

Strategic Plan Update – FAQs

Will the application process be invitation only or open?

The next allocation grant cycle will be open to any nonprofit, including school districts, in the UWNWA service area - Benton, Madison and Washington Counties (AR) and McDonald County (MO).

When will the application be released?

The application process is currently being finalized and expected to be released in early January 2017. UWNWA will publicize the release via its website, emails, social media, community meetings, press releases and other communication channels.

Will the next funding cycle be a multiyear funding cycle?

The application process is currently being finalized, but it is anticipated the next cycle will be a 2-year funding cycle.

Will there be an LOI process similar to First Step Funding process?

It is anticipated the allocation process will include a Letter of Intent (LOI). Based on our learning from the First Step Funding process, the LOI would be more structured. Organizations will be required to select one (1) funding area for each LOI that is submitted.

Will you accept multiple LOI's from one organization?

Yes, UWNWA will accept multiple LOI's from one organization.

Will site visits be included?

It is anticipated that site visits will be included only for applications that are selected for final consideration of funding.

Will the expectation be for First Step Funding agencies to apply for the same program?

First Step Funding agencies may apply for the same program. Because it is a competitive process, all proposals, whether from First Step Funding agencies or not, will be reviewed equally using the same criteria.

What will the application process look like in terms of Community Investment Volunteers?

The work of the UWNWA is driven by community volunteers, whether it is driving strategy at the board level or making decisions regarding the allocation of funds raised in the community. In the allocation process, Community Investment volunteers will serve as grant panelists. They will be responsible for reviewing and scoring proposals, participating in site visits, and determining the final allocations awarded to programs. The role of UWNWA staff is to provide training, logistical and administrative support associated with the allocation process.

Will community members participate in the process?

Community members are encouraged to apply to serve as grant panelists for the upcoming allocation process. The UWNWA staff will work in conjunction with the Community Impact board committee to screen volunteers and ensure they have appropriate knowledge, skills and time to serve as a grant

panelist. To avoid conflicts of interests, community members must disclose their nonprofit affiliations and will not be allowed to serve on grant panels that will include proposals from organizations in which they are either a board member or staff member. Those with potential conflicts of interest can be appointed to serve on grant panels for other funding areas.

Do you have an ideal number of agencies you would like to support?

The UWNWA will be funding programs and projects, not specific agencies. The number of programs and projects receiving funds will be determined by the amount raised through UWNWA's workplace giving campaign. Because the UWNWA is investing for significant impact, it is anticipated there will larger, but fewer grants awarded than in previous years.

What will reporting look like?

The reporting requirements are still being finalized, but is anticipated the next cycle of funding will include mid-year and year-end report. In addition, organizations will have to select at least one common measure to track and include in their reports.

When will United Way offer capacity building services?

The United Way is currently available to offer some capacity services. Interested organizations should contact Melody Timinsky, Vice President of Community Impact, at mtiminsky@unitedwaynwa.org. UWNWA staff will be releasing a survey soon to determine which services are needed most and building a schedule based on the identified needs.

How are United Way and C3 working together following the June meeting?

UWNWA and C3 staff are meeting on a regular basis to share and discuss the work of each organization. If we want to see community organizations working together, both UWNWA and C3 believe we must model this as well. No one organization or funder is positioned to do the much needed work in this community. UWNWA and C3 share a desire to coordinate our work and resources in a manner that is complimentary and not competitive.

Does United Way work with area Chambers to strategize on how to increase wages for families?

Any solution in addressing the issue of poverty must include the business community. The UWNWA is a member of many area Chambers and will be working with them, as appropriate, on strategies related to alleviating childhood poverty.