



Together We Thrive Initiative: Eligibility & Participation Guidelines

The Together We Thrive Initiative is designed to provide organizations and businesses with the tools and knowledge needed to foster welcoming and supportive environments. This six-lesson workshop series will equip participants with practical strategies using a train the trainer approach. By employing a more accessible and inclusive environment within and throughout participating organizations will see a more positive work environment, attract and retain top talent, boost innovation and creativity, ultimately improving overall performance and better serve their constituents.

Who Can Apply?

The Together We Thrive Initiative is open to a diverse set of entities committed to fostering inclusive environments in an effort to bridge gaps for underserved communities. An underserved community is defined by a group of people who face significant barriers in accessing essential resources, services, and opportunities to achieve personal success. This can be individuals or families. This opportunity is available for organizations and businesses that serve these diverse communities and work to remove barriers to access.

Priority access will be given to those demonstrating the greatest need for this program, particularly those with limited budgets, fewer resources, and indicating a clear commitment to applying meaningful change within and throughout their organization. This program will provide positive change to an organization for their employees and those they serve. By being accessible and creating a sense of belonging everyone will have what they need to reach their goals. Those who can demonstrate their need will have the cost of the program waived.

Note: Organization/businesses that do not meet these qualifications do have the option to participate at a reduced rate.

Eligible Participants

- **Nonprofit Organizations** – 501(c)(3) organizations or community-based groups that provide direct services to underserved populations.
- **Businesses** – For-profit entities committed to improving workplace inclusion, accessibility, and equitable opportunities for employees and customers.
- **Schools & Educational Institutions** – Public or private K-12 schools, colleges, universities, and vocational training centers aiming to create more inclusive learning environments.

- **Government Agencies & Public Sector Entities** – Local, state, and federal agencies working to improve community engagement and accessibility in public services.

Cost & Financial Commitment

UCF is committed to making the Together We Thrive Initiative accessible to organizations dedicated to fostering inclusive practices.

- UCF will fully cover the \$5,000 program cost for organizations that meet the eligibility criteria and demonstrate a strong commitment to applying the program’s principles.
- This program is designed to create lasting impact through a train-the-trainer approach. After completing the six-session workshop, participants are expected to extend their learning by conducting internal training within their organization. This ensures that inclusive practices reach beyond individual participants and positively affect those they serve.
- Organizations that do not meet the criteria for full sponsorship may still participate for a reduced fee of \$2,500 per organization, with UCF covering the remaining cost. Availability for this option is limited and based on open slots.
- Organizations that accept participation but fail to complete the full six-lesson workshop series will be required to reimburse UCF for the full program cost of \$5,000.

Participants must commit to attending all sessions, engaging in activities, and contributing to discussions. The only excused absences are for verified personal illness or family emergencies. Unexcused absences or failure to complete the program may result in removal from the initiative and financial responsibility for the full program cost.

Participant Expectations

Organizations accepted into the Together We Thrive Initiative must commit to:

1. Attend & Engage – Fully participating in all six workshop sessions.
2. Implement Learnings by applying key concepts within their organization.
3. Do post-Survey & follow-up – Providing feedback through post-program surveys and follow-ups to measure impact and effectiveness.
4. Maintain a Respectful and Inclusive Learning Environment – All participants must uphold a standard of respect and inclusivity, ensuring that every member feels valued and safe to engage. Active participation and open dialogue are essential for maximizing the program’s impact. UCF requires all participants to contribute to a judgment-free, professional, and constructive environment throughout the workshop series.
5. This initiative follows a train-the-trainer model, requiring participating organizations to implement the learned practices in their workplace and train at least X colleagues within three months of completing the UCF training series, thus expanding the program's impact.

Amplifying Impact: Organizations Committed to Removing

The Together We Thrive Initiative is geared toward organizations and businesses that serve diverse communities and work to remove barriers to opportunity. This includes, but is not limited to, organizations serving:

- Young adults, working-age individuals, and seniors
- All genders, with an emphasis on gender equity
- Diverse ethnic backgrounds, particularly those addressing systemic inequities
- Individuals across various education levels
- Communities facing financial instability or economic challenges

By prioritizing organizations that serve these communities, UCF aims to extend the program's impact where it is needed most while ensuring accessibility for all.

Why Participate in the Together We Thrive Initiative?

Creating an environment where individuals feel valued, respected, and supported leads to stronger organizations and better outcomes for both employees and the communities they serve. Research consistently shows that organizations that focus on improving accessibility, engagement, and workplace culture experience tangible benefits, including higher retention rates, improved service delivery, and greater overall effectiveness.

Studies have shown that:

- Organizations that invest in employee engagement and professional development see up to 22% lower turnover rates. [McKinsey & Company](#)
- Workplaces that foster collaboration and engagement report a 35% increase in productivity. [Harvard Business Review](#)
- Organizations that ensure their services are accessible and welcoming can increase community participation and trust.
- Teams that embrace a broad range of perspectives make better

Beyond internal benefits, organizations that serve the public, whether businesses, nonprofits, or public sector agencies can see improved outcomes when they create an environment where people feel comfortable accessing services and resources. When individuals feel supported, they are more likely to engage, participate, and contribute to the success of the organization's mission.

Together We Thrive Strengthens Organizations

The Together We Thrive Initiative equips participants with practical strategies to build stronger, more effective organizations that benefit both employees and the people they serve. By participating, organizations will:

- Enhance Workplace Culture – Foster a positive environment where employees and team members feel valued, leading to greater retention and job satisfaction.
- Improve Service Delivery – Develop tools to better understand and meet the needs of diverse communities, ensuring programs and services are utilized effectively.
- Strengthen Leadership and Decision-Making – Equip teams with data-driven approaches that lead to more informed, well-rounded strategies.
- Increase Organizational Impact – Expand community reach by creating an environment where more individuals feel comfortable engaging with services and resources.
- Ensure Long-Term Success – Establish a framework that strengthens efficiency, trust, and organizational effectiveness, making the organization more adaptable and resilient over time.

The Together We Thrive Initiative provides a practical, results-driven approach to strengthening organizations from the inside out. Whether the goal is enhancing team performance, improving service reach, or simply ensuring long-term sustainability, this program provides the tools and knowledge needed to succeed.

UCF is committed to making this program accessible, impactful, and sustainable for all participants. If you're ready to take the next step in fostering a more inclusive and equitable environment, apply today!