

Grant Application Information

Background

Beginning with the 2007-08 grant year, the Le Mars United Way implemented a new strategy more focused on measurable community impact. This focus will be reflected in how United Way distributes funds raised in the community campaign. This is an exciting opportunity for local agencies, organizations, businesses, government, and United Way to partner in making a real difference in the Le Mars area. To accomplish this task, the Le Mars United Way has set two goals for our community:

1. **Ensure children grow into successful adults**
2. **Provide safety net services to help meet basic human needs**

Organizations that qualify for funding:

Organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (or corresponding section of any future federal tax code), or to organizations defined as charitable under Section 170(b)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and its Regulations as presently existing or as hereafter amended.

Grant Process

Organizations applying for Le Mars United Way funding in either of the two goal areas listed above need to complete the online application. The online application requires program and budget information. The budget should be for the service(s) that you are requesting United Way funds. **Agencies wishing to apply for funding should bring their tax Employer Identification Number (EIN) to the training.**

For organizations seeking funding in the *“Ensure children grow into successful adults”* goal area, your request for funding should focus on at least one of the following:

- Reducing child abuse.
- Reducing juvenile crime and at-risk behavior.
- Improving early childhood development (newborn thru age six) for academic success.

For organizations seeking funding in the *“Provide safety net services to help meet basic human needs”* goal area, your request for funding should focus on at least one of the following:

- Providing basic services (food, clothing, shelter) to those in need.
- Helping special needs populations (elderly, disabled, mentally ill).
- Providing emergency and crisis services.

Le Mars United Way funding that is utilized for scholarships need to target families that fall at or below 200% of the federal poverty levels.

If grant dollars are to be used for a capital expenditure, the application must explain how the expense relates to a focus in one of the goal areas listed above.

Training for the online application process will be hosted by the Le Mars United Way and dates will be publicized in advance and available on the Le Mars United Way website after the first of the year, along with RSVP information. At this meeting each agency will receive a user ID and password to log onto the on-line application. *This is a very valuable meeting to attend as all applications must be submitted online and improperly completed or incomplete information will not be favorably reviewed.*

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Organizations may apply to both goal areas if they choose, but will be required to submit two applications. Application due date will be announced at the training, as well as on the Le Mars United Way website. Late applications, regardless of reason, will not be considered.

The LeMars United Way board of directors will review all applications to determine which programs will receive grant dollars and the level of funding to be awarded. During this process, additional information may be requested and organizations should be prepared to meet with a Le Mars United Way volunteer if called to do so.

Review criteria the Board will use when reviewing grant applications are as follows:

- Need for the service(s)
- Need for Le Mars United Way funds
- Number of people to be served
- Demographics of people to be served (age, income, race, etc.)
- Other resources (staff, funds, facilities) leveraged to make the service successful
- Service quality and how program success will be determined

Applying organizations will be notified of the status of their application once decisions have been made.

Questions or concerns? Please contact:

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