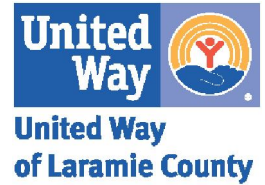


# LIVE UNITED™

[www.UnitedWayofLaramieCounty.org](http://www.UnitedWayofLaramieCounty.org)



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## **2009 FAQ's: Talking Points for Funding Allocations**

### **1. Why didn't you fund \_\_\_\_\_ Agency?**

- a. The Community Investment Teams based their funding decisions on established criteria applying your donations toward community needs.
- b. Not all programs could be funded because requests for funding far exceeded resources available.
- c. Programs were/were not funded for a variety of reasons including: addressing the target objectives, agency Board oversight, financial oversight, performance measures, ability to show local impact, providing adequate answers to the Call For Partners outline.

### **2. Who are you to make these changes?**

- a. For more than 60 years the community has asked United Way of Laramie County to be stewards of your donations, and to make the best decisions for our community.
- b. The Community Investment Teams' volunteers have put forth a great effort to answer the needs that were addressed in the 2005 needs assessment.

### **3. Is United Way obligated to fund an agency that has traditionally been a partner?**

- a. No, the obligation to fund an agency is a part of the old United Way funding model. Our grant funding process focuses on programs that have the greatest potential to impact the need(s) identified in the community, not the agencies that administer those programs.
- b. Through research and experience we have "done the homework" and strive to answer the needs of the community by funding programs that have the greatest positive impact.

### **4. Can an agency count on United Way to keep its doors open?**

- a. United Way funds are not intended to be the sole funding source to keep an agency's doors open.
- b. The agency must provide proof that the approved program is supported during the two-year funding cycle, and they will continue to receive available funding.

**5. What were these decisions based on?**

- a. Agencies who receive funding for programs were required to submit proposals and go through a two-phase funding allocation process. All submitted proposals were evaluated based on criteria pre-determined by the Community Investment Teams to meet the needs of the community.
- b. The agency must execute the program according to the criteria that was agreed upon by the Community Investment Team and signed agreement with United Way of Laramie County, City or County.
- c. The agency must report, twice a year, with measurable results of the funded program and the impact on the community which addresses the specific needs identified in the proposal(s).
- d. These decisions were based on an established criteria based upon community needs assessments. This was a collaborative effort made possible by the City, County, Cheyenne Regional Medical Center, United Way of Laramie County and the Laramie County Community Partnership.
- e. The Community Investment Team volunteers used this data to form three focus areas: Nurturing Young Children and Helping Youth Achieve their Full Potential, Helping Neighbors in Crisis and Strengthening Families, and Improving Community Health. These teams have developed a vision statement, community level outcomes, barriers to accomplishing the desired outcomes, and measurable indicators to tell us and the community if progress is being made.

**6. How long do these decisions last?**

- a. Each selected program is approved for a two-year funding cycle.
- b. The program will be assessed twice a year to ensure integrity and compliance.

**7. Can an unfunded program from this cycle reapply again in the future? If so when?**

- a. Yes, the next Call For Partners will go out in December 2010 for funding to begin January 2012. Every two years this process will repeat to ensure the funded programs are addressing our community's changing needs.
- b. The decision to fund programs instead of agencies has allowed all 501 c (3) nonprofit agencies an equal opportunity to submit a proposal for program funding.

**8. How can you surprise these agencies with all this change and these decisions?**

- a. This change has been well facilitated by United Way of Laramie County by the ample assistance offered and the opportunity to adapt since 2003.
- b. Over the past several years United Way has continued to provide many opportunities for agencies to learn about the move to the two-phase grant application process. This includes defining outcome based measurements and the entire community investment model, through many well publicized training sessions.
- c. All agencies that submitted a proposal were invited for an opportunity for one-on-one assistance and review prior to the final submission.

**9. How can I volunteer and be involved?**

Thank you for your interest in United Way of Laramie County. We always welcome new volunteers to fulfill a number of positions within Laramie County. Please contact us and share your skills: 307-638-8904 or [marketing@UnitedWayofLaramieCounty.org](mailto:marketing@UnitedWayofLaramieCounty.org)