

Community Investment Policy

Effective January 1, 2025



POLICY PURPOSE:

This Community Investment Policy sets forward the parameters for United Way of the Wabash Valley's (UWWV) grantmaking and partnership funding. Those parameters include the grantmaking purpose, audience from which requests for funding may be accepted, how grants or partnership funding will be financially supported, and the procedure for determining funding levels. Also, this policy sets forth limitations on UWWV's grantmaking and partnership funding and provides a broad view of the scope of authority and privileges of the organization's Board of Directors and Committees. This Policy aims to guide the grantmaking/partnership funding processes by establishing clear criteria, promoting accountability, and ensuring that funded efforts demonstrate measurable outcomes and contribute to positive social change. By adhering to these principles, we strive to maximize the effectiveness of our funding and uphold the trust of our donors and stakeholders.

GRANTMAKING PURPOSE:

The purpose of our grantmaking policy is to ensure that UWWV allocates resources in an impactful, transparent, and strategic manner. While not its sole or even primary purpose, UWWV is committed providing financial support, either in whole or in part, to projects, programs, and initiatives that align with the organization's mission, strategic goals, and plans for addressing pressing community needs.

FUNDING ELIGIBILITY:

United Way of the Wabash Valley restricts funding, either through grantmaking or as a demonstration of partnership, to nonprofit organizations that serve the organization's geographic footprint or influence the health and human services delivered within the organization's geographic footprint. In all cases, at a minimum, a nonprofit organization must meet the following criteria in order to be considered for funding of any sort. Other criteria may be instituted through procedural guidelines or contracts.

- Be in good standing with the IRS
- Have a current 990 or equivalent

- Proof of financial oversight: This includes audited organizations must have a clean audit or financial reviews with no material findings.

UWWV reserves the right to fund special projects and initiatives that support organizations other than non-profits, such as governmental units or associations. Such funding opportunities must be approved by the Board of Directors prior to funding proposal distribution.

UWWV does not make grants or provide funding as a demonstration of partnership to individuals or to organizations that require target beneficiaries to participate in activities related to or subscribe to a religious or political point of view.

RIGHTS OF THE ORGANIZATION:

United Way of the Wabash Valley reserves the right to refuse, rescind, or require repayment of funding based upon, but not limited to the following. Conditions for rescission or repayment will be fully outlined in funding and/or partnership agreements.

- Strategic misalignment or drift between the (potential) grantee/partner
- Ethical or legal violations of the (potential) grantee/partner
- Contract violations of the (potential) grantee/partner
- Conflicts of interest of the (potential) grantee/partner
- Revenue generation (either loss or surplus) of the organization or the (potential) grantee/partner
- Loss of tax-exempt status of the organization or the (potential) grantee/partner
- Endorsement by, partnership with, or funding from any organization or ideology not compatible with United Way Worldwide guidelines on behalf of the (potential) grantee/partner

The organization also reserves the right to determine the level of funding or investment that it is willing to provide, irrespective of the amount specified on any request for funding, and the length of time for which funding may be provided. These details shall be outlined fully in a grantee/partner contract.

SCOPE OF AUTHORITY:

The Board of Directors of UWWV holds the fiduciary responsibility for the organization. In addition to approving an annual budget, the Board of Directors shall also establish impact priorities on an annual basis, approve or affirm a funding formula for grantmaking or partnership investments on an annual basis that

aligns with the determined impact priorities, and approve grants and partnership investments in accordance with the determined funding cadence.

Community investment opportunities may be brought to the attention of the Board of Directors for approval in two (2) distinct ways:

- Upon recommendation of the Community Impact Committee after funding application review
- Upon recommendation of the Community Impact Committee prompted by UWWV's Executive Director

Authority Granted to the Executive Director

The Board may also, at its discretion, give the Executive Director the authority to provide grants or partnership investments at a to be determined amount. The to be determined amount shall be determined by the Board on an annual basis. The Board may at that time set the conditions of allotment and use.

FUNDING FORMULA:

The Funding Formula shall be approved or affirmed annually. The Formula should be based on the impact priorities approved or affirmed by the Board of Directors on an annual basis. The Formula shall allot a percentage of revenue available for community investments, with the percentage reflecting the order of priority. While the Board of Directors will affirm those priorities, their knowledge shall be informed by staff reports, community conversations, Community Impact Committee reports, various studies and reports, donor interest, and other relevant sources. In all cases, a percentage of revenue available for community investments shall include a set aside for basic needs support and strategic initiatives.

At its discretion, the Board of Directors may adjust the Funding Formula during the calendar year in order to meet shifting or emerging needs. As well, UWWV is not obligated to spend all of its revenue available for community investments within a calendar year. Any unspent funds may be rolled into the *Strategic Initiative* "bucket," other impact priorities for the coming year, or operational costs. As well, the Board of Directors may, at its discretion, leave an impact priority unfunded in order to divert a preponderance of funding to other, more critical priorities.

The Critical Nature of Strategic Initiatives Funding

A set aside for strategic initiatives is essential for the organization to remain effective and relevant in a rapidly changing environment. This set aside allows UWWV to adapt to evolving needs and enhance impact through the development of coordinated, scalable interventions. The funds can be deployed through a special call for proposals or, at the discretion of the Board upon the recommendation of the Community Impact Committee, be earmarked for a pivotal venture that assures the organization can seamlessly evolve to ensure its sustainability and better serve the community.

Basic Needs Support Funding

Providing basic needs support within the health and human services sphere involves ensuring that individuals and families have access to essential resources required for their well-being and survival. This includes offering assistance with fundamental necessities such as:

- **Food:** Ensuring that people have access to nutritious food through food banks, meal programs, or nutrition assistance.
- **Shelter & Utilities:** Providing safe and stable housing options, including emergency shelters, transitional housing, and affordable long-term housing solutions, as well as utilities assistance.
- **Clothing and Personal Hygiene:** Supplying clothing, toiletries, and other personal care items necessary for dignity and health.
- **Transportation:** Assisting with transportation services or support to help individuals access jobs, healthcare, and other vital services.

Basic needs support in this context aims to address immediate survival requirements while also helping individuals achieve stability and self-sufficiency, laying a foundation for long-term well-being and empowerment. These health and human service centered interventions may be accessed as part of the request for funding (application) process for impact focused programs, projects, or initiatives. Basic needs support may also be accessed through strategic initiatives funding. The important aspect is that basic needs funding has been provided to the community in the set minimum amount as determined by the funding formula with the idea to create the greatest overall positive impact for individuals.