerated and re-entering society. Local businesses and community residents will be indirectly served through reduced instances of public drug use, loitering, trespassing, and discarded drug paraphernalia. Agency partners will be served through expanded support for case management and distribution of program materials.

Connection to the City of Fairmont

The Tygart Valley United Way has long partnered with the City of Fairmont through initiatives such as VITA, 211, and emergency response services. As a founding member of the Fairmont-Marion County Unsheltered Task Force, our organization is uniquely positioned to lead this effort with deep community ties and an established service infrastructure.

Funding Requested: \$61,500

Matching Funds Committed: \$10,000

Source of Match: In-kind support from Tygart Valley United Way and partner agencies (office space, supervision, supplies)

Project Timeline

- Month 1: Recruitment and onboarding
 - Finalize job description
 - Advertise and interview potential candidates

- Promote program among partners to establish formal MOUs
- Identify outreach parameters including parks, shelters, streets, encampments, etc.
- Street outreach worker training
- Months 2-3: Community outreach ramp-up, client identification
 - Obtain access and training on Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)
 - Prevention education program development
 - Survey development
 - Meet with partner agencies and community groups to collect resources and collaborate on outreach and events
 - Preparation of harm reduction kits
 - Individual outreach – expected quota of at least 10 new clients per month
 - Assist 3+ individuals per month in obtaining vital documentation, insurance, and/or benefits
 - Host first case conferencing meeting with WV Coalition to End Homeless and Fairmont-Marion County Unsheltered Task Force
- Months 4–12: Full implementation of outreach and referral services
 - Meet with partner agencies and community groups to collect resources and collaborate on outreach and events
 - Preparation of harm reduction kits
 - Individual outreach – expected quota of at least 10 new clients per month
 - Assist 3+ individuals per month in obtaining vital documentation, insurance, and/or benefits
 - Monthly case conferencing meeting with WV Coalition to End Homeless and Fairmont-Marion County Unsheltered Task Force
 - Data collection, outcome tracking including referrals, overdose rates, and case conferencing results
- Month 12: Evaluation and sustainability planning
 - Proposal of program expansion based on demonstration of needs
 - Create closeout reports for community investors
 - Interviews, post-surveys with clients served

Describe the Problem or Need

Fairmont, like many West Virginia communities, continues to struggle with a dual public health crisis: opioid addiction and homelessness. Individuals experiencing substance use disorder often face barriers to recovery such as lack of housing, identification, transportation, and support systems. These barriers are further compounded for people living unsheltered, disconnected from services and support.

Despite the presence of treatment and recovery programs in Marion County, a gap exists in consistent, person-centered outreach to individuals who are not already engaged in care. Without dedicated outreach personnel, individuals are left to navigate complex systems on their own—often resulting in cycles of incarceration, emergency room visits, and untreated addiction. This project seeks to interrupt that cycle.

Service providers, law enforcement, and nonprofit organizations often do not have the capacity to support the number of individuals in need with case management to ensure successful outcomes, including direct street outreach services that meet unsheltered individuals where they are.

Recently, local businesses and homeowners have experienced an increase in instances of trespassing, loitering, littering, and public drug use. On occasion, these issues can multiply to create unsafe situations and loss of business. As Fairmont and Marion County continues to promote community investment, businesses and residents could benefit from an active street outreach worker through de-escalation of conflicts, compassionate crisis response, and fostering a peaceful atmosphere. This project aims to address these concerns while also promoting dignity and services to those experiencing substance use disorder and homelessness.

Detailed Proposed Budget

Amount	Source	Category	Purpose
\$42,000	Opioid Settlement Funds	Personnel	Salary and fringe for full-time Outreach Worker
\$4,000	Opioid Settlement Funds	Personnel	Fringe and Benefits
\$3,000	Opioid Settlement Funds	Supplies	Training, Mobile technology, hygiene kits, harm reduction supplies, outreach materials
\$2,500	Opioid Settlement Funds	Travel	Mileage reimbursement, client transport assistance
\$10,000	Opioid Settlement Funds	Supplies	Client Direct Support- Birth Certificates, state ID's, Drivers licenses
\$61,500		Total	
\$10,000	In-kind (Tygart Valley United Way)	Match	Office space, supervision (percentage of time), admin support, and supplies, parking, furniture, antivirus, internet, postage

Proposed Budget Narrative

The \$61,500 in requested funding will be used to cover the salary and operating costs for one full-time Outreach Worker. This includes salary, fringe, supplies for outreach and client support, travel reimbursement, and professional development. It also includes \$10,000 to be used by Task Force partners for direct client assistance in obtaining driver's license, birth certificates, and state IDs.

Tygart Valley United Way will provide office space, supervision, administrative support, and access to shared services such as printing, phones, and technology—estimated at \$10,000 in in-kind match.

Partners and Roles

- **Tygart Valley United Way** – Administrative lead and host site; will employ the Outreach Worker and provide supervision, reporting, and facilities.
- **Fairmont-Marion County Unsheltered Task Force** – Oversight body comprised of service providers, healthcare leaders, and public officials; will guide strategy, referrals, and evaluation.
- **Valley Healthcare, MVA Healthcare, WVU Medicine-Fairmont Medical Center** – Treatment partners for referral and coordinated care.
- **Fairmont Police Department and Marion County EMS** – Critical partners for warm handoffs and crisis intervention.
- **Fairmont-Morgantown Housing Authority** – Provides housing navigation, section 8 and public housing rental assistance, rental counseling, information and referral, application assistance, and additional office space for case conferencing meetings.
- **Union Rescue Mission Inc.** – Temporary shelter as available, daily meals, application assistance, mental health counseling, short-term case management, warming shelter during winter months.
- **City of Fairmont** – Community information and financial support.
- **Communities of Shalom** – Local prevention coalition, harm reduction, training, outreach.
- **Compassion Central** – Bimonthly health clinics, temporary warming shelter as needed, women’s recovery housing.
- **Friendship Fairmont** – Daily drop-in center for snacks, water, activities, and application assistance.
- **Connecting Link** – Security deposit and rental assistance, mobile food pantries, payee services as needed, application assistance, information and referral.
- **Marion County Chamber of Commerce** – Information on community resources and referrals.
- **Main Street Fairmont** – Information on community resources and referrals.
- **Blessings from the Basement** – Furniture, household goods, and supplies for newly housed individuals.
- **West Virginia Coalition to End Homelessness** – The Unsheltered Task Force will replicate the case conferencing model used in Morgantown wherein service providers gather monthly to review case-by-case scenarios of Fairmont’s unsheltered individuals to triage needs including housing, medical treatment, SUD treatment, mental health, documentation, application assistance, barriers to housing, program referrals, etc. Access to HMIS software, training support, peer support for outreach worker.
- **Soup Opera** – Daily meals and clothing assistance.
- **North Central WV Community Action/ Scott Place Shelter** – Temporary shelter as available, case management, permanent supportive housing.
- **Fairmont-Marion County Food Pantry** – Bimonthly food and grocery assistance.
- **Marion County Health Department/ Quick Response Team** – Education and emergency transportation to treatment facilities.

- **Fairmont-Marion County Transit Authority** – Transportation to medical facilities, housing, food pantries, recovery meetings, and mental health appointments.
- **Churches** – Seasonal programs, food pantries.

Leadership and Key Personnel

- **Outreach Worker (To Be Hired)** – Will have background in social work, peer recovery, or case management.

The position will serve as the main contact for the Fairmont-Marion County Unsheltered Task Force and will be responsible for convening meetings and all partnerships.

Sustainability Plan

At the conclusion of the 12-month grant period, the Fairmont-Marion County Unsheltered Task Force will seek to sustain the Outreach Worker position through:

- State and federal grants (e.g., CDBG, SAMHSA, PATH)
- Partnership with the West Virginia First Foundation
- Partner cost-sharing and local foundation support
- Advocacy for municipal and county-level budget inclusion

Success metrics and client impact will be used to build the case for continuation and expansion.

Section Four: Organization Information

Mission Statement

United Way mobilizes communities to action so all can thrive.

Organizational History

The Community Chest was founded on August 26, 1938, by Allison Fleming in Fairmont, WV. The first red feather campaign raised \$39,980.

The United Fund of Marion County was incorporated on August 26, 1957, with two main goals: To raise funds and finance in part, or in the entirety, local, state, or national health, welfare, and character-building organizations, and to unite, as far as possible, in one annual campaign the fundraising activities of such organizations in Marion County, and to develop uniform financing policies.

The first campaign raised just over \$74,000, supporting the Red Cross, the Milk and Shoe Fund, Salvation Army, Boy Scouts, and the Girl Scouts. In 1961, the United Fund of Randolph County was formed as a committee of the Elkins Chamber of Commerce. The first drive raised \$44,670.

In 1973 and 1976 respectively, the United Funds became the United Way of Marion County and the Randolph County United Way. The organizations began aligning with United Way America and began providing membership and funding to agencies as "United Way agencies." The organization, which remains the same today, provides funding to non-profit organizations doing meaningful community work under the pillars of healthy communities, youth opportunity, financial security, and community resiliency.

In 2019, the Fairmont organization saw a need for services and expanded its reach into neighboring Taylor County and officially became the United Way of Marion and Taylor Counties. Between 2018 and 2020, the organization launched several new community impact initiatives for the first time, including the Born Learning trail, VITA tax preparation, and West Virginia 211 information and referral.

In 2020, both organizations navigated through the COVID-19 pandemic. The work solidified Marion County's place as a local and state leader raising over \$120,000 for their special COVID Relief and Recovery fund.

As 2021 arrived, the organizations saw an opportunity to join and serve the region more effectively. The merger of the United Way of Marion and Taylor Counties and the Randolph County United Way took place on March 16, 2021. The expansion also added Barbour and Tucker counties into the footprint to become the Tygart Valley United Way, a five-county regional United Way.

Current Programs and Activities

Tygart Valley United Way (TVUW) currently operates two direct service programs – WV 211 Information and Referral and Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA). These are staple programs of the organization, assisting over 3,000 households last year. The Community Resource Specialists are crucial to the WV 211 program. They are responsible for collaborating with local agencies and making sure those seeking resources are given the one-on-one attention they deserve in their time of need. The VITA program fulfills a large need in our community, helping households accurately prepare and file their income taxes. This ensures they receive their full refund and can save hundreds of dollars on filing fees.

Our youth-focused programming includes our Born Learning Trails, which provide interactive, early-learning opportunities for kids and caregivers, and the United for Kids collection, supporting hygiene pantries in all 50 schools across our region. We also participate in the United for ALICE movement, which researches the needs of Asset-Limited, Income-Constrained, and Employed individuals. These households have

income above the federal poverty guidelines and are often ineligible for government assistance, leaving them to fall through the cracks.

TVUW helps identify the most pressing issues in our communities and works to address them. As we experience shifts in the economy, the needs of our neighbors change with it. We bring a comprehensive approach to every challenge, actively listening and responding to local needs. Our reach across our five-county region means we can share innovations and scale impact to improve lives.

Three Recent Accomplishments

1. Tygart Valley United Way takes great pride in setting ambitious campaign goals to support the work of our 30 funded partner agencies each year. We approach our campaign season with the belief that every dollar counts, and that principle is what makes our grassroots efforts successful. We greatly value efficiency and impact when it comes to our work, so we're continuously evaluating and adjusting to keep what works and make changes to what doesn't. Between fundraising events, workplace campaigns, and corporate and individual gifts, we were able to exceed our \$600,000 goal last year.
2. Since our first season of the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program in 2020, our organization has strived to help as many families as possible with free tax preparation and filing. We continue to see the number of clients served increase, including both new and returning faces. For the 2025 filing season, we crossed another threshold and served over 1,000 households throughout our region. This program not only eases the burden on low-middle income families, but it puts critical dollars back into our community through individual refunds. In total, over \$1,000,000 was returned to hardworking West Virginians last season.
3. The June 2025 flooding across Marion County devastated hundreds of households in our small community. Within minutes, disaster response organizations, government officials, and community leaders were mobilizing to ensure residents found safety and shelter. Within hours, we had a makeshift team ready to work together to support our community for the road ahead. Our community's helpful spirit, while well-intended, can quickly become overwhelming and hectic, so Tygart Valley United Way's role in the beginning included donation gathering and information sharing, aiming to provide an outlet for that assistance. The Flood Fund raised enough money to support 18 households with temporary hotel stays while they sought new housing and 56 homeowners with financial support to assist with damages.

All Sources of Funding (Past 12 Months)

- Community Fundraising Campaign- 80+ Workplaces, Foundations, Partners
- Internal Revenue Service – VITA grant (Ended September 30, 2025)

- Commission for Community and National Service – Flipside AmeriCorps grant (Ended April 2025)
- Department of Education 21st Century Community Learning Center – Flipside Afterschool program (Ended June 2025)
- Marion County Commission – WV 211
- Barbour County Commission – WV 211
- Taylor County Commission – WV 211

Organization Members

Board of Directors

- Christina Gouzd – Chair, *Keystone Realty Group*
- Blaire Nuzum-Wise – Vice Chair, *TCO Land Services*
- Rebecca Miller – Secretary, *ND Paper*
- Jennifer Wade – Treasurer, *Conley CPA*
- Kristie Vandevander – Assistant Treasurer, *Vandevander & Nypl CPAs*
- Cindy Bajus, *Fairmont Federal Credit Union*
- Michael Bell – Nominating Chair, *Mike Bell & Associates*
- Travis Blosser, *City of Fairmont*
- David Cooper, *Tucker Community Foundation*
- Michael Davis, *Fairmont State University*
- Shawn Dilly, *Randolph County Schools*
- Joey Garcia, *Garcia Law PLLC*
- Kate Garlick, *Davis & Elkins College*
- Kevin Gessler, *Mon Health System*
- Erik Green, *Harry Green CDJR*
- Donna Heston, *Marion County Schools*
- Christy Hines, *Performance Chevrolet*
- Jessica Mayle, *BC Bank*
- Debby Michalski – Governance Chair, *United Security Agency*
- Christine Miller, *Taylor County Schools*
- Jim Myers, *Mon Power/First Energy*
- George Perich, *Pierpont Community & Technical College*
- Rhonda Robinson, *House Hunters Real Estate*
- Eric Ruf, *Barbour Community Health Association*
- Amy Schumacher – Community Review Vice Chair, *Movement Mortgage*
- Chuck Shields – Personnel Chair, *Fairmont State University*
- Melanie Thompson, *Huntington Banks*
- Karrah Washington, *Elkins-Randolph Chamber of Commerce*

- Katie Willard, *Social Bee Marketing Agency*
- Aaron Yanuzo – Community Review Chair, *WVU Medicine*

Full Time Staff Members

- Brett White, Chief Executive Officer – responsible for overall management of Tygart Valley United Way, strategic planning, fundraising, and daily operations.
- Casey Gilbert, Community Impact Director – responsible for oversight of direct impact programming, funded partner relations, and volunteerism.
- JoLynn Powers, Regional Engagement Director (*Elkins*) – responsible for program and fundraising engagement in Randolph, Barbour, and Tucker Counties.
- Candi Travis, Program Coordinator – responsible for coordination of Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and WV 211 Information and Referral programs. Serves as a Community Resource Specialist.

****If you have made an application for funding for this project from other sources (city, state, private or non-profit organizations) please list the same here.**

N/A

Section Five: Supplementary Information


Third-party reference*

Enter contact information for at least one outside third-party reference.



Supplementary information or documentation

Attach any supplementary information or documentation (such as letters of support) that you feel will be essential to the City's review.



Signature

Brett White

Name (Print)

Chief Executive Officer

Title

10/17/25

Date

While we are unable to help you complete this application, we are more than happy to provide you with clarification. Please contact Rene Graves, Grant Administrator, with any questions at rgraves@fairmontwv.gov or 304-366-6212 x 321.

All projects will run for 12 months from the time of the signed contract with the ability to apply for a one-year no cost extension.