

United Way of Central Alabama 2020 Community Crisis Fund Announcement

United Way of Central Alabama invites nonprofit organizations in Central Alabama to submit **applications for funding** to provide immediate relief to agencies stressed by dwindling resources and increasing needs that are a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic. **Funds will be distributed to through two categories of assistance – the Human Needs Assistance Fund and the Nonprofit Sustainability Fund.**

Human Needs Assistance Fund

The Human Needs Assistance Fund is designed to supplement agencies' abilities to meet basic human needs during a crisis. These funds will be distributed to continue feeding programs, shelters, emergency medical transport services, prescription assistance, utilities assistance, residential programs for people with disabilities who require assistance in order to live and other providers of services necessary to sustain life. In addition, where applicable, funding may be available to assist agencies in transporting their clients to testing sites and for the care of clients directly impacted by this virus.

Who will be eligible to apply?

United Way partner agencies and other health and human service agencies with successful track records of providing direct, basic need services. Applicants must: 1) have capability and capacity to feed the hungry, provide clothing, prescription assistance, or any life sustaining activity to an overflow of individuals affected by the current recession and 2) be able to provide follow-up documentation* describing the use of these funds. **Any individual applying for direct assistance will be forwarded to an appropriate agency.**

The funding will be directed using the following guidelines:

- Agency is eligible, according to the guidelines above.
- Agency has capacity to serve an increased number of clients.
- Agency has an existing service in operation with eligibility requirements for its clientele.
- Agency has demonstrated capability to serve clients effectively and collect unduplicated client data.
- Agency has a clearly documented statement of need.
- Agency supplies a brief statement of purpose for the funds with authorizing signature.
- Funds will support direct assistance to individuals needing food, housing, prescription drugs, clothing, or other assistance to sustain life as approved by the committee.
- Special consideration will be given to vulnerable populations.
- Special consideration will be given to geographic locations and neighborhoods with limited access to services.

Are any costs ineligible?

Yes. Grants from the Community Crisis Fund are intended for direct service costs that are a result of the increased demand for basic, life-sustaining goods and services such as food, shelter, clothing, etc. The fund is NOT intended to support:

- Personnel
- Administrative and Overhead Costs
- Capital Projects
- Program Expansions (unless those expansions can be directly linked to an increased demand as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic)

Nonprofit Sustainability Fund

United Way recognizes that nonprofits will face financial strain as their abilities to be reimbursed by local governments for their services to the public will be diminished by the need for social distancing during the pandemic. Limited grants are available to select nonprofit organizations who can demonstrate a need for operating funds that is a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Who will be eligible to apply?

United Way partner agencies and other health and human service agencies with successful track records of providing of providing needed services to our community. Applicants must: 1) have an annual operating budget under \$5 MILLION, 2) priority consideration will be given to UWCA partner organizations, 3) be able to provide follow-up documentation describing the use of these funds. **Any individual applying for direct assistance will be forwarded to an appropriate agency.**

The funding will be directed using the following guidelines:

- Funds will support direct emergency assistance for payroll, utilities, etc.
- Funds will support increased staffing needs due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Special consideration will be given to services to vulnerable populations.
- Special consideration will be given to geographic locations and neighborhoods with limited access to services.

Are any costs ineligible?

Yes. The fund is NOT intended to support:

- Capital Projects
- Program Expansions (unless those expansions can be directly linked to an increased demand as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic)

Human Needs Assistance and Nonprofit Sustainability Funds

When will funds be available?

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis beginning April 1, 2020. A United Way Committee will meet regularly to review applications. Applications approved by the Committee will generally receive funds before the end of that month. Agencies may be funded more than once as their documented need dictates and United Way's resources allow.

How should agencies apply?

Step 1 (Initial Request)

The first time an agency applies to the Human Needs Assistance or Nonprofit Sustainability Fund, it should submit the following:

- Applications can be found at www.uwca.org/covid19/ by clicking on the additional information link
- IRS 501 (c) (3) tax exemption letter
- Form 990 for the most recently completed tax year (must include Schedule A)
- Current Board of Directors
- Most recent audit OR (Statement of Financial Position acceptable from agencies with budgets under \$250,000)

United Way partner agencies with up-to-date documentation on file will not be required to submit IRS letter, Form 990, current board list and audit.

In addition, agencies applying to the **Nonprofit Sustainability Fund** should submit:

- Month-end, or quarterly financial statements demonstrating the strain being placed on their budgets by the pandemic
- Board meeting minutes or other communications documenting the board's official decision to seek United Way funding to cover operating shortfalls.

Step 2 (Subsequent Requests)

Once an organization has been investigated and certified by United Way staff, an abbreviated application will be accepted for subsequent requests. No documentation will be required with the abbreviated application, providing the agency has already been approved.

What size awards will be made?

For the Human Needs Assistance Fund, it is United Way's expectation that most awards will range between \$1,000 and \$5,000. Grants from the Nonprofit Sustainability Fund will be made on a case-by-case basis, with most awards in the \$5,000 - \$10,000 range. Nonprofits can re-apply in subsequent months if more funds are needed, although it is United Way's expectation that nonprofit organizations will continue to seek additional funding outside of the United Way.

When are applications due?

*All materials will be due by the 10th of each month. If the 10th falls on a weekend or holiday, the application and any associated documentation will be due the last business day prior.

How much reporting will be required?

United Way's goal is recipient organizations will be able to report on the number of clients served and whether or not those who are served are new or repeat clients. A brief follow-up report will be required for each financial award, within four weeks of its distribution. However, it is not United Way's intention the burden of reporting requirements will preclude agencies from applying for funds.

Who can I contact if I have other questions?

If you have any questions, please call Randy Betsch at 205-458-2171 or email: rbetsch@uwca.org.