

Powering Possibility Utility Assistance Application of Interest – Queens Providers

Application Filing Period: Friday, February 13, 2026 – Friday, February 27, 2026

Introduction

United Way of New York City (UWNYC), in partnership with the National Grid Foundation, is seeking to identify community-based organizations that provide utility assistance to households in Queens. This funding is intended to support programs that help residents avoid utility shutoffs, reduce utility arrears, and access energy assistance resources.

Funding through the Powering Possibility initiative is solely for providing direct utility assistance to National Grid and Con Edison customer accounts. Grant funds may only be used to pay utility arrears or current balances for National Grid and Con Edison accounts. No operating, administrative, staffing, or overhead costs may be charged to this grant.

Grant funds can be used to provide direct utility assistance to accounts from December 1, 2025, through December 30, 2026. All funds must be expended within this time frame.

Eligibility

To be considered for Powering Possibility funding, organizations must:

1. Be a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in good standing
2. Be based in Queens or serve Queens residents
3. Have provided direct utility or energy-related financial assistance to households for at least one (1) year
4. Have demonstrated experience issuing payments directly to utility accounts
5. Serve households experiencing financial hardship or high energy costs
6. Be able to track and report household-level service data

Grant Terms and Reporting Requirements

1. Grant funds may only be used for direct payment to National Grid and Con Edison utility accounts on behalf of eligible households.
2. Funds may NOT be used for operating, administrative, staffing, or indirect costs.
3. All payments must be made directly to utility accounts; no funds may be issued directly to clients.
4. Grantees must use UWNYC online portal to track household-level data, including account holder's name, household composition and demographics, address, amount owed and amount paid.
5. Organization must first pay eligible National Grid or Con Edison utility expenses on behalf of clients and submit expenses monthly and maintain required documents including clients' utility bills and proof of payment.
6. Organizations must attend a training and promote UWNYC energy efficiency education and outreach materials and events with clients.
7. Organizations must track referrals to emergency assistance services and resources.
8. Funded organizations must participate in two required convenings hosted by UWNYC and National Grid Foundation.

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9. End-of-year report due by January 15, 2027, summarizing total households assisted, total dollars paid and outcomes achieved.

Organizational Questions

- Employer Identification Number (EIN)
- Organization Legal Name
- Organization Phone Number
- Street Address
- Borough
- Zip Code
- Executive Director / CEO (Name / Title)
- Executive Director / CEO Email Address
- Name and Title of person completing the application
- Email of person completing the application
- Phone number of person completing the application

Application Questions

1. Organization annual revenue (please indicate which category is most accurate for the most recent fiscal year, or most recent year for which financial information is available).
 - a. Under \$1 million
 - b. \$1-3 million
 - c. \$3-5 million
 - d. \$5 million+
2. Briefly describe your organization's mission, history, and the communities you serve. (150 words max)
 - a. If you are not based in Queens, do you serve Queens residents?
3. Describe your utility assistance program and the criteria used to identify clients eligible for utility assistance (500 words max)
4. For utility assistance provided in calendar year 2025, please indicate:
 - a. Total households assisted with any utility assistance:
 - b. Total utility dollars distributed:
5. Do you provide referrals to other energy assistance programs?
____ Yes
____ No

If yes, describe:

- a. Types of programs you refer to (government, utility hardship programs, non-profits, etc.)
- b. How are referrals made and tracked?
- c. Approximate number of households referred annually.

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6. Please describe your system for distributing utility assistance funds:
 - a. How are payments processed and approved
 - b. How are payments distributed to utility providers on behalf of clients
 - c. How do you track and document each payment
7. Describe what systems you use to track client and payment data
8. Briefly describe how your organization would use the funding, including approximately how many households will maintain their utility service. (250 words max)
 - a. Funding amount requested (must be between \$25,000 and \$100,000)

Document Requirements

Please upload the following documents:

- b. Current IRS 990
- c. A copy of your 501(c)3 status by the Internal Revenue Service
- d. Recent audited financial statement, if available, or annual agency budget
- e. Current W9 (signed in 2026)
- f. Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT) Form and scan of VOIDED/Cancelled check (link will be provided in FLUXX)