

UWTC's T. Merrell Shpherd Fund

Eligibility: The T. Merrell Shpherd Flexible Fund addresses emerging needs in the community, supports efforts to improve organizational efficiency, and to encourage collaboration among local human service organizations. The Shpherd fund is currently open to any and all 501(c-3) organizations throughout Tompkins County. The Fund has a current standing balance of \$24,369.

Emerging Needs (Defined):

- Emerging could refer to a need which is being met through a novel (emerging) approach – even if this need is already being addressed in other ways.
- Emerging could refer to an emergency situation (a need or program which requires urgent funding).
- Emerging could refer to an unexpected change which subsequently requires funding.

History: This fund was established to honor T. Merrell Shpherd, former Director of United Way of Tompkins County, who, throughout his life, worked to bring people together to find effective solutions to community challenges. The T. Merrell Shpherd Flexible Fund provides financial support to effective programming and services that address current, new or emerging needs in the community.

Funding will also support efforts to improve organizational efficiency and collaborations such as mergers and service delivery joint ventures. Funding will be utilized to address these challenges while the community develops revised strategies and funding. This funding can be used as start-up funds or as leverage to secure additional funding, and is not intended to be an ongoing source of revenue.

Examples of Success for T. Merrell Shpherd Flexible Fund Grants: Over the years, UWTC funding has provided volunteer training modules for a joint effort between Suicide Prevention & Crisis and Loaves and Fishes; chicken coops for people who are experiencing food insecurity and to bring laying chickens into Tompkins County Food Pantry system; and electronic medical processing for the Drug and Alcohol Council to enhance efficiency and document client outcomes.

How to Apply: <https://www.uwtc.org/apply-funding>

This application has no set deadline because the grant is “rolling.” A committee meets monthly to review any applications submitted during the interim. Turn-around is dependent on the circumstances of each application; please email eterwilliger@uwtc.org if your TMS application is of an urgent nature.

This grant fund is only eligible to 501(C-3) nonprofit organizations.

Application Details/Forms: <https://www.uwtc.org/tools-agencies>