

Response Fund Funding

The United Way of Fort Smith Area makes grants available to area non-profit organizations within the six county service area through the United Way Response Fund. The Response Fund works to meet emerging and emergency community needs.

When reviewing discretionary Response Fund requests for an emerging community need, the United Way Allocation volunteers will give emphasis to the following:

- Uses United Way funds in a 'matching environment'
- Meets an existing need in a new and /or innovative way
- Addresses newly emerged need in service area
- Provides creative roles for volunteers in the delivery of services
- Clearly defines financial management and accountability of funds
- Measurement of the program
- Does the program align with the identified United Way Impact Areas: Ensuring Children Succeed, Building Adult Independence and Building a Strong Community

When reviewing emergency or crisis requests, one or more of the following criteria will be used in determining a funding decision:

- Extraordinary and unexpected circumstances exist
- A rapid response is required
- The potential for an adverse impact on critical client need is great
- There are unforeseen expenses which cannot reasonable be expected to be absorbed by the agency

To make a Response Fund application, agencies are asked to submit a detailed letter identifying the following:

1. Type of Request: emerging need / emergency
2. Reason for request
3. Amount requested
4. Overview of Agency
5. If an emerging need request, please outline the need for this service and how this request is not a duplication of current services offered in our area
6. If an emergency request, please provide as much detail as possible as to the extent of the emergency
7. Budget information pertaining to request – ie: bids
8. Most recent profit and loss statement and balance sheet
9. Copy of 501c3 status
10. List of Board of Directors / meeting frequency
11. Attach a signed copy of the USA Patriot Act of 2001 compliance – form provided

Response Fund applications are accepted throughout the year and are reviewed as needed by the United Way Allocation Council and Board of Directors. All applicants will be notified in writing of funding decisions. Funds are distributed upon notification or on a reimbursement or matching basis as approved by the Board.