



Community Investment Grants FACT SHEET

United Way of Thurston County's mission is *to strengthen our community by connecting people and resources to meet identified human needs*. Our strategic efforts, funding priorities and Community Investment grants focus on four key Impact Areas: 1) **Helping Kids Succeed**, 2) **Meeting Basic Needs**, 3) **Promoting Self-Sufficiency** and 4) **Supporting Health and Wellness**. United Way Community Investment grants support health and human service programs and do not support capital projects, endowment funds or equipment.

Frequently Asked Questions About Community Investment Grants

1. Who is eligible to receive Community Investment Grant funding?
2. Where can I find more information on Impact Areas such as vision statement, goals and desired community outcomes?
3. Who makes funding decisions?
4. What is the process and timeline?
5. How are organizations held accountable?
6. What about unexpected challenges that occur in the community?

1. Who is eligible to receive Community Investment grant funding?

For the 2008-2010 funding cycle, any Thurston County 501 (c) (3) organization that meets the eligibility criteria may apply for a United Way Community Investment grant. We invite qualified organizations to apply based on their match with our priorities and their ability to achieve results based on outcome measurement standards. Interested organizations should go to www.UnitedWay-Thurston.org, click on the Funding Information link and click on Request for Letters of Interest.

2. Where can I find more information on Impact Areas such as descriptions of the vision statement, goals and community outcomes?

Go to www.UnitedWay-Thurston.org, click on Funding Information and then click on Impact Area Descriptions.

3. Who makes funding decisions?

Comprehensive training is provided to community volunteers who serve on Community Investment committees. Volunteers review applications, participate in site visits (if scheduled) and meetings, and make funding recommendations to United Way of Thurston County's Board of Directors. The Board makes final funding decisions.

4. What is the process and timeline?

United Way of Thurston County Community Investment volunteers will screen Letters of Interest (due Thursday, January 24, 2008 by 5 p.m.) and invite qualified organizations to submit a full application for funding. All applicants will receive notification of the outcome of their Letter of Interest by February 8, 2008. Those invited to formally apply may attend free application trainings on February 12th and 15th at Intercity Transit, 526 Pattison St. SE, Olympia. Full applications are due on March 7, 2008. Organizations who submit full applications will receive notification of funding decisions in June 2008.

5. How are organizations held accountable?

The Community Investment grant funding cycle is for two years. Organizations describe program goals and outcomes in their applications the first year. Agencies whose programs receive United Way funding are required to complete Progress Reports, which are reviewed by Community Investment volunteers during the second year. Organizations must demonstrate that their programs are making progress toward the goals that they identified the first year.

6. What about unexpected challenges that occur in the community?

Up to 3 percent of United Way dollars may be set aside each year to respond to emerging community issues. This funding will be granted outside the regular Community Investment grant process.

Questions?

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