



United Way
Peterborough & District

WOMEN UNITED™

Inaugural Women United Fund RFP Announced by United Way Peterborough & District for 2023-24

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – June 14, 2023

PETERBOROUGH, ON – United Way Peterborough & District was delighted to share a request for proposals with local charitable organizations alongside Founding Chair of Women United Peterborough, Maryam Monsef at their administrative office in Peterborough today.

The one-time funding through their **Women United Fund** for 2023-24 was made possible by a generous gift from Monsef to enhance United Way Peterborough & District's existing funding and, provide a special opportunity for initiatives that support women, girls and gender-diverse people in our community by providing equitable opportunities for personal growth, economic security and leadership.

Last year, United Way Peterborough & District supported their Partner Agencies in delivering **21** different gender-based programs to **1,607** women, girls, and gender-diverse people in our community. These programs:

- taught girls and women to identify and protect themselves from unhealthy relationships.
- focused on learning to understand and challenge social norms about gender and, to develop healthy expression of emotions.
- provided a safe environment for women escaping abusive relationships.
- helped women who have come from all around the world to build a strong support network and settle in Peterborough.
- supported the continuing education for pregnant and parenting young women while also teaching healthy parenting skills.
- prevented sexual violence through education and training, clinical individual counselling, case management, advocacy and accompaniment.
- removed barriers for women through employment training and life skills training

Beyond these gender-specific programs, women, girls, and gender-diverse people make up a strong portion of the more than **46,000** vulnerable people served annually by the **20** United Way Peterborough & District Partner Agencies through over **275** different programs.

This inaugural Women United Fund request for proposals is for one-time funding up to \$15,000 to support projects taking place between September 1, 2023, and August 31, 2024.

Founding Women United Chair Maryam Monsef shared “Our vision is that all women, at every stage in their lives, have the supports they need to thrive. Members of Women United support vulnerable women and their families to make sure they have equal opportunities for a successful life.” Monsef added, “there is still an opportunity to support this incredibly important fund and increase the impact it can have for women locally.”

All registered charities who provide direct service within the City and/or County of Peterborough are eligible and encouraged to apply to the 2023-24 **Women United Fund**. Proposed projects may be either a new program or provide enhancement to an existing program.

Proposals must demonstrate how the project will support United Way Peterborough & District’s work in the areas of Poverty to Possibility and/or Strong Communities as they relate to gender-based issues.

Interested agencies are encouraged to contact Betsy Farrar at bfarrar@uwpeterborough.ca to discuss their interest in applying for this funding prior to submitting an application. Coaching and mentoring is available throughout the process. Visit <https://www.uwpeterborough.ca/request-for-proposals-women-united-fund-2023-24/> for full application details.

Proposals will be accepted until 5:00PM July 5, 2023

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About Women United

WOMEN UNITED™ is an inclusive and vibrant global community of change makers bound together by a powerful sense of belonging — to one another, to our community and to the mission of transforming lives by tackling the most critical issues impacting their communities. United Way Peterborough & District is excited to join this international movement and launch WOMEN UNITED™ in Peterborough.

About United Way Peterborough & District

United Way Peterborough & District (UWP) inspires people from all walks of life to come together to raise funds, volunteer and stimulate policy and attitude changes that lead to the improvement of people’s quality of life in the City and County of Peterborough. UWP’s community investment focus is on helping individuals and families move from a life of poverty to one full of possibilities and building strong healthy communities.