

## DAY OF CARING GRANT

*Mobilizing the community to action so all can thrive*

### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

#### DESCRIPTION

UWSECT requests proposals to partner on large-scale volunteer engagement projects that increase a Partner Organization or Food Center Member's capacity to serve and mobilizes UWSECT volunteers. There are two available application Tiers. See details below for each tier. An applicant can submit one application for Tier 1 and may submit more than one application for Tier 2.

#### APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

- Organization is a current United Way of Southeastern Connecticut Partner Organization and/or Member Agency of Gemma E. Moran United Way / Labor Food Center.
- The project must be completed by general volunteers. Limited specialized activities may be considered.
- Projects may *not* include regular day-to-day program operations (ie: leading activities, customer service, lawn mowing, food distribution etc.), fundraising supports, or one-off program events.

#### TIER 1 SCOPE AND ELIGIBILITY

Applicants will identify a half-day event that incorporates a large group (20+) of community volunteers at a single site. The projects will address needs at the organization/program site that will have an impact on the organization's capacity to serve and/or provide a more positive experience for program participants.

#### SCOPE

- One application per organization.
- Project funding of up to \$2,500 + volunteer lunch
- Total of four awardees will be selected, with projects running October 2026 through June 2027.

#### ELIGIBILITY

- All UWSECT funds must be used for specific project expenses. Applicants may contribute additional funds to achieve a greater project scope if desired, though no match is required.
- Parking Available for 20+ vehicles
- Adequate on-site space for all volunteers, staff, and UWSECT representatives on event day for project orientation and lunch.

#### PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

##### RFP Released

August 27, 2026

##### Information Session

September 3, 2026, at 3:00 p.m.

[Zoom Link](#)

##### Project Proposals Due

September 13, 2026

##### Project Period

October 2026 – June 2027

##### Award Announcement

By September 25, 2026

##### Eligible Programs

- United Way Partner Programs
- Gemma E. Moran United Way / Labor Food Center Members

\*4 Day of Caring Events will be selected

##### Project Award

Up to \$2,500 and 20-40 Volunteers

##### Application Instructions

Online application

<https://www.uwsect.org/partner-grant-opportunities>

##### For Questions

**or feedback on project ideas:**

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## **TIER 2 SCOPE AND ELIGIBILITY**

Applicants may identify additional projects that could use small groups of 8-15 volunteers. These projects will *not* receive funding. Tier 2 projects will only be confirmed and scheduled once a volunteer group reaches out to UWSECT seeking a small group volunteer opportunity.

### **ELIGIBILITY**

- Applicant is responsible for project expenses
- Parking Available for 8-10+ vehicles
- Applicant organization will provide staff supports and coordinate activities.

### **APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS**

- Complete the online application by due date.
- Detailed description of project.
- Event budget (Tier 1)
- Address the impact on organization's capacity to serve.

### **AWARDED ORGANIZATION'S COMMITMENT**

- Support marketing efforts by sharing social posts by UWSECT and tagging UWSECT.
- Coordination with UWSECT staff to plan each project and ensure all elements are in place for a successful day.
- Organization staff are present and engaged on the day of the event and available to lead projects and subtasks.
- Organization leadership are present to welcome volunteers and provide initial orientation to the organization and the Day of Caring event.
- Ensure organization programming and Day of Caring do not interfere with one another.

### **UWSECT'S COMMITMENT**

- Manage volunteer recruitment, registration, and communications. (Tier 1 & 2)
- Support the awarded organization in developing a Day of Caring event plan that includes an agenda, details for each project (equipment needed, number of volunteers, task list), and activity areas for the event. (Tier 1)
- Provide lunch, drinks, and snacks (Tier 1)
- Branded United Way T-shirts with sponsor recognition. (Tier 1)
- Staff support the day of the event including coordination of volunteers and assistance with projects as needed. (Tier 1)