# United Way Brookings Area United Way

## **Application Funding Process and Worksheet Narrative**

### Guiding principles of the proposed funding process:

- 1. With or without the use of any worksheet or other numerical rating process, any agency whose application meets the committee's expectations in every way should receive as close to full funding as BAUW is able to provide.
- 2. All agencies whose applications meet all expectations should receive the same percentage of their funding request, i.e., no attempt will be made to establish that one such agency is more worthy than another.
- 3. If an agency's application fails to meet expectations in some way but there is a reasonable and well-defined way to judge it as being as worthy as one that does meet all expectations, that agency should receive the same level of funding as those that meet expectations.
- 4. If an agency fails to meet expectations in an area of most importance, it should receive no funding unless specifically determined otherwise by discussion of the board.
- 5. If an agency's application does not rise to the level of meeting expectations in the most important areas and rise above failure to meet expectations in at least one other area, that agency should receive no funding.
- 6. Agencies whose applications lie between the two extremes described above should be considered individually by the full committee. They are eligible to receive up to the same percentage of their funding request as those that meet all expectations, but not more.

#### The proposed agency funding determination process in brief:

There are six steps in the funding determination process. More detail is provided in the narrative below.

- 1. **Application review** (Group scoring submitted, Date TBD)
- 2. Application data entry (Executive Director, Date TBD)
- 3. Full Board discussion (BAUW Board ALLOCATION meeting Date TBD)

## The proposed agency funding determination process in detail:

#### Non-profit status determination

This is the final year that an organization can use another organizations 501C3 status.

#### **Application review** (Agency Liaison, Date TBD)

 Gather as a group to read/discuss the groups applications. The liaison should reach out to the agency contacts to clarify any questions in order to fully understand and assess the application.

Rating	Meaning	Rating	Meaning
1	Fails to meet expectations	6	Meets expectations
3	Lacking in expectations	9	Exceeds expectations

The six assessment areas are weighted differently to reflect their relative importance. Community Impact, Community Need, and Fits BAUW Priorities are considered to be twice as important as Fiscal Management and Track Record. Ability & Evaluation is slightly more important than the latter two areas.

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Weighting	Assessment area	Weighting	Assessment area
10	Community Impact	6	Ability & Evaluation
10	Community Need	5	Fiscal Management
10	Fits BAUW Priorities	5	Track Record

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## **Definitions of Assessment Areas in Scoring Worksheet:**

#### **Community Need**

The program addresses a recognized health and human services need in our community

The need is consistent with BAUW mission and funding priorities for the current year

The problem/situation addressed by the agency is serious

The agency provides strong data to validate the need for this program

#### **Impact**

The program clearly demonstrates a meaningful linkage between community needs, program activities and outcomes

The program provides a meaningful volume of services and/or people served

United Way funding will make a difference and bring about positive change in people's lives

#### **Ability & Evaluation**

The Agency has a history of reliability

There is adequate staffing and resources to conduct this program

The program plan is sound

Clear goals and objectives are written

Measurable outcomes are evident

The agency/program demonstrates the ability to deliver and measure proposed outcomes

#### **Financial Management**

Financial information is presented clearly & accurately

The agency has a balanced budget

The agency has adequate reserves BAUW policy recommends 3-6 months

There is diversified funding/other funding is available to support program(s)

The funds that are requested from BAUW support client services

Overhead expenses are a reasonable % of total budget

#### **Track Record**

There is year-round commitment to work with the United Way

The agency appeared to have accomplish their goals and objectives from last year

The agency makes a difference with previous years' UW funding

If a board member (liaison) feels the dollar amount the agency is requesting needs to be lowered, please indicate that adjusted dollar amount in the "Liaison adjusted request" column on the Scoring Worksheet. All agencies with liaison adjusted requests will be flagged for full-board review during the allocation decision making meeting.



# **Application Funding Process and Worksheet Narrative**

### **Application data entry** (Executive Director, Date TBD)

- Ratings for all applications are entered in the application funding worksheet, which computes an application score.
- Applications are initially categorized as:

Score	Category	Significance
276 to 414	Green	Automatically receives as close to full funding as possible. No committee
		discussion.
200 to 275	Yellow	Flagged for discussion by committee. May receive up to Green category funding
		level.
0 to 199	Red	Automatically receives no funding. No committee discussion.

Examples and rationale for the categorization scores:

Weighting	10	10	10	6	5	5		_
Agency Name	Community Impact	Community Need	Fits BAUW Priorities	Ability & Evaluation	Fiscal Management	Track Record	Application Score	Score Range
Agency 1	9	9	9	9	9	9	414	
Agency 2	6	6	6	6	6	6	276	
Agency 3	6	3	9	6	6	6	276	
Agency 4	6	6	6	1	3	1	206	
Agency 5	6	6	6	1	1	1	196	
Agency 6	1	9	9	9	9	1	294	

**Agency 1** receives Exceeds Expectations ratings, resulting in a 9X10+9X10+9X10+9X6+9X5+9X5 = 414 score.

Agency 2 Meets Expectations in each area, resulting in a score of 276

**Agency 3** is Lacking in Expectations in Community Need, but Exceeds Expectations in Fits BAUW Priorities and Meets Expectations in all other areas, resulting in a score of 276 equivalent to Agency 2

**Agency 4** Meets Expectations in the three most important areas and rises above Failure to Meet Expectations in one other area, resulting in a score greater than 206, above the 200 cutoff

**Agency 5** Meets Expectations in the three most important areas but Fails to Meet Expectations in all other areas, resulting in a score of 196, below the 200 cutoff

**Agency 6** Fails to Meet Expectations in one of the three most important areas, and thus is flagged Yellow for discussion in spite of having a strong score of 294

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## **Application Funding Process and Worksheet Narrative**

- Initial funding level
  - The worksheet determines how much is available to award to agencies submitting long-form applications.
  - o It also determines the total of funding requests of applications in the Green and Yellow categories.
  - o The ratio (Funds Available) / (Funds Requested) is computed as a percent.
  - Initially, all Green/Yellow category agencies receive this percent of their request up to a maximum of 100%.
  - Agencies with Red category applications are initially awarded \$0.00. This is also their final award.

### Full Board Discussion (Date TBD)

- Any board member can request further discussion of an application. Contact UW staff to add to the agenda.
- Applications will be discussed when
  - the current "liaison adjusted request" compared to the previous year's 'agency request' has increased by 25% or more
  - o any agency request that is 10% or more of our total allocation budget
- Applications that are submitted after the due date will be reduced by a minimum of 10% of the agency request for that year
- All Yellow Category applications: After discussion, the board may choose to lower the awards of agencies in this category.
- Funds are freed up by the lowering of these awards. The worksheet automatically redistributes these funds
  across all agencies whose awards have not been lowered by the committee. Awards that have been
  manually adjusted by the committee remain fixed at the committee-determined level.
- If there are remaining funds after allocation process, these funds could go into the reserve, or otherwise be used as the committee decides.