



Spring 2024
Pay It Forward Project
The Ohio State University at Marion
in cooperation with the
United Way of North Central Ohio
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

About the project: The OSUM Pay It Forward Project evolved from the federal Pay It Forward Student Philanthropy Initiative, which addresses critical economic needs in communities through student-led grant making and volunteerism. As part of our commitment to sustain the federal Pay It Forward Philanthropy Initiative's philosophy, United Way of North Central Ohio and The Ohio State University at Marion have provided grant funds totaling \$4,000 for this semester's English 2367.01S course. With this project, in the classroom (or via online site visits if necessary), students learn about community needs and the efforts of local organizations to meet those needs. They will request and evaluate proposals from several organizations, then determine how to award grant money of up to \$4,000 through a competitive process. Through this work, it is our hope for students to learn the important role philanthropy plays in sustaining and improving our local community, to apply academic course content in service to the community, and to become engaged citizens.

Eligibility: To be involved in the initiative, an organization must be a 501(c)3 non-profit and a United Way of North Central Ohio partner agency or related organization, **with a project that responds to one or more of the following need areas: health, education, or income.** These projects must benefit the local community of Marion County.

The Process: Those wishing to participate must complete the online application at <https://unitedwaynco.org/pay-it-forward-grant-application/> by **February 9, 2024.** The grant application, and evaluation process mirrors the one currently used by the United Way of North Central Ohio. Students will review the grant applications in February and **select only three finalists** to move forward in the grant process.

These three final organizations will work with the students throughout the semester (February-April). During this time, students will engage in (at least) **three** specified interaction times, all of which will take place on Tuesdays or Thursdays between 11:00am - 12:20pm. (They can be held in-person or on Zoom.) The first will be an informational session allowing students to familiarize themselves with the practices of the organization, and if possible, we can hold this visit at your site. The second will be follow-up interviews with either administrators, volunteers, individuals served by the organization, or some combination of these groups which will be held in our classroom. The final visit will be for our Celebration Awards Ceremony. **Each of these visits will last approximately an hour and will be held during class time, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from 11:00am – 12:20pm**

After the information session, interviews, and research, students will decide how the funding will be awarded. Up to three organizations can receive funding per semester. Those chosen to receive an award will receive no less than \$500, and the maximum award is \$4,000. Grants will be announced at a celebration ceremony at the end of the semester (April date TBD).

Questions: If you have any questions or concerns about either eligibility or the process, please feel free to contact Amy Tibbals via email at tibbals.3@osu.edu or by phone at (614) 595-2682.