

June 7, 2021

Dear Community Partner,

Trident United Way is a leader serving our community – championing the common good, serving during difficult times and adapting to the changing economic and community conditions. This is the basis of our work for more than 76 years. During the COVID-19 pandemic, we all faced unparalleled and unknowable challenges in 2020. We are pleased Trident United Way continued to provide a variety of supports to our nonprofit sector partners during the onset of the pandemic so you could also meet the real-time needs of our community. Longitudinal donor investments over many years and diligent management of those resources have allowed the organization to maintain funding commitments.

Trident United Way also raised, leveraged and invested an additional \$1.1 million in 2020 as part of the COVID-19 response – essentially doubling our community investments in one year. Our strong belief and fervent hope are that this combination of steady and accelerated philanthropic support helped stabilize the nonprofit sector and our community.

Like many organizations, Trident United Way is thoughtfully assessing how it most effectively addresses the ever-evolving needs and unpredictable impacts resulting from the pandemic. We learned that we must recalibrate fundraising strategies and grant investments for even greater impact and outcomes as our community continues to reimagine and rebuild.

Based on the current grant cycle ending June 30, 2022, we would typically begin sharing information regarding funding opportunities over the next few months. However, to account for the effects of COVID-19 and the current economic climate, which impacted workplace philanthropy, Trident United Way and its Board of Directors thoughtfully decided to launch the next cycle of open and competitive grants beginning in fiscal year July 2023. This was a difficult and necessary decision to make, and we understand its potential impact.

It is important to note that even without a grant cycle, Trident United Way's 2023 total community benefit is projected to exceed \$11 million in direct dollar investments & leveraged impact.

Additionally, we will continue to support all nonprofits through the *Trident United Way Community Impact Support System*, which includes:

- Access to three Networks: Kindergarten Readiness, SafetyNet Assistance and Healthy Tri-County with more than 500 organizations and 1,000 regional leaders/practitioners
 - Staff and professional development, continuing education/certification training opportunities provided by Trident United Way staff and organizational partners.
- Unlimited training and technical support on capacity-building tools used statewide, such as CharityTracker and 211 Services and mobile app - tools that proved essential in extending resources to citizens in record numbers during the pandemic.
- Supporting organizations seeking collaborative grant applications when strategies align; Trident United Way identification of grant opportunities with partners and networks to build capacity; writing letters of support for partner organizations as requested.
- Volunteer matching and event coordination that expands capacity and helps nonprofits. Day of Caring, Day of Action, Back-to-School, Health Symposium and more.

We will use this time for innovative fundraising strategies, listening and learning from all stakeholders and planning the next application cycle structure. Trident United Way will adapt realizing that even greater levels of collaboration will be required to meet the needs of a changed community effectively.

All of us at Trident United Way believe that this approach will make our collective partnerships and our community even stronger and more resilient in the days and years ahead.

For grants and community investments questions please contact Michelle Bornfleth at mbornfleth@tuw.org or Amanda Lawrence at alawrence@tuw.org.