Engage Grant Program Guidelines

As the needs of our community change, the Foundation is shifting our grant processes to encourage more cooperation and less competition, more focus on outcomes and not outputs, and opportunities for listening, sharing, and moving forward together. The Foundation will build human capital by bringing together knowledge, experience, and expertise in cooperative efforts to support people and places. The Foundation will serve as a champion for collaboration focused on helping meet basic human needs through real-issue, systemic root-cause outcomes, rather than short-term symptoms.

At the center of the work of Huey and Angelina Wilson Foundation is a desire that those most in need have the education, skills, and resources to achieve their full potential.

We believe that our work can best be achieved through four pillars:

- Equip – Greater Baton Rouge nonprofits operate effectively and demonstrate impact
- Engage – Build and sustain commitment for ALICE, impoverished, and justice-involved populations
- Empower – Support revitalization of North Baton Rouge and generate new opportunities for families so that residents can thrive
- Excellence – Operate as a premier foundation

The Engage pillar has three distinct long-term goals:

- Increased financial resiliency and long-term stability
- Increased primary healthcare utilization
- Increased successful reentry

REGIONAL FOCUS

The Foundation supports communities throughout the 10-parish Capital Region and recognizes that resources and opportunities are not equally dispersed among the 10 parishes.

1. Ascension
2. East Baton Rouge
3. East Feliciana
4. Iberville
5. Livingston
6. Pointe Coupee
7. St. Helena
8. St. James
9. West Baton Rouge
10. West Feliciana

ALICE FOCUS

ALICE stands for Asset-Limited, Income-Constrained, Employed. ALICE earns just above the Federal Poverty Level but less than what it costs to make ends meet. These struggling households are forced to make impossible choices each day. In 2022, 19 percent of Louisiana households were below the Federal Poverty Level, and 30 percent were ALICE; together, 50 percent of Louisiana households struggle to survive in today's economy. In general, a family of four would need to earn about $81,000 to afford the ALICE survival budget, and Louisiana's median household income is $58,000. Learn more at unitedforalice.org. **Partners will be asked to demonstrate that clients served through this program have incomes below the ALICE Survival Budget Threshold and/or are formerly incarcerated.**

RESULTS FOCUS

At Huey and Angelina Wilson Foundation, we view grant applications in terms of the ways in which your efforts help our community members achieve success. We are less focused on your specific activities, the order in which they occur, or who is doing them. They are important as the input, but they are the means, not the end. We want to know who or what will be different *as a result of your efforts* - the results for those you serve.

OUR APPROACH

Huey and Angelina Wilson Foundation will make three types of investments within the Engage pillar: Direct Service (program support), Capacity & Collaboration Building, and Systems Change.

1. **Direct Service (Program Support):** Projects selected for direct service investments will answer the question: ***what positive gains will occur for individual participants or communities?*** Projects include new or existing programs that work directly with ALICE and impoverished households and incarcerated or formerly incarcerated individuals.

2. **Capacity & Collaborations:** Projects selected for capacity and collaborations investments will answer the questions: ***how will your organization and/or other organizations work differently? What will this enable you and/or them to do better? How will collaboration improve effectiveness or efficiency while improving results for impacted individuals?*** Projects include efforts that strengthen the existing capacity and/or collaboration of organizations to achieve results.

3. **Systems Change:** Projects selected for systems change investments will answer the question: ***how will your work inform change on a macro-level, including influencing policy or changing service provider practices?*** Projects include awareness efforts, research, and advocacy efforts that lead to positive changes by state and local lawmakers and administrative agencies.

RESULTS-FOCUSED APPLICATIONS

The Foundation has identified key programs to support within five streams of work: Financial Stability, Healthcare Utilization, Successful Reentry, Capacity & Collaboration Building, and Systems Change.

Financial Stability

Nearly one-third of residents in the Capital Area are considered liquid-asset poor, according to data from Prosperity Now. Partners aiming to increase financial resiliency will focus on methods to increase financial resilience and stability. This strategy of the Foundation was informed by the Asset Funders Network's brief *Achieving Financial Resilience in the Face of Financial Setbacks*. Programs of particular interest to the Foundation provide interventions to bridge financial setbacks, in the form of buffers, borrowing, benefits, and backstops.

Buffers

- Financial Education
- Financial Coaching
- Increased Savings
- Individual Development Accounts
- Workforce Training

Borrowing

- Credit Building
- High-Interest Loan Avoidance
- Debt Reduction
- Revolving Loan Funds

Benefits

- Navigation
- Screenings
- Registrations
- Emergency Assistance
- Guaranteed Income

Backstops

- Insurance Literacy
- Insurance Navigation
- Insurance Screenings

As a result of services, a person can fully meet current and ongoing financial obligations, feels secure in their financial future, and is able to make choices that allow enjoyment in life.

Healthcare Utilization

Twenty percent of Capital Area residents are in poor or fair health, according to County Health Rankings. Partners aiming to increase healthcare utilization by families below the ALICE threshold will focus on connecting families to care. The Foundation's strategy was informed by *Barriers to Care Landscape Analysis for the Capital Area Region* conducted by the Louisiana Public Health Institute. These connections to care can be direct healthcare management or addressing various barriers to access to care.

Chronic Disease Management

- Addiction
- Cancer
- Diabetes
- Heart Disease
- HIV/AIDS
- Hypertension

Financial Barriers

- Benefits Enrollment
- Insurance Literacy
- Medical Debt Relief

Geographic & Transportation Barriers

- Consumer Digital Literacy
- School- or Community-Based Health Center Expansion
- Telehealth Expansion
- Telehealth Infrastructure

Healthcare Data

- Community Health Needs Assessments and Implementation
- Healthcare Information Exchanges
- Staff Extender Models

Mental Health Access

- CCBHC Implementation
- Co-Occurring Disorders
- Suicide Prevention

Workforce Shortages

- Community Health Worker Expansions
- Staff Extender Models
- Workforce Pipeline

As a result of services, a person can fully meet current and ongoing healthcare needs, feels secure in their health status, and is able to make choices that allow enjoyment in life.

Successful Reentry

One in three individuals returning home from a Louisiana prison or jail will return to prison within three years of his or her exit, according to the Louisiana Department of Corrections. Partners aiming to decrease the recidivism rate will focus on building out the continuum of care for the formerly incarcerated that reduces barriers to reintegration, including, but not limited to, education, job readiness, life and soft skills, parenting skills, family reunification, faith-based support, mentoring, employment, housing, and health services. This strategy has been informed by ongoing work in the prison reentry space, Louisiana's Justice Reinvestment Initiative, and the Louisiana Prisoner Reentry Initiative.

Reentry Supports

- Education
- Employment
- Faith-Based Support
- Family Reunification
- Health Services
- Housing
- Job Readiness
- Life/Soft Skills
- Mentoring
- Parenting Supports

Employer Engagement

- Job Matching
- Staff Training
- Tax Incentives
- Workforce Skill Development & Training

Community Engagement

- Advocacy
- Awareness Campaigns
- Convenings
- Education
- Volunteer Mentorship

As a result of services, a person can fully meet current and ongoing needs, feels secure in their reentry status, and is able to make choices that allow enjoyment in life.

Capacity & Collaborations

The Greater Baton Rouge area has many nonprofits that are on the right track to impact the liquid-asset poor, healthcare disconnected, and formerly incarcerated, but lack the resources, partners, and practices to be high performers. The Foundation looks to support change agents to increase their capacity, quality, and collaboration to create strong networks of care. This collaboration is intended to increase the ***efficiency, effectiveness***, and ***sustainability*** of participating organizations while increasing services for families. Capacity & Collaborations **Partners may be focused on any of the three topics: Financial Stability, Healthcare Utilization, or Recidivism Reduction**.

Partners will select one of the following types of capacity or collaboration on which to focus:

- Collaboration - working closely with multiple entities through formalized working agreements, sharing resources to deliver more or better programs, or to realize efficiency
- Coordination of services - acting as the formal coordinator of several organizations working on services to strengthen or expand a continuum of care
- Impact measurement and evaluation - integrating methods to define, achieve, track, verify, improve and communicate clear gains for those served
- New infrastructure usage - acquire a new computer system, software or other needs to enhance performance or safety
- Professional Development/Training - to improve service delivery
- Program Improvement - adopting best practices that will lead to better outcomes

Partners will demonstrate how this project will:

- Decrease Waiting Lists
- Increase Data Sharing
- Increase Outreach
- Increase Referrals
- Increase Resource Sharing

Systems Change

Policies and practices of local and state agencies have created ineffectiveness, inequity, and unnecessary barriers for the formerly incarcerated, impoverished and/or ALICE families. Partners aiming to effect systems change will do so by building public awareness and creating policy and practice changes at the state and local levels. Partners may be focused on any of the three topics: Financial Stability, Healthcare Utilization, or Recidivism Reduction.

Partners selected to focus on systems change will implement:

- Advocacy
- Awareness Campaign
- Best Practice Pilot Programs
- Community Forums
- Convenings
- Education
- Policy and/or Practice Change
- Success Stories
- Technology Solutions

OUR OPERATING PRINCIPLES

We define ourselves as investors and are interested in creating the highest possible levels of human gain for the grant dollars we have available. Given this focus, the Huey and Angelina Wilson Foundation reviews each proposal with respect to available funds and responses to three overarching questions:

1. ***What will be the results from this project and how will we know when those results have been achieved?***
   Results are defined as the positive changes in behaviors and/or conditions in stakeholders that will be achieved through the project.
2. ***How likely is it that the results can be achieved?***
   Our assessment will be based on factors such as past result successes of the organization and its programs, validity of the proposed program approach, organizational capability and key personnel leading the project.
3. ***Is this the best possible use of Foundation funds given other opportunities before us?***
   We consider the cost relative to the gain, looking for projects that increase collaboration, quality and systemic change, and opportunities for replication to other organizations and parishes. When reviewing proposals, we will look at the use of all monies going into a project or program not just dollars contributed by the Foundation, as well as the sustainability of the work.

In making investment determinations, the Huey and Angelina Wilson Foundation will look for projects with the following characteristics:

- Projects designed to produce and verify specific changes in systems, organizations and participants that directly contribute to the Foundation results we seek in the respective focus areas;
- Projects that can be effectively implemented and ultimately continued without our funding;
- Projects that are replicable and can be shared with other organizations looking to produce similar results; and
- Projects that use evidence-based practices and strategies and/or offer clear results.

The projects supported by Engage should be long-term in nature, and the Foundation will make three-year investments. **Partners will be expected to report on progress and participate in learning sessions twice per year.** Opportunities for additional support will be provided to partners who make meaningful progress toward the Engage results.