



May 20, 2020

Dear Agency Partners,

As Heart of Missouri United Way navigates a way forward in our Health and Basic Needs Community Investment Process, feedback from grant applicants and community investment volunteers has guided the Community Impact Committee's strategy. This message details how we are resuming the process, providing interim support, and looking ahead to future investment cycles for Education and Financial Stability Impact grants.

The strategy confirmed by the United Way Board of Directors today outlines how the Community Investment process will continue as a virtual process. United Way will provide training and set clear expectations for Advisory Council volunteers and grant applicants. In addition to the feedback you have provided, our approach is informed by the "curb-cut effect," the principles of community, and our commitment to the safety of everyone in our community. We will do our best to ensure a basic level of skill and technology is in place for everyone involved to participate fully with confidence.

6-month interim grants will begin July 2020 and end December 2020.

At Heart of Missouri United Way we value our agency partnerships. To avoid interruption to existing well-performing services and assure immediate health and basic needs are being met, we will develop a six-month Strategic Investment Agreement with Health and Basic Needs Impact Grant applicants that meet the following criteria:

- Grant program must have an existing funding relationship with Heart of Missouri United Way
 - Interim grant awards will not exceed 50% of current annual funding.
- Grant program must be operational.
- Agency partners will not be required to submit an additional application to receive an interim grant.
 - Rachel and Courtney will confirm applicants meet award requirements.
- Heart of Missouri United Way Board of Directors will vote on interim grant awards in June 2020.

The 3-year investment cycle for Health and Basic Needs Impact grants will begin on January 1, 2021 and end December 2023. The timeline for reaching investment decisions is as follows:

- Heart of Missouri United Way Board of Directors will vote on interim grant awards in June 2020.
 - Rachel and Courtney will reach out to agency partners with process details.
- United Way staff will provide training and set clear expectations for volunteers and agencies before site visits begin.

GIVE.
ADVOCATE.
VOLUNTEER.

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- Virtual site visits will be conducted in September 2020.
 - Volunteers may participate in site visits live or view recordings.
 - All grant applicants are expected to participate in virtual site visits. This will allow all applicants to reach all volunteers, demonstrate operations in this new environment, and closes the memory gap for volunteers who attended site visits in March 2020.
 - Virtual site visits will be shortened from the 2-hour block model we have previously used for in-person site visits.

Advisory Council volunteers will make funding recommendations in October 2020

Multiple platforms and communication methods will be used to minimize “zoom **burnout**”

Heart of Missouri United Way Board of Directors will vote on Health and Basic Needs Impact investments in November 2020

This modified process will allow organizations to go into the calendar year with increased certainty and will align grant reporting periods with the City of Columbia and Boone County. Heart of Missouri United Way Finance Committee will conduct a budget analysis to determine the feasibility of scheduling each Impact Area investment cycle to align with pledges received, the calendar year and our Boone Impact Group partners. As always, your feedback as an agency partner is highly valued and will be sought as we aim to continuously improve the Community Investment Process.

Please email me if you have any questions, concerns or comments.

Thank you for helping improve lives in our community.

Sincerely,



Andrew Grabau
Executive Director
Heart of Missouri United Way