Welcome

United Way of Greater Cincinnati Digital Equity Grant Program

Request for Proposal – Information Session

United Way of Greater Cincinnati

Overview

- Funding will support organizational efforts to increase digital equity in priority populations.
- Organizations can submit one application for this grant program and grants will likely range from $25,000 - $50,000.
- Organizations are eligible to apply for this funding **and** the Hamilton Country Public Wi-Fi Grant.
- *Funding will start on April 1, 2024.* ***Given the urgency of this work, priority will be given to organizations that are prepared to implement their work immediately upon receiving funding.***

United Way of Greater Cincinnati

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Eligibility

- 501c3 nonprofit organization
- Operate services or programming to community members to support digital access, skill building and connection
- Operate programs or services that serve a majority of people living within United Way of Greater Cincinnati's footprint, including:
  - Hamilton, Clermont, Brown counties in Ohio
  - Dearborn and Ohio counties in Indiana
  - Boone, Campbell, Kenton, Grant counties in Kentucky

Process and Key Dates

**These dates may chance. Any changes will be communicated in a timely manner.*

- January 31, 2024: Program Announcement Date
- Wednesday, February 7, 2024: Program Overview via Webinar
- Thursday, February 8, 2024: Application opens in e-CIpmact
- Tuesday, February 27, 2024: Open Q&A Office Hours on Teams
- Friday, March 8, 2024 at 5:00PM: Applications DUE in e-CImpact
- Tuesday, March 26, 2024: Funding awards announced
- Monday, April 1, 2024: Grant period begins

Program Details

Priority Areas

Contributes to one or more of the give key areas for creating digital equity:

1. *Availability*: ensuring everyone has access to the internet with appropriate speeds, quality, and capacity.
2. *Affordability*: Ensuring everyone can afford their internet access.
3. *Devices*: ensuring everyone has a device that meets their needs.
4. *Digital Skills*: ensuring everyone has the skills needed to access appropriate tools, especially in workforce development and financial capacity building.
5. *Privacy and Security*: ensuring everyone knows how to keep their information safe and secure while accessing the internet.

Utilizes a Digital Navigator model

Works directly with populations who are most impacted by the Digital Divide

What is a Digital Navigator model?

Digital navigators are individuals who address the whole digital inclusion process:

- Home connectivity
- Devices
- Digital Skills

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Priority Populations

Funding Priority will be given to organizations working with the following groups:

- Historically underrepresented populations
- Aging individuals
- Justice involved
- Veterans
- Disabled
- Individuals with a language barrier
- Individuals who primarily reside in a rural area
- Individuals who live in “covered households” as defined by the Digital Equity Act

Reporting and Participation Requirements

- All funded organizations will be required to become a member of the Connecting Southwest Ohio Regional Digital Inclusion Alliance
- Attend quarterly Coalition meeting – two virtual, two in person
- Initial program data due in July 2024
- Final report due in April 2025 or when programming completes

Accessing the Digital Equity Grant Application

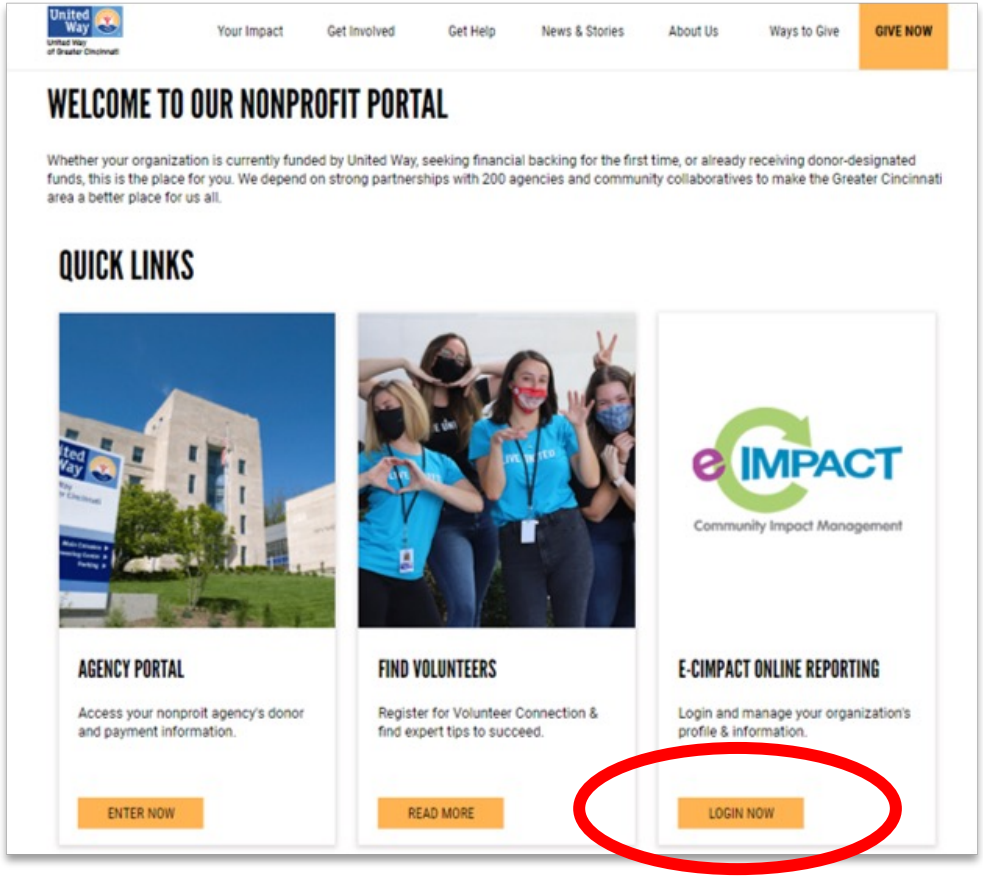
Using e-CImpact

United Way of Greater Cincinnati

You can access the online system by visiting:

https://www.uwgc.org/for-nonprofits

and clicking on the **e-CImpact** icon.

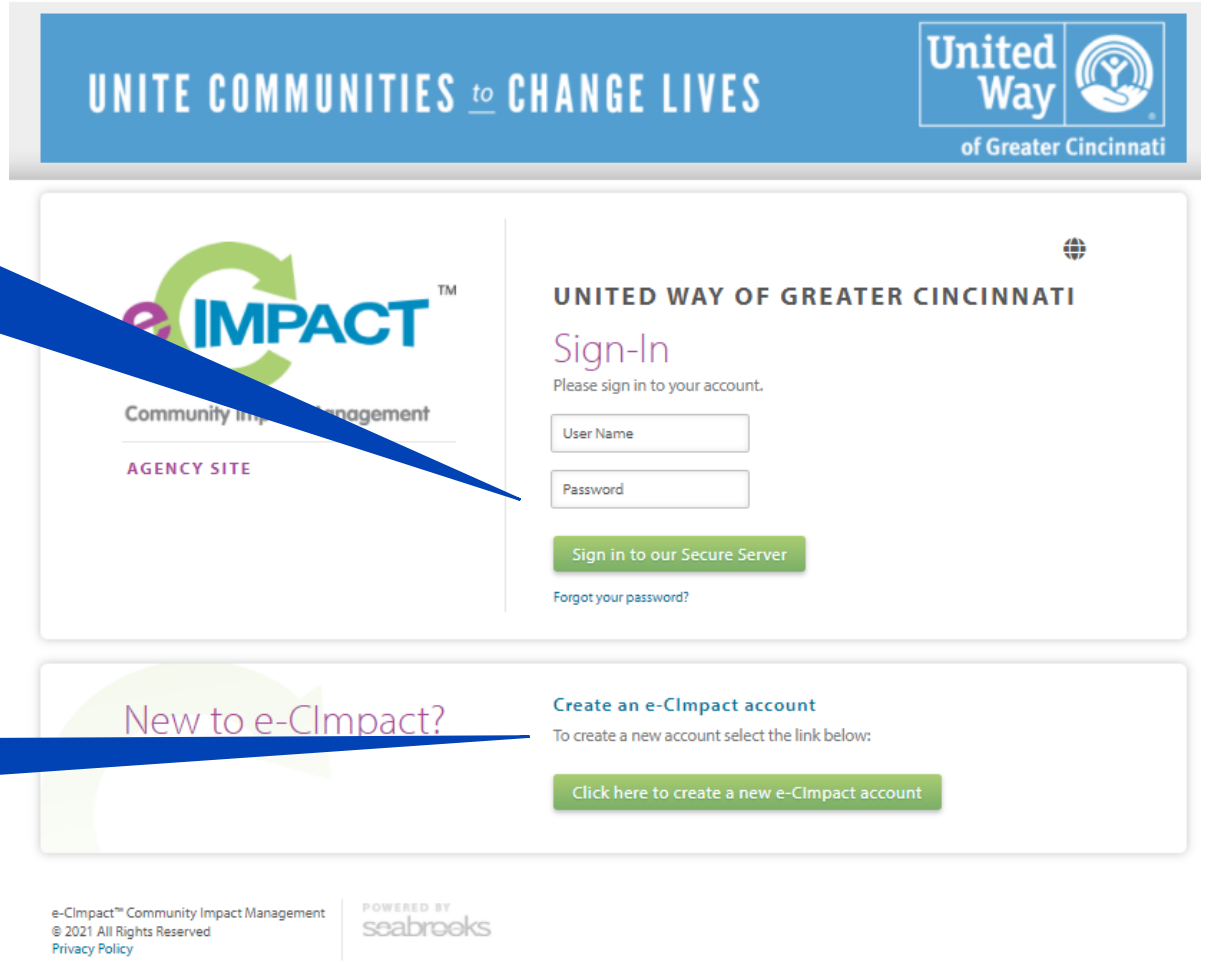


Login to e-CImpact

Enter your Username (your email address) and your password to login to your organization profile page

Forget your password? Click the link here.

New to – eCImpact?
Create an account here by clicking this button.

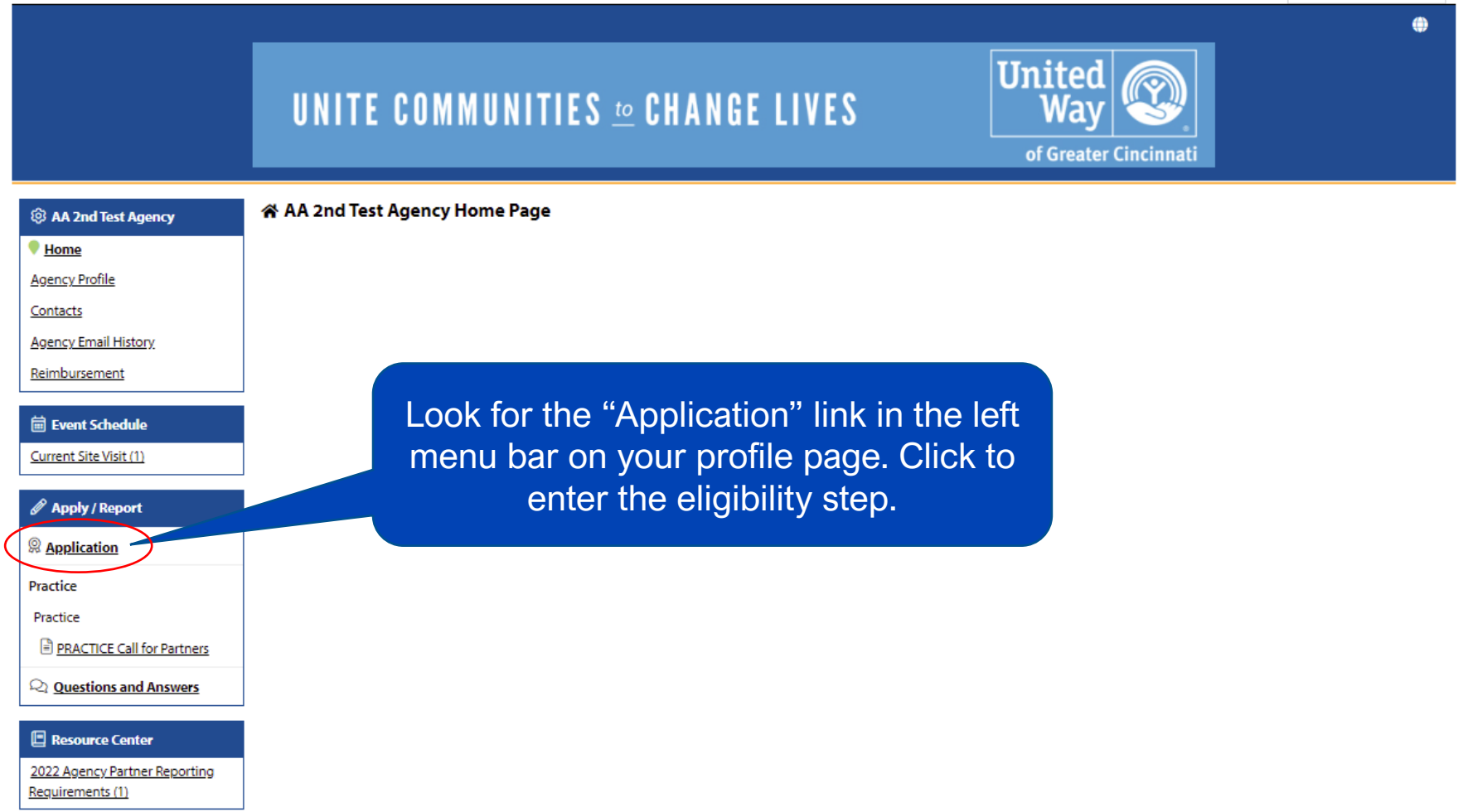


Still having login difficulties? Email us at uwgce-cimpact@uwgc.org

Login to e-CImpact

Existing Users

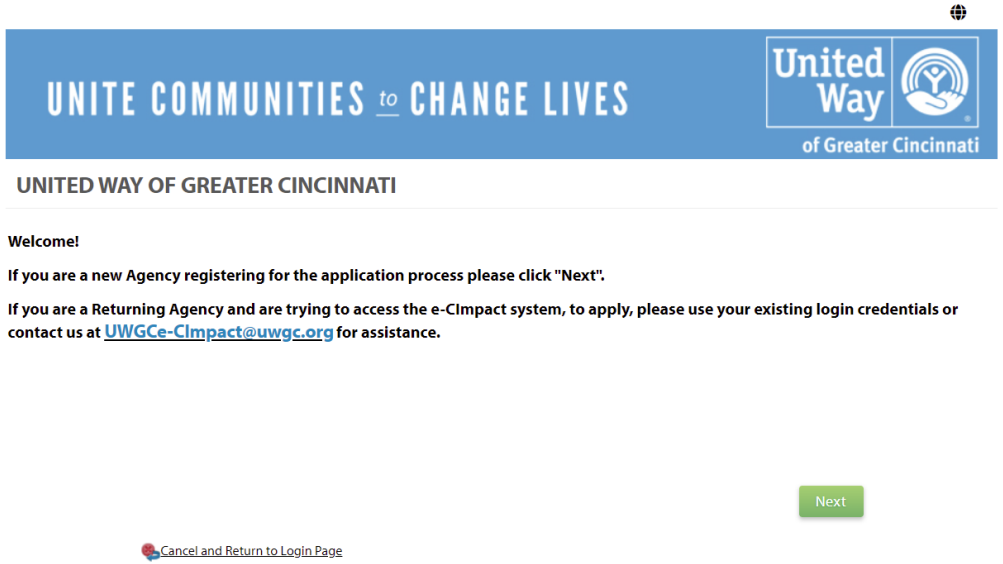
For Existing e-CImpact Users

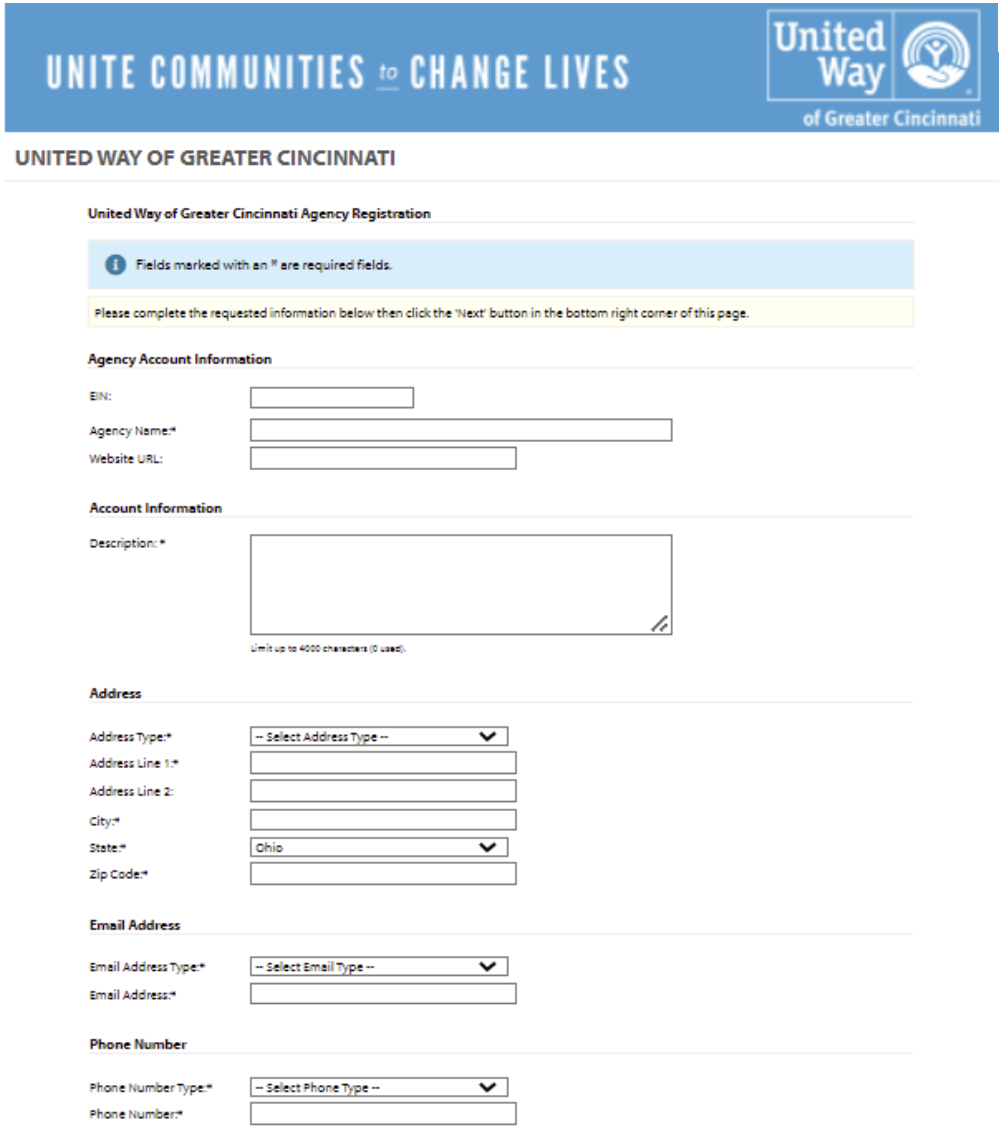


Login to e-CImpact

New User Registration

Registration for New e-CImpact Users





New User Registration

Hello, **Testing Person** My User Profile Change Password Sign

Contacts

Agency Email History

Reimbursement

Apply / Report

Application

City of Cincinnati HSF

FY 2024-2025

FY2024-26 City of Cincinnati HSF RFP- Impact Award

require pre-qualification information be provided.

Hamilton County

Hamilton County Public Wi-Fi

Hamilton County Public Wi-Fi Grant Application

OVERVIEW

United Way of Greater Cincinnati is administering a grant program on behalf of Hamilton County Board of County Commissioners to provide FREE Public Wi-Fi to local governments and community organizations in underserved areas of the county. Broadband infrastructure has been shown to be critical for work, education, healthcare, and civic participation during the public health emergency. A total of $1,425,000 is available through the County's ARPA/SLFRF funding.

Nonprofits are permitted to submit an application for this funding and for the United Way of Greater Cincinnati Digital Equity Grant Program. United Way's grant program seeks programs that bridge the digital divide, fostering inclusivity and accessibility. We invite proposals for innovative digital inclusion solutions, empowering diverse populations to navigate the digital landscape with confidence and competence. The requests for proposals will be released concurrently and can be found on United Way's website.

PURPOSES OF FUNDS – PUBLIC WI-FI

Organizations can apply for funding to install Public Wi-Fi by providing expanded infrastructure to county residents and to expand affordable access to broadband internet. The minimum grant request is $10,000 and the maximum is $200,000. The program will consist of two rounds of funding: 75% or $1,068,750 is anticipated to be awarded in the first round and the remainder (about $356,250) will be awarded in the second round.

Public Wi-Fi is defined as Wi-Fi service provided for use by consumers on a wireless device, and is password protected or has other secure authentication protocols established and managed by the owner. Public Wi-Fi networks are open to anyone who can access them.

OTHER KEY CRITERIA TO NOTE

In addition to the eligibility criteria, it is important to note that all applicants must be able to provide or demonstrate the following in their application:

Must be able to provide evidence of organization's capability to sustain (pay for) infrastructure for at least 3 years after construction/installation is complete.

Must be providing expanded and affordable broadband infrastructure to an underserved population with an identified need for additional broadband investment. Examples of need include:

- Lack of access to a reliable high-speed broadband connection
- Lack of affordable broadband
- Lack of reliable service

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Access online materials at https://www.uwgc.org/your-impact/programs-initiatives/digital-equity . All materials, including a recording of the information session and additional resources, will be posted on United Way's website. We'll continue to add to these resources throughout the application process.

Hello, **Testing Person** My User Profile Change Password Sign Out 1:57

Digital Equity

Digital Equity

Digital Equity Grant Application

This request for proposals seeks programs that bridge the digital divide, fostering inclusivity and accessibility. We invite proposals for innovative digital inclusion solutions, empowering diverse populations to navigate the digital landscape with confidence and competence.

To support organizational efforts to increase digital equity in priority populations and communities, funding will start on April 1, 2024, and implementation can last up to 12 months. Given the urgency of this kind of work, priority will be given to organizations that are prepared to implement their work immediately upon receiving funding.

Organizations may only submit one application and grants will likely range from $25,000 - $50,000. Organizations are permitted to submit an application for this funding and for the Hamilton County Public WiFi Grant Program, administered by the United Way of Greater Cincinnati.

PRIORITY AREAS:

Priority will be given to proposals that employ the approaches outlined below and/or specifically serve the most at-risk communities.

- Contributes to one or more of the five key areas for creating digital equity. (see RFP)
- Utilizes a Digital Navigator model.
- Works directly with populations who are most impacted by the Digital Divide. (see RFP)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Access online materials at https://www.uwgc.org/your-impact/programs-initiatives/digital-equity. All materials, including a recording of the information session and additional resources, will be posted on United Way's website. We'll continue to add to these resources throughout the application process.

Continue

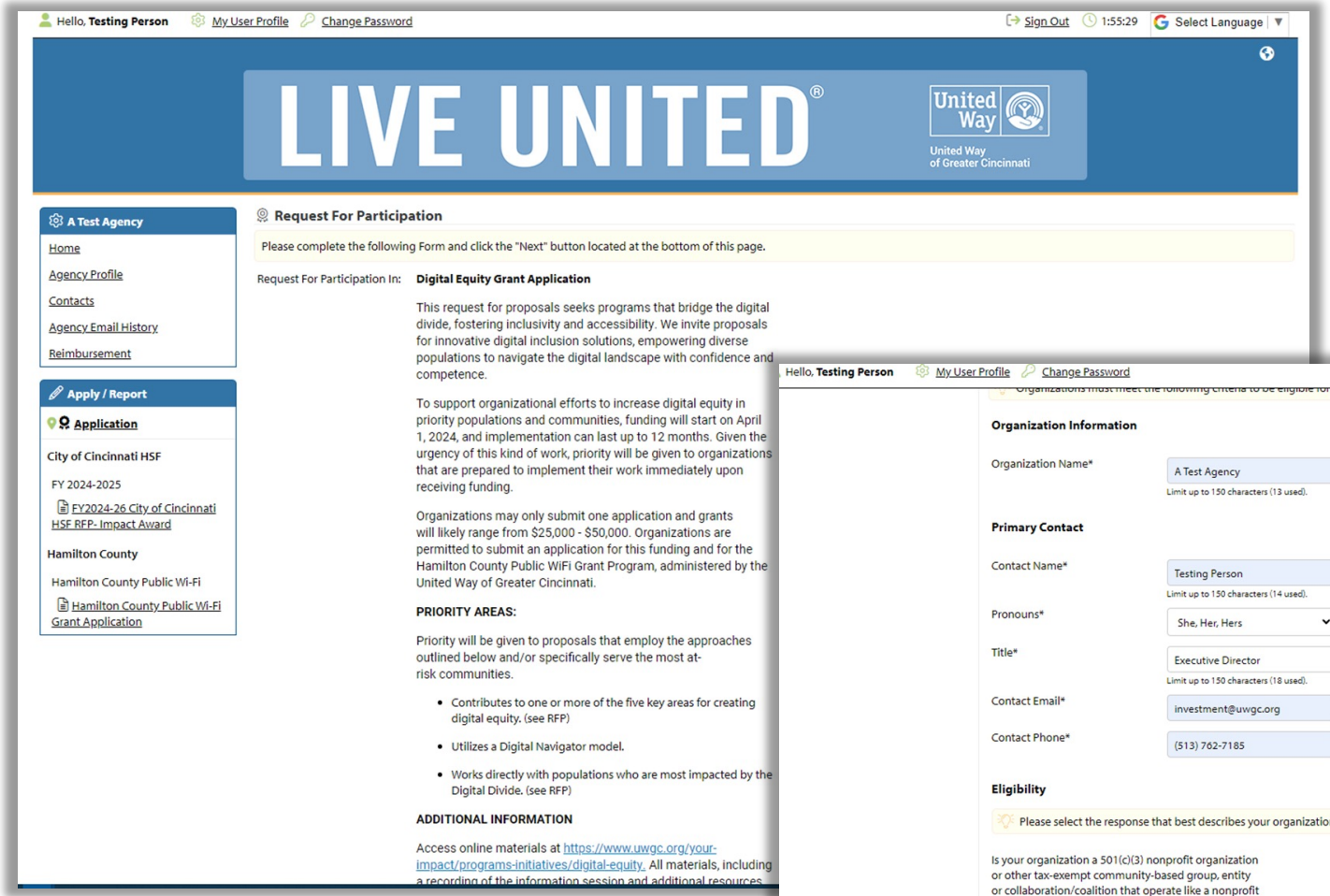
United Way

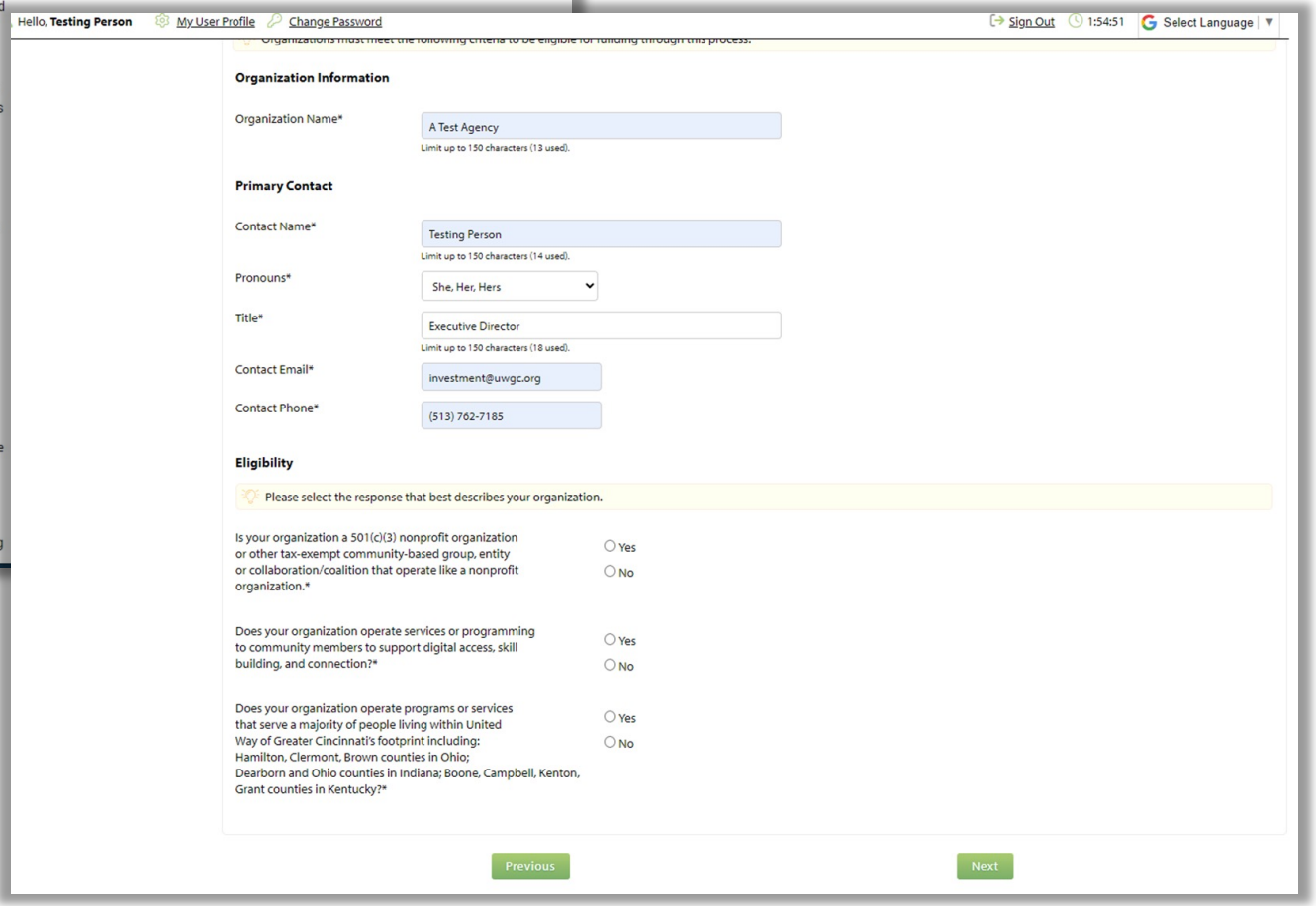
Select Application Type

Eligibility Step

All applicants must complete an eligibility check prior to accessing the application.

Upon completion, if you meet all the criteria, you will automatically be able to access the application.





Eligibility Check

Digital Equity Grant Program Eligibility

Organizations must meet the following criteria to be eligible for funding through this process:

Organization Information

Organization Name	A Test Agency

Primary Contact

Contact Name	Testing Person
Pronouns	She, Her, Hers
Title	Executive Director
Contact Email	investment@uwgc.org
Contact Phone	(513) 762-7185

Eligibility

Please select the response that best describes your organization.

Is your organization a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization or other tax-exempt community-based group, entity or collaboration/coalition that operate like a nonprofit organization.

Yes

Does your organization operate services or programming to community members to support digital access, skill building, and connection?

Yes

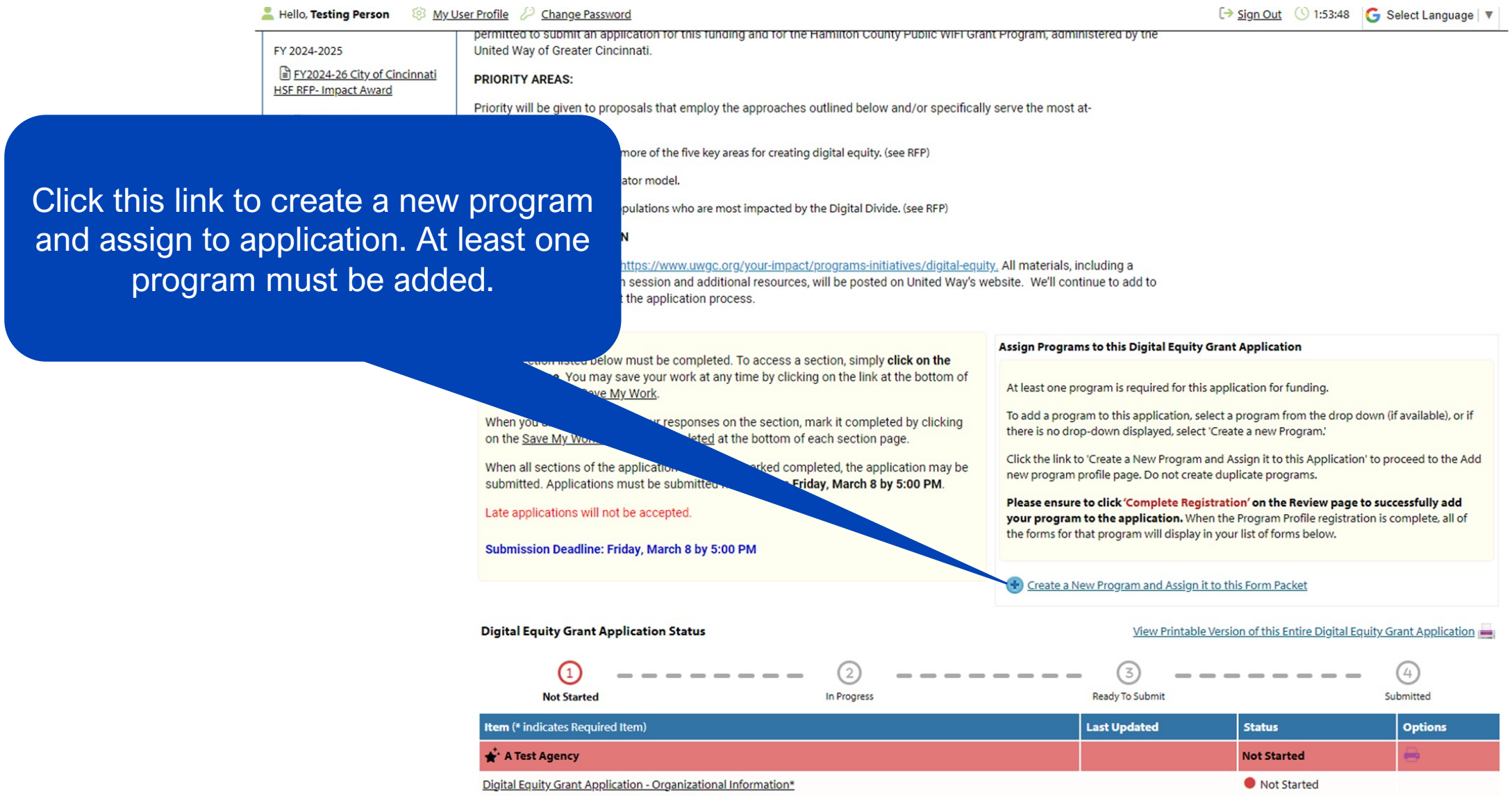
Does your organization operate programs or services that serve a majority of people living within United Way of Greater Cincinnati's footprint including: Hamilton, Clermont, Brown counties in Ohio;
Dearborn and Ohio counties in Indiana; Boone, Campbell, Kenton, Grant counties in Kentucky?

Yes

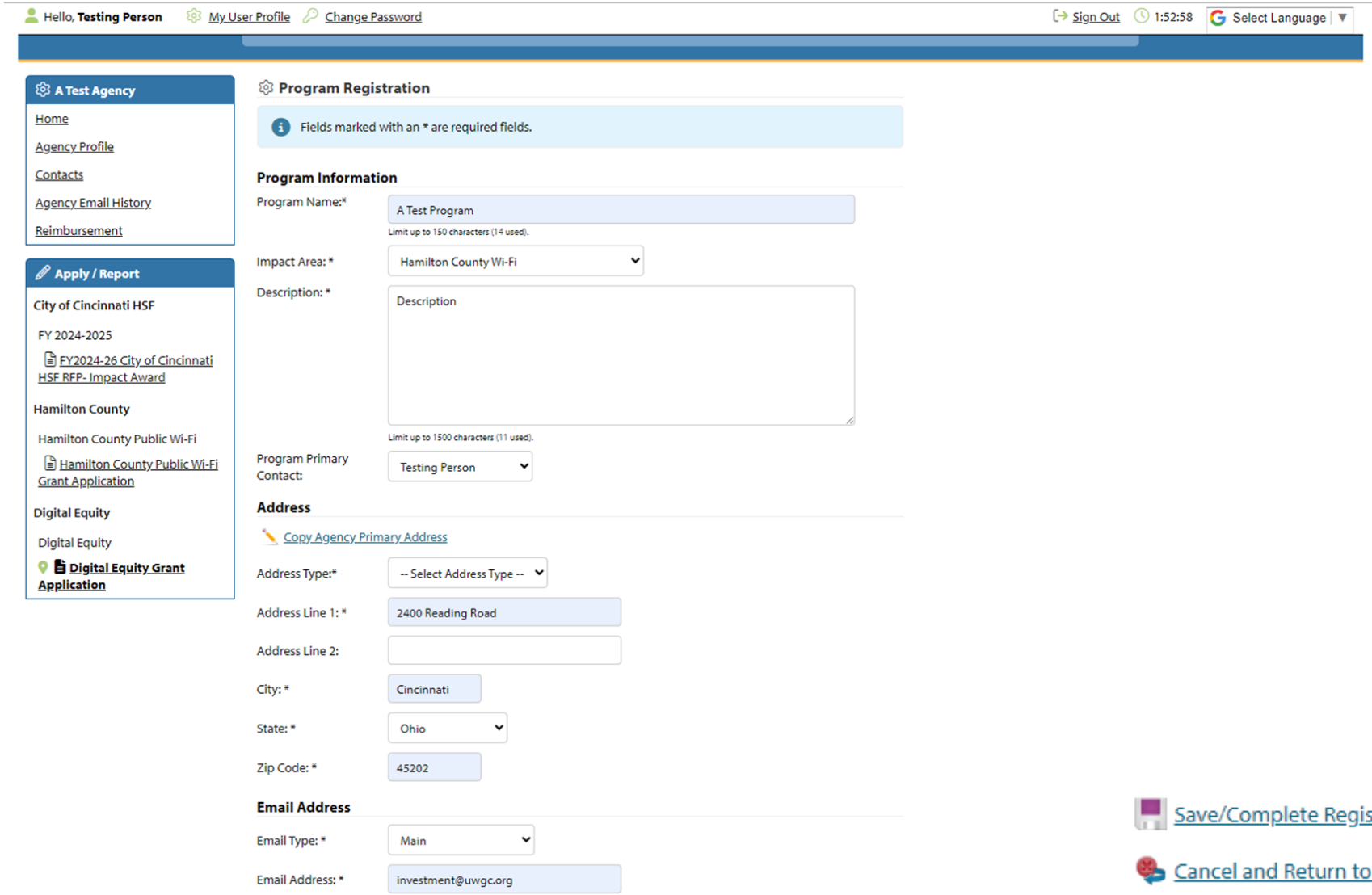
Previous Complete Registration

Complete Registration

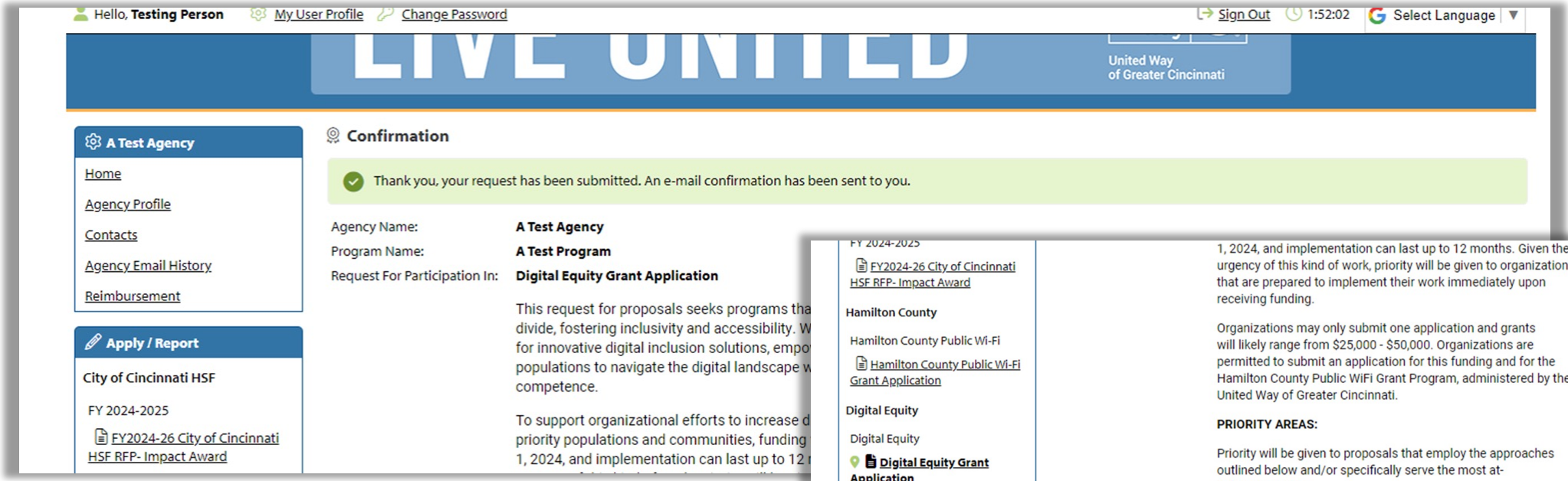
Program Registration

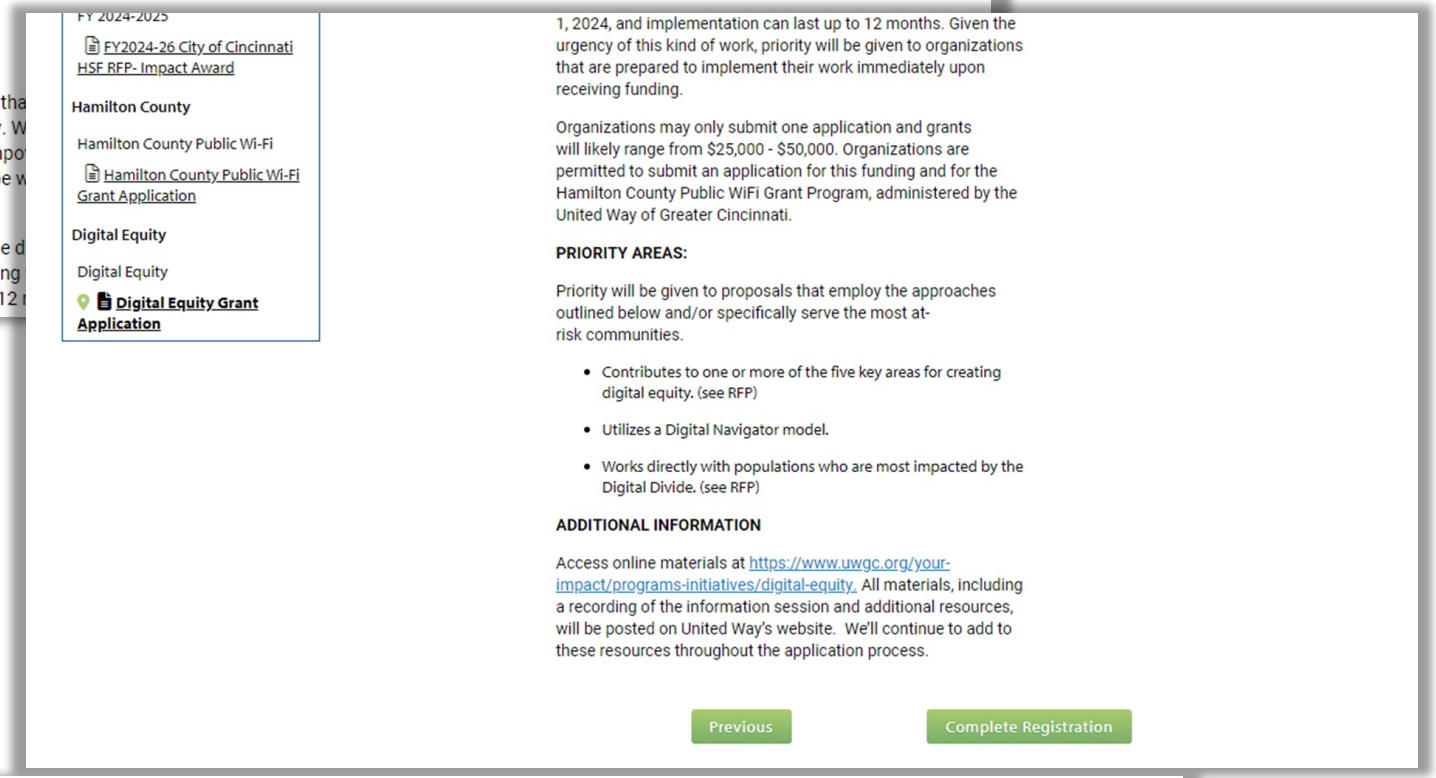


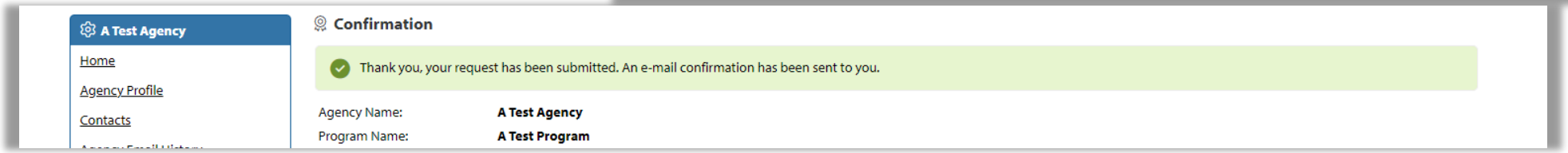
Program Registration



Program Registration

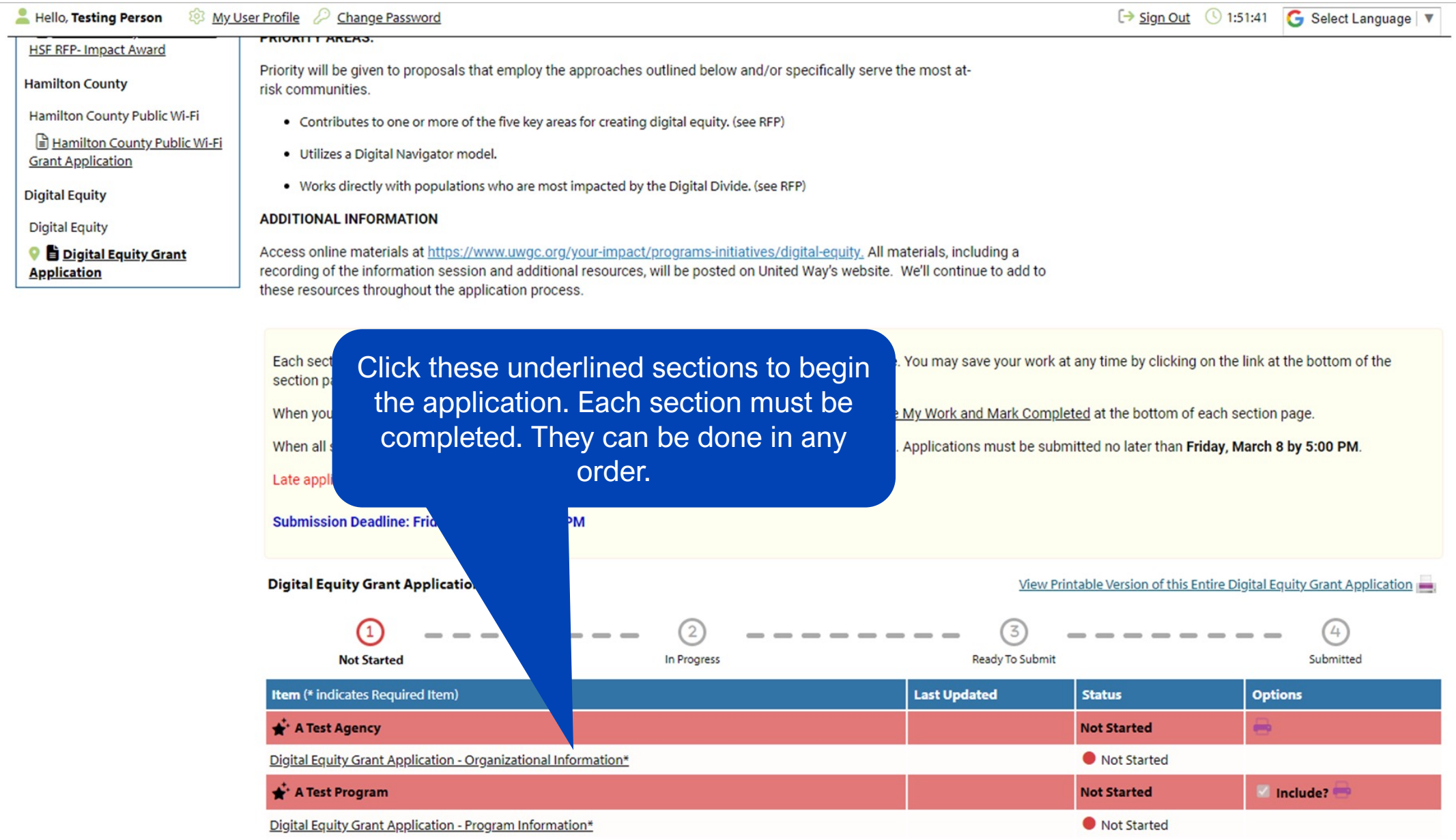






Review and Complete Program Registration

Application Sections



Application Sections

When all sections of the application have been marked completed, the application may be submitted. Applications must be submitted no later than **Friday, March 8 by 5:00 PM**.

Late applications will not be accepted.

Submission Deadline: Friday, March 8 by 5:00 PM

Nice work, your Digital Equity Grant Application is now Ready to Submit! **Would you like to Submit This Digital Equity Grant Application Now?**

By clicking SUBMIT, you attest that you are authorized to submit this application on behalf of your organization and the information contained in this application is true and accurate to the best of your knowledge.

When all sections are Completed/Ready to Submit, you may submit the full application by clicking the red button.

Digital Equity Grant Application Submission Details

Executive Director*:

Send Submission Confirmation Email To:* investment@uwgc.org

I certify that the information submitted in this application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge*: ☐

Submit This Digital Equity Grant Application N

Digital Equity Grant Application Status

View Printable V… this Entire Digital Equity Grant Application

Not Started — In Progress — 3 Ready To Submit — 4 Submitted

Item (* indicates Required Item)	Last Updated	Status	Options
A Test Agency	**2/5/2024 8:46 AM (CST)**	**Completed / Ready to Submit**	
Digital Equity Grant Application - Organizational Information*	Testing Person 2/5/2024 8:46 AM (CST)	Completed / Ready to Submit	
A Test Program	**2/5/2024 8:46 AM (CST)**	**Completed / Ready to Submit**	**Include?**
Digital Equity Grant Application - Program Information*	Testing Person 2/5/2024 8:46 AM (CST)	Completed / Ready to Submit	

Submit Application

Proposal & Selection

Proposal Process

Details and requirements for proposals are explained in the Digital Equity Grant Program Request for Proposal at https://www.uwgc.org/your-impact/programs-initiatives/digital-equity

Once the online portal, e-C Impact, opens on February 8th, complete the application:

Enter answers to application questions online.

Applications are due at **5:00 p.m. on Friday March 8th** for consideration in Round 1

Late applications will be deemed ineligible and will not receive funding

Awards announced on March 26, 2024

Grant period begins on April 1, 2024

United Way of Greater Cincinnati

Additional Resources

- Frequently Asked Questions will be posted on our website.
- A Decision Tree/Flowchart to help organizations determine whether they should apply to this Hamilton County Public Wi-Fi program or UWGC's Digital Equity Grant Program, will be on our website along with more information about UWGC's Digital Equity Grant Program.

Hamilton County Public Wi-Fi Grants

Separate opportunity: Free Public Wi-Fi grants from Hamilton County, administered by UWGC

Applicants can apply for both programs, if both are a good fit.

The program will run generally concurrently with the UWGC Digital Equity Grant Program, with applications opening February 8th. The deadline for the first round of applications is Friday, March 8, 2024 at 5pm. The deadline for the second round of applications is due Friday, April 5th at 5pm.

Decisions will be made in April and contracts will end in July 2025

Visit https://www.uwgc.org/your-impact/programs-initiatives/digital-equity and navigate to the section for UWGC's Digital Equity Grant Program for more information, including a Decision Tree to help you decide which program is the best funding for your organization.

United Way of Greater Cincinnati

Questions?

Questions?

- Send questions to impact@uwgc.org
- Attend one of the upcoming Q&A sessions (links will be on our website)
- Access online materials at https://www.uwgc.org/your-impact/programs-initiatives/digital-equity .

United Way of Greater Cincinnati

Q&A

Thank you!

United Way of Greater Cincinnati