

Fund Description

United Way of Racine County's Youth As Resources (YAR) empowers young people to make a positive difference in Racine County through grantmaking and community service. YAR provides funding for youth-designed, youth-led community service and service-learning projects that address specific community needs. Youth serve as planners and volunteers while building leadership and problem-solving skills. The Youth As Resources fund is a subset of the United Way community investment pool.

Youth As Resources Committee

The Youth As Resources (YAR) committee is composed of student ambassadors representing the Academies of Racine at Mitchell Community School, the Academies of Racine at Gifford, the Academies of Racine at Jerstad-Agerholm, The Academies of Racine at Schulte and the Academies of Racine at Olympia Brown. The YAR committee members may meet collectively or within their respective schools. The YAR committee is responsible for reviewing funding requests and making funding recommendations to United Way of Racine County staff. The special projects director serves as the main point of contact for the YAR committee. The academy coaches are responsible for convening and supporting the YAR committee members.

Fund Eligibility

Any group of youth participating in the Racine Unified School District middle school academies eighth grade capstone class may apply for a Youth As Resources (YAR) grant of up to \$500.

YAR grants are awarded to projects that:

- Are planned, led, and implemented by youth with support from an adult advisor
- Address a clearly identified community need using supporting information or data
- Can be completed within a reasonable timeframe by the same group of students
- Include a well-organized plan and a realistic, cost-effective budget

Non-Allowable Expenses

YAR grants may not be used for:

- Overhead or operating expenses (rent, utilities, etc.)
- Salaries, wages, stipends, or honorariums
- Direct donations to other organizations
- Direct financial assistance to individuals or families
- Capital purchases or equipment (e.g., computers, power tools)
- Items purchased before receiving official grant award notification
- Supplies or materials that generate profit for the applicant group or another group
- Fundraising activities
- Transportation costs, unless transportation is essential to completing the approved project

Application Timeline

The 2025-26 YAR application period opens **October 1, 2025**. There are two deadlines:

- Thursday, November 6, 2025
- Friday, March 13, 2026

Applications are reviewed by the YAR committee beginning the following week:

- Week of November 10, 2025
- Week of March 16, 2026

Notification of funding status will be sent to the designated youth:

- By November 17, 2025
- Week of March 23, 2026

Application

Funding requests require **three** components:

1. A completed grant application, available at <https://www.unitedwayracine.org/yar>. Students may complete the online application form directly on the webpage or download the

application document from the webpage, complete it, and submit it to

ktuttle@unitedwayracine.org.

2. A detailed project budget. (Appendix A) The budget template can be found at <https://www.unitedwayracine.org/yar>. The completed budget must be emailed to ktuttle@unitedwayracine.org.
3. A short video that describes the project plan. Video must be submitted via email to ktuttle@unitedwayracine.org.

Funding Process

- The YAR Committee makes funding recommendations to United Way of Racine County based on the project's ability to meet the funding guidelines and its potential impact.
- Recommendations from the YAR Committee for grants up to and including \$500 are reviewed and approved by the President and CEO of United Way of Racine County.
- The Special Projects Director is available for consultation during the planning and application process, as well as throughout implementation and completion of approved projects.
- Funding notifications will be provided via email within two weeks of review.
- Unused funds or funds used for unapproved purposes must be returned to United Way of Racine County.
- United Way of Racine County reserves the right to modify the focus of the fund at any time.
- Submission of a proposal that meets all requirements does not guarantee funding.

Reporting Requirements

The youth group is required to submit a report to Special Projects Director, Katie Tuttle at ktuttle@unitedwayracine.org within 30 days of the completion of the YAR-funded project.

Additional reporting requirements may be stated in the funding agreement. Information included in this report will be shared with United Way staff, board and community investment volunteers, and may also be included in United Way reports, media and publications, including the impact report to our community:

The reporting requirements are comprised of three parts:

1. A completed written report, available at <https://www.unitedwayracine.org/yar>. Students may complete the online report form directly on the webpage or download the report document from the webpage, complete it, and submit it to ktuttle@unitedwayracine.org.
2. Photos demonstrating the project's impact. These can be emailed to ktuttle@unitedwayracine.org.
3. One of the following emailed to ktuttle@unitedwayracine.org:
 - a. A recording of the capstone presentation
 - b. A copy of the presentation

The presentation must include:

- The project idea and a description of the project from start to finish
- The community need or problem the project addressed
- How closely the project followed the original plan and met its goals
- Lessons learned, including successes, challenges, and solutions
- The overall results of the project and how success was measured

