

United Way of Southern Chautauqua County
Fund Distribution Guidelines, 2012 – 13

United Way Services Focus

1. Assist programs for underserved children and their families.
 - Provide funding for programs that predominantly target at-risk youth and their families, and which produce measurable results in light of community needs.
 - Continue developing outreach to youths and families by bringing services to the neighborhoods where they live, work, and play.
 - Assist children and youth with a focus on school readiness, academic achievement, high school graduation, and productive young adults in reaching their full potential.
2. Assist short-term emergency assistance and basic needs programs which continue to experience increased demand during these hard economic times.
3. Continue to improve service relationships with minority communities through neighborhood-based strategies.
4. Continue to operate the United Way's community building projects, including support of the WNY 2-1-1 information and referral contract. United Way projects will support the education-income-health framework as it relates to local issues. Program and funding partnerships will be developed and continued to support evidence based strategies that address documented community needs within United Way's education-income-health framework.
5. Continue to support services which assist seniors to remain as independent as possible at home and in their community, filling specific gaps in the aging network.
6. Partner with faith-based organizations and programs which address the stated objectives of these guidelines. Faith-based partnerships will assist the United Way to reach all segments of the community. United Way funds cannot be used to evangelize or proselytize on behalf of any particular religious faith.
7. Partner with the county departments, foundations, other funders, and provider agencies to improve local service delivery systems. The United Way will create new collaborations that seek to improve service delivery results at the same or reduced costs.

Allocation Guidelines

Keeping in mind United Way's services focus, the following guidelines will apply to the next allocations process:

1. Requests for funding shall be justified in terms of community need, program impacts (process and outcome measures) and financial need.
2. Proposals that demonstrate efforts to reduce overhead costs in order to maintain service levels will receive favorable financial consideration. Strategies might include budget constraints, interagency cost sharing, collaboration or consolidation of services. **Joint proposals from two or more agencies, which are developed in order to achieve improved efficiencies, will receive first priority.**

3. United Way finances should be used when no other funds are available.
 - To assure that priority community services are available to everyone in need, and
 - To assist agencies to provide services otherwise unaffordable to families and individuals.
4. Some services may be provided to all in need without payment. Among these services are crisis/disaster relief, emergency assistance, and educational prevention programs.
5. Other services may receive program funding, or full or partial scholarship funds, in conjunction with sliding fee scales based upon the consumer's ability to pay.
6. Service shall not be denied due to the consumer's ability to pay the cost.
7. Accountability shall be assured and evaluated through budget proposals and reviews, and program reviews based upon documented program results and community impacts.
8. Management and general expenses shall be funded as an integral part of program funding, not separately.
9. Designations received from the United Way campaign shall be reported by agencies as public support and revenue for the budget period under review.

United Way Community Building Projects

United Way community building funding will be used to support its own initiatives to strengthen neighborhood/community based services for youth, families, and the elderly. Such funding may also be used to support other community initiatives as prioritized by the United Way and approved by its Board of Directors.

In addition to the United Way Services Focus, United Way community building projects will be guided by the following principles:

- Build on the strengths of local individuals, associations, and organizations.
- Focus on specific actions and measurable results to improve community life.
- Promote relationships among and participation from all races, genders, ages, and cultures.
- Ensure local decision-making and ownership.
- Draw upon the resources of the total community.
- Bridge all boundaries to develop healthy communities.
- Share experience and knowledge to promote continuous community learning.