

May 22, 2025



Mikie Benton
Russellville Independent Schools
1101 W. 9th Street
Russellville, KY 42276

Dear Mikie:

The United Way Board of Directors reviewed and approved the 2025/26 program funding recommendations as presented by the Allocations Investment Teams on May 22, 2025.

United Way of Southern Kentucky remains committed to our Community Impact Platform, with a continued emphasis on Education. The key indicators of Kindergarten Readiness and College & Career Readiness guide and shape our work in this area. We are focused on creating deeper community partnerships and seeking out new innovative partners and programs to address local needs. These strategic investments are producing measurable outcomes including knowledge gain, educational improvements, and progress forward in the indicators we are tracking.

Each year we refine and strengthen the funding process, but the core foundations remain the same. **Our zero-based funding model means that awards are determined annually and are not guaranteed or influenced by past allocations.** Our Board directed allocation percentages, including allocating 50% of all funding toward Education, remain the same as we work to move the needle and reach our **BIG BOLD GOALS** in Kindergarten Readiness and College and Career Readiness.

The allocation volunteers appreciated the time and effort you dedicated to ensuring they received the necessary information to make funding recommendations. When the process is complete, more than \$1,000,000 will be allocated in our service area to ensure the ongoing needs in Education, Income, Health, and Safety Net are met. Unfortunately, many funding requests will still go unmet by the end of this process because the need exceeds the resources available. Now more than ever, it is critical for funded agencies to champion United Way's mission and our support of local programs. By helping the community understand the direct impact of their contributions, we can inspire greater investment and expand our collective reach.

Based upon many hours of evaluation and review by nearly 100 dedicated allocation volunteers across the ten-county area, the following funding amounts have been awarded to your organization:

<u>PROGRAM NAME</u>	<u>2025/26 FUNDING</u>
Logan, 12 For 12 Dual Credit Program and ACT Assistance	\$35,500
Total	\$35,500

Mikie Benton
Russellville Independent Schools
May 22, 2025
Page 2

Committee Feedback for 12 for 12

The committee commends you on the mentorship you provide to students as they navigate post-secondary opportunities. They especially liked that you host senior nights to give students perspective on what the college experience is truly like vs a dual credit course. While the committee recognizes that a smaller senior class can skew data, there is a concern that only 65% of students utilizing this program go to college. In future applications, the committee recommends:

- Provide this percentage as an outcome within the application. The committee would like to better understand progress for this outcome and how Russellville Schools is doing in comparison to other districts and/or the state of KY in this measure.*
- Provide data on how many in the 12 for 12 program are College and Career Ready.*
- Within your program budget and budget narrative state what other revenue sources (grants, sponsorships, etc.) are being pursued to support this program as it is not sustainable for UW to be the sole source of funding.*

Equal installments of the total funding will be made quarterly, beginning in July. A separate payment schedule will be forwarded to you. If your organization was not funded in 2024/2025, please complete and return the enclosed Authorization for Automated Deposits form as soon as possible. If your organization was funded in 2024/2025 and you wish to use a different bank account, please complete and return the enclosed Authorization for Automated Deposits to update your file. If payment by check is required, checks must be picked up at our office. Checks will not be mailed.

Representatives from United Way will be glad to meet with you to further discuss funding rationale. If interested, please contact me to schedule a meeting.

Attached is the 2025-2026 Statement of Agreement for your funding. **Please return a signed copy to my attention as soon as possible via email, postal service, or hand delivery.** A fully executed copy of the contract will be returned to you for your files.

Thank you for your hard work during this year's allocation process. We are excited to continue our partnership with many of our current programs and are equally enthusiastic to welcome several new initiatives into our network. Your ongoing commitment to serving the residents of our communities is deeply valued, and we look forward to the continued impact we can achieve together.

Sincerely,



Hannah Gray
Director of Community Impact

cc: James Milam