

Community Partner Funding Eligibility Requirements

Thank you for your interest in becoming a United Way Community Partner. Each partner undergoes a significant review to determine its effectiveness and adherence to United Way's community priorities. Partners may receive funding from United Way based on the evaluations conducted as part of the tri-annual grant-making process, response to a competitive request for proposals (RFP) or Letter of Intent (LOI, or collaboration in a joint grant partnership with United Way. Partners will need to demonstrate that they are actively collaborating with agencies/partners in the community as a way to ensure efficiency and non-duplicative services. Each partner must have accountability measures in place to track results from their agency.

In order for an organization to be eligible to be considered as a United Way of Northern Santa Barbara County Partner it must meet certain standard eligibility criteria. Please use this checklist in order to determine if you are eligible to be considered.:

- Qualify under the Internal Revenue Code as a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization or be a legally established public entity. Public entities are only eligible for funding within UWNSBC's community change initiatives and when no qualified and suitable 501(c) 3 entity, as determined by UWNSBC's Board of Directors, applies.
- Be governed or advised by a local volunteer Board.
- Provide services that address the current priorities of United Way of Northern Santa Barbara County.
- Provide services that address current priorities in the communities of Santa Maria Valley, Lompoc Valley or Santa Ynez Valley.
- Partners are required to demonstrate fiscal stability by submitting an annual independent audit completed by an independent Certified Public Accountant. If the operating budget is under \$250,000, certified year-end financials approved by the Board Chair and the Executive Director may be substituted. This submission will be evaluated to ensure the grantor that the partner has sufficient financial strength to fulfill its grant obligations. If the partner is a public entity, year-end program financial statements, certified by the Advisory Board Chair, the Program Director, and the Department Director, or equivalent, may be substituted.
- Overhead expenses cannot exceed 25% of the total agency or program budget.
- Partners accounting and financial reporting must be in compliance with the relevant Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) or Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB) requirements.
- Demonstrate that the partner has been operating continuously for five or more years.

If, in response to an open RFP/LOI process, only one submission is received or UWNSBC's Board determines that only one respondent has the unique skills, capacity, or experience needed to accomplish UWNSBC's community impact objectives, a sole source grant may be made. In such cases, clear written documentation of the sole source justification will be presented, and partners will be subject to all eligibility criteria listed above and to all grant reporting and partner contract requirements.

The Community Partner Funding Eligibility Requirements was approved and adopted by the Executive Committee of United Way of Northern Santa Barbara County on _____.