

# COMMUNITY IMPACT GRANT PROPOSALS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ'S)

## ***What is Community Impact Funding?***

Community Impact is about United Way being more than just a fundraiser, but rather an organization that makes an impact and sustainable positive changes in order to meet critical needs in the community. Heritage United Way is focused on lasting change because that's what matters.

## ***What are the impact areas?***

- Lifelong Learning and Education
- Health and Wellness
- Housing and Economic Self-Sufficiency

## ***How often will the impact areas change?***

It is the intention of Heritage United Way to re-evaluate impact areas every three years. It is not expected that these areas will change in the near future, however, other impact areas may be considered and the process may be expanded.

## ***Who may apply?***

Any 501(c)(3) non-profit organization providing services to communities in our Heritage United Way area whose RFQ (Request for Qualification) is approved. Heritage United Way proudly serves the following New Hampshire towns and cities: *Atkinson, Auburn, Bedford, Candia, Chester, Danville, Derry, Goffstown, Hampstead, Hooksett, Londonderry, Manchester, New Boston, Pelham, Plaistow, Salem, Sandown and Windham.*

At this time we cannot consider any agency that is not a 501(c)(3).

## ***Should we apply for just one program or can we apply for multiple programs?***

While the decision is yours to apply for more than one program, we encourage all agencies to present the best possible program. This may mean a consolidation of smaller programs or collaborations with other agencies and/or programs in order to meet a defined community need.

## ***Can we apply to more than one impact area?***

You may apply to more than one impact area; however, you will need to submit a response for each area you are applying to. For example, if you plan to respond to the impact area of Health and Wellness as well as Lifelong Learning and Education, you will need to submit two responses.

***What is an RFQ?***

A Request For Qualification (RFQ) is a summary statement of your agency, program or project. If approved, you will be invited to submit a proposal through a more detailed and specific RFP (Request for Proposal). Please note, an invitation to submit an RFP is not a guarantee of funding.

***Is the RFQ basically the logic model of our agency?***

No, the logic model is part of your RFP; however, you should use your logic model as a template and guide for writing your RFQ. Identifying your short-term outcomes and how you plan to measure them will help you to better define your community need and implementation plan.

***Are partner agencies guaranteed funding for 2008?***

The Citizen Review Teams and the Community Impact Committee, who will make recommendations to the Board of Directors, will base their decisions on the merits of the 2008 proposals. Past program funding is not a guarantee of funding in the future.

2007 funding ends December 31, 2007. However, all current partner agencies that qualify through the RFQ process receive 50% of the monthly 2007 allocation from January until April 2008 even if their 2008 proposal is not accepted for funding.

***Is the 50% allocation for January to April 2008 only for this year?***

After 2008, Heritage United Way will begin a May to April funding cycle; therefore, the 50% allocation will no longer be necessary. Beginning in 2009, agencies will receive 100% of their funding grant for 12 months.

***How is grant money distributed?***

Generally, grants are paid monthly on a pro-rated basis, as is currently the case.

***Does this apply to donor designations?***

No, the donor designation process will remain the same.

***How will the allocable pool be divided between the three impact areas?***

This will be determined by the RFQ and RFP responses. The Community Impact Committee will look at the response rate for each impact area. This will determine the percentage of the allocable pool that will be designated to each area. The Community Impact Committee has discretion over this designation.

***Should we ask for what we need or what we think we can get?***

Agencies should request what they need. However, this must be justified through relevance to an identified community need and a budget analysis.

***What is the duration of funding?***

Grants are awarded on an annual basis. Grant recipients may apply for continuation of funding in subsequent years and will be assessed on their merit.

***Has there been any consideration towards multi-year funding?***

At this time, it is under consideration, however, no final decision has been made.

***What is the timetable?***

**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION**

July 16, 2007	Request for Qualification (RFQ) process begins
August 15, 2007	RFQ due to Heritage United Way by 4:00 PM
September 14, 2007	RFQ notifications will be sent to all respondents

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

September 17, 2007	Request for Proposals (RFP) process begins
November 1, 2007	RFP due to Heritage United Way by 4:00 PM
January 1, 2008	Community Review process begins

**FUNDING**

April 15, 2008	Final funding decisions made
April 16, 2008	RFP respondents are notified of funding decision
May 1, 2008	Funding process begins

***What is the decision-making process?***

Applicants should indicate for which area they are seeking funding. The Citizen Review Committee for each of the impact areas is comprised of volunteers from the community who will review the proposals and make recommendation to the Heritage United Way Community Impact Committee. The Board of Directors of Heritage United Way will officially award the grants.

***Who are the subject-matter experts?***

Subject-matter experts will be part of the Community Impact Committee as well as the Community Review Teams. They are individuals from the community who are leaders, researchers, and/or identified specialists who have been involved in community forums, attended various professional summits, and have been recommended by members of the community.

In an effort to reflect the growing diversity of our communities, Heritage United Way will be seeking members and subject-matter experts from various social, cultural, physical and economic backgrounds for the Community Review Teams.

***Will partner history be considered at all in the process?***

Yes and no – your past successes should be a part of your proposal as it speaks to your ability to meet your goals and perform successfully as an agency. However, your past funding from Heritage United Way will not be considered in determining the 2008 award amount.

***Will there be any changes to the agency funding-raising guidelines?***

There will be no changes to the existing fund-raising guidelines. The fund-raising guidelines will be included with the RFP.

***How do agencies communicate success to donors and the community?***

All agencies will be responsible for reporting data to Heritage United Way, which will be aggregated into various reports, bulletins and papers. These reports will be made available to the public and will highlight the ways agencies are working with identified community issues. In addition, Heritage United Way has committed to updating the Community Indicators Report once every three years in order to demonstrate the impact agencies have had on various indicators in our communities.

***How often will data reporting be required?***

Heritage United Way will expect quarterly data reporting from agencies that have received a 2008 grant. However, we recognize that not all agencies receive data quarterly or collect data the same way. Therefore, we can work together to determine a reasonable data reporting timeframe once agencies have been notified of a grant award.

## **Heritage United Way Community Impact Grant Areas**

### ***A. Lifelong Learning and Education***

Our Communities support access to education and skills development so that all people may participate fully in the community. Specifically programs that focus on the following strategies:

- Foster environments where children are ready to learn by the time they enter first grade.
- Support at-risk students to stay in school and maintain passing grades.
- Empower families to succeed through achieving literacy
- Support parents and community members to be involved with the school and their own life-long learning.
- Integrate the broader community with schools to focus on academics, health and social services, youth and community development.

### ***B. Health and Wellness***

Our Communities support access to consistent quality medical, mental and oral health services. Specifically programs that focus on the following strategies:

- Support access to timely services for people with limited access to routine health care.
- Positively affect the quality of life for elderly or people with disabilities.
- Increase access to preventive and other oral health services.
- Reduce the human and financial cost due to lack of access to mental health services and the resulting effects on physical health and quality of life.

### ***C. Housing and Economic Self-Sufficiency***

Our Communities support access to quality affordable housing and the ability to acquire assets for self-sufficiency. Specifically programs that focus on the following strategies:

- Support safe, affordable housing and related services.
- Increase access to reliable and sufficient income, personal savings and financial literacy for families.
- Maintain self-sufficiency for people at risk of losing their current level of independence.
- Support healthy homes that are free from toxic substances and other dangers to health.
- Increase availability and awareness of housing and employment opportunities for families.