

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### United Way's Funding Categories

	Safety Net	System	Targeted
Application Opens	RFP released January 2020	RFP released June 2020	RFP released January 2021
Who it funds	Nonprofit organizations providing direct services in our 16-county service area to address needs identified in the Community Needs Assessment	Organizations providing backbone, collective impact, and/or advocacy services to address community needs identified in the Community Needs Assessment	Nonprofit organizations addressing emerging or emergency and/or innovative solutions
Length of grant	Three-year grants for general operating support	Three-year grants for general operating support	One-year grants for programmatic support
Maximum funding awarded	Funding amount cannot exceed 20% of an organization's budget for services within the 16-county region	Funding amount cannot exceed 20% of an organization's budget for services within the 16-county region	Funding amount cannot exceed 20% of an organization's budget for services within the 16-county region
Funding amount year over year	Annual funding within the three years is guaranteed at 90% of previous year's funding	Funding rises and falls annually with availability of unrestricted dollars	Funding is for one year
Reporting and performance reviews	Annually	Annually	Annually
Reapplication	Abbreviated renewal application every three years	Reapply every three years as funds are available	Reapply every year as funds are available

## SAFETY NET ANSWERS

**1. WILL A SAFETY NET NONPROFIT'S FUNDING LEVEL CHANGE OVER THE COURSE OF THE CONTRACT?**

Every three years, volunteers will review Safety Net nonprofits to determine whether they are performing at an optimal level and achieving previously agreed-upon outcomes. Based on this review, the volunteers may choose to make necessary funding adjustments, dependent upon nonprofit performance, review of programming and budget updates, available funds, and the Community Needs Assessment. This review will be based on the agency's Year 3 funding level. And annual funding within the three years is guaranteed at 90% of the previous year's funding.

**2. WILL NONPROFITS HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO APPLY FOR SAFETY NET FUNDING AFTER 2020?**

Yes. Based on available funds, the Community Needs Assessment and the performance of Safety Net nonprofits, there may be opportunities to accept and fund new nonprofits through three-year grant cycles. To be considered, new nonprofits will be required to complete a full application when the Safety Net RFP is released again in 2023.

**3. WHAT DOES "ABBREVIATED APPLICATION" MEAN FOR THE SAFETY NET FUNDING CATEGORY?**

This will be a condensed application for nonprofits to seek renewal for their Safety Net funding that will allow United Way to collect important information, such as outcomes, new programming and service offerings, and budget updates, to determine if funding should continue.

**4. HOW WILL MY SAFETY NET APPLICATION BE ASSESSED?**

Applications will be assessed within the areas of administration, governance, finance, and programs utilizing a Scoring Rubric, which can be found [here](#). For the Safety Net assessment, areas that will receive additional weighting and emphasis include outcomes and impact, racial equity, breadth and depth of services, and alignment with priority needs identified by the Community Needs Assessment.

**5. IF A CURRENT MEMBER NONPROFIT IS AWARDED SAFETY NET FUNDING, WILL THEIR FUNDING BE BASED ON CURRENT ALLOCATIONS?**

No. All current member nonprofits must apply by March 10, 2020, through the online system to be considered for future United Way funding. Funding for any 501(c)3 through Safety Net, including current member nonprofits, will be determined by the community investment volunteers and based on the application criteria and weighted formula. The 90% guaranteed funding level will go into effect in Year 2.

**6. ARE THERE PARAMETERS FOR SAFETY NET FUNDING?**

To qualify for funding, nonprofits must meet the minimum eligibility criteria. Listed, below:

- Provide direct services to individuals living in at least one of the 16 counties and in at least one of the identified need areas
- Be in existence for at least two years
- Submit Federal 501(c)(3) Tax Determination Letter
- Submit most recent Federal Form 990 Tax Return
- Submit Illinois or Missouri Certificate of Corporate Good Standing

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- Submit policy on compliance with USA Patriot Act and other counterterrorism laws
- Submit policy for background checks, including child abuse and neglect screenings as appropriate
- Submit policy on non-discrimination in hiring and service delivery
- Submit policy on privacy protection practices (HIPAA)
- Submit most recent Audited Financial Statements including auditor's opinion and footnotes
- Submit most recent Management Letter prepared by independent auditor
- Submit most recent Internal Control Findings Letter as appropriate

## SYSTEM AND TARGETED ANSWERS

### 1. IF I'M ACCEPTED AS A SAFETY NET NONPROFIT, DO I STILL NEED TO APPLY FOR SYSTEM AND TARGETED FUNDING?

Organizations are required to submit separate applications for each category they wish to be considered for, and you can submit one application per Request for Proposal (RFP). We will release an RFP for System funding in June 2020 and an RFP for Targeted funding in January 2021. Organizations may be funded in more than one category.

### 2. HOW WILL I KNOW WHAT TYPE OF FUNDING OUR ORGANIZATION WILL RECEIVE?

We will request an RFP for each funding category, and nonprofits will need to apply for each category they wish to be considered to receive funding for. At this time, only Safety Net is available for funding. Information about the applications for System and Targeted funds will be available later this year.

### 3. WILL ORGANIZATIONS THAT RECEIVE TARGETED FUNDING NEED TO DESIGNATE FUNDING TO PROGRAMS OR CAN THE FUNDING BE USED FOR GENERAL OPERATING SUPPORT?

Funding for any organization selected for Targeted funding will be for programmatic support based on the RFP. Organizations that receive funding through the Safety Net and System investments can use their funding for general operating support.

### 4. WHAT TYPE OF PROGRAMS OR SERVICES WILL THE TARGETED CATEGORY FUND?

Targeted funding will support organizations addressing emerging or emergency needs and/or innovative solutions. Further details and specifics will be announced in January 2021 with the release of an RFP.

### 5. WHAT DOES REPORTING LOOK LIKE FOR THE DIFFERENT FUNDING CATEGORIES?

United Way will communicate reporting expectations when notifying organizations of their funding selection.

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