

About United Way's Grant-Making Process

United Way has one funding cycle beginning in October of each year. The first step in the process is this eligibility determination. Organizations found eligible will be invited to apply for program funding. Program Funding applications are due in December. In February, a diverse group of community volunteers are trained to evaluate programs for efficiency, effectiveness and accountability. These Allocation Panels review funding applications and make site visits to each program in February and March. Funding recommendations are made to the United Way Board of Directors for approval. Programs are notified of funding decisions at the end of April. Payment of grants is made quarterly beginning July 1.

Standards for Eligibility

An agency is eligible to apply for United Way of Mesa County program funding if the agency meets the following standards:

Legal Status

The applicant agency must have a 501(c)(3) classification with the Internal Revenue Service, and have been incorporated for at least two years, as of October 1 of the application year.

Bylaws

The applicant agency must have written bylaws which accurately describe the agency structure, mission and operations.

Policy of Non-Discrimination

The applicant agency must have adopted a policy of non-discrimination that is in compliance with all state and federal laws, and applicable to persons served, staff employment and membership on its governing board.

Board of Directors

The applicant agency must have a local Board of Directors or Advisory Board/Council, which governs the affairs of the organization, meeting at least four times a year, keeping minutes of its meetings. The Board/Council must include volunteers who represent a cross-section of Mesa County residents.

Financial Status and Accountability

The applicant agency must be financially viable, have a charitable support record, and willingly account for all financial operations, including provision of an independent annual audit (or review or compilation) conforming to Generally Accepted Auditing Principles (GAAP).

Agency Program and Mission

The agency program and mission must provide direct health and human services within Mesa County. The agency must have at least one staff person, salaried or unsalaried, assigned at least half time, to conduct and/or administer the activities of the organization.

Funding Agreement

If funded, the agency will sign and abide by the terms of the United Way funding agreement, which links funding to measurable objectives and requires semi-annual reporting on completion of those objectives.

United Way does not fund...

- Capital Projects
- Equipment Purchases
- The Arts
- Formal Education
- Lobbying
- Services which are **primarily** religious or political in nature

For this purpose, "primarily religious" services are ones which promote or support a specific religion or religious cause, or ones which require as a condition of receiving service that a person belong to or actively participate in a specific religion or religious cause. "Primarily political" services are ones which promote or support a partisan political organization or position or advocate for special interest groups. "The arts" includes those that exist solely as a forum for the presentation of cultural or artistic achievements. "Formal education" includes formal instructional programs conducted by faculty members of academic institutions, but excludes structured activities which may be conducted in school classrooms by others.