STRATEGIC INVESTMENT GRANTS
QUESTIONS FROM OUR INFORMATION SESSIONS (October 3, 4, 5, 2017)
Updated as of October 11, 2017

GENERAL APPLICATION QUESTIONS

How do we document the name of an organization with DBA?
Within the application, you can enter this information in the summary sheet section.

How many applications do you typically receive compared to what you fund?
During our last RFP process we received 200 applications requesting over $16 million in funds. We were able to award 84 applications with $6 million in grant funds, with an average grant of $60,000.

As it is a 2 year grant cycle, will we need to submit a second year budget for year 2?
You will not be required to submit your second year budget in this application. The amount you request for year one will be granted in year two, contingent on organizational performance and availability of resources.

Are there specific financial health requirements, e.g. an audit?
We do require financial information as part of the application. Please require to the application document and rubric for more information.

Are examples of successful applications available?
Please see our current list of partners (available on our website) for examples of the organizations and program we funded. There are no sample applications available.

I thought this grant cycle was only open every 3 years.
This is a two-year funding cycle. Our current grant cycle is also a two-year process. Our last three year cycle was 2013-2016.

Is there any way to find out if we have not been funded, before the announcements in July?
Every organization will receive a call notifying them of the status of the application by the end of April. Please refer to the timeline and key dates on page 10 of the RFP information packet.

When are funds distributed?
Funds will be distributed by July 1, 2018. Please refer to the timeline and key dates on page 10 of the RFP information packet.

Is it helpful to Mile High United Way to submit applications prior to November 21st? Does early submission impact funding decisions?
While we appreciate early submissions, this does not affect funding decisions. Please refer to the timeline and key dates on page 10 of the RFP information packet.

Are there specific amounts allocated to each grant category?
No.

Do you allow collaborative applications for Strategic Priorities Grants?
Yes.

Are there restrictions on organizations that have received funding in previous years?
No.

Are ongoing programs eligible for funding, or are only new programs eligible?
Organizations can apply for funding for both established and new programs.

300% of FEDERAL POVERTY GUIDELINES

How do we assess the 300% of Federal Poverty Guidelines when serving schools?
Free and Reduced price lunch are measures that you can use.
Free lunch is assessed for families that are below 130% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.
Reduced Price Lunch is assessed for families between 130% and 185% of Federal Poverty Guidelines.
Each of these measures falls within our criteria of serving families at or below 300% of Federal Poverty Guidelines.

Our organization does not focus on youth living at or below 300% of the poverty level. However, this grant would go toward new programs to expand programming for this population. Would this qualify?
You can apply for your new programs. Keep in mind that in this competitive process, your program will be reviewed alongside programs that have a track record of success. You will have to show that you can use your success and learning with the population above 300% of the federal poverty guidelines, and can apply that effectively to youth living below the 300% measure.

Can an organization target a population with household income less than 300% of federal poverty (e.g. 200%) or should we target populations that have incomes up to 300%?
We are looking to fund organizations and programs that serve individuals and families living at or below 300% of federal poverty guidelines, i.e. people living between 0% and 300% of the measure. This includes people living at 200% of federal poverty guidelines.

APPLICATION CATEGORIES

Our programs go across funding opportunities. Can we submit multiple applications?
Unfortunately, an organization can only submit <u>one</u> application. Please choose the grant category that best fits the work that your organization does.
Remember that you can apply across multiple strategies within a grant category, as long as you address all of the strategies you select within your application.

If we are eligible to apply within Strategic Priorities but also provide Emergency and Basic Needs, and work within a Collaborative, can we include that information in the application?
Yes. You can include the Emergency and Basic Needs and Collaborating for Impact information within your application. However, please know that there are word limitations in the application. You may want to use the space to focus on the strategies that fit under the Strategic Priorities application.

To what category should school districts and educational foundations apply?
This depends on the programs or work for which you are seeking funding. Please read through the RFP Information packet for more information on each of our grant categories.

Is there a specific application that has received more applications in the past?
The Strategic Priorities Application has received more applications. This is because it covers all four of our community impact goals and multiple strategies.

To which category should we apply if a program has K-5 literacy and post-secondary prep?
You should apply to the Strategic Priorities Application. Be sure to select all of the strategies within this grant category (e.g. early learning and literacy and educational support) that are applicable to your work, and explain how your organization employs those strategies.

AVAILABLE ASSISTANCE

Please provide an overview of the technical assistance that is available
Please reach out to us (303.561.2338 or email mhuwgrants@unitedwaydenver.org) if you need assistance with:
o Accessing the online application, including logging in and submitting
o Selecting the application to apply to
o Clarification around application questions

CHILD CARE TAX CREDIT CONTRIBUTION

What is the process to become to receive a Child Care Tax Credit license?
To learn more about the Child Care Tax Credit, eligibility and how to apply, please visit:
https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/sites/default/files/Income35.pdf

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COLLABORATIVE GRANTS

If we would like to apply for a collaborative grant, does the collaborative have to be established or can you propose the idea and structure?
If you are applying in the Collaborating for Impact grant category, your collaborative has to be formal and in existence for at least one year.
If you are applying in any other category and are proposing providing services together with other organizations, you do not have to be an established collaborative. Keep in mind that in this competitive process, your collaborative programming will be reviewed alongside programs that have a track record of success.

Can you give an example of a "formal collaborative" initiative or project that would fall under the Collaborating for Impact category?
Please see our current list of funded partners under the Collective Impact Network category, available on our website.

If partnering with a school, do you have to add a letter of collaboration?
This is not necessary, but could strengthen your application.

COMMUNITYFORCE

When we log in to CommunityForce, do we have access to last cycle's information?
If you have previously used CommunityForce to apply to Mile HIgh United Way, and if you are using the same log-in information, you will be able to see previous applications and reports.

Is the online application system setup to allow an application from one agency to apply in more than one Strategic Investment Category?
Organizations are allowed to apply to only **one** category.

I have a new account under a different organization. Will the system allow me to create a new account?
Yes, as long as you are using a different email address for the new organization

CURRENT PARTNERS

Do current partners have to submit an interim report prior to applying for a grant?
No, current partners do not have to submit an interim report prior to applying to the 2017 Strategic Investment Grant Opportunity.
The current granting cycle is separate from the 2017 cycle, and as such the reporting will be separate.

DATA AND EVALUATION

How many students are there in the Metro area?
This information can be obtained from the October 2016 Colorado student count:
https://www.cde.state.co.us/cdereval/pupilcurrent

What is the U.S. third grade reading level?
https://www.cde.state.co.us/cdereval/pupilcurrent

Do you have year-over-year data to demonstrate actual movement, either positive or negative? For example, has investing in reading led to greater gains in achieving third grade proficiency over X number of years?
Yes, we do have trending data for the third grade reading, high school graduation and poverty data for the metro area. These data points have seen slight improvement over the years. However, while this data helps to inform the community needs towards these issues we cannot connect any changes in these data points directly to our investments. The reporting numbers

that partners report to us help to give us an idea of how many people have improved outcomes based on numbers served.

Do you have an examples of evaluation measures in education that Mile High United Way prefers?
No. Mile High United Way has no preferred measures. We understand that every program is different and that using a specific measure may not fit each and every program.

Should we use citations for data points?
Yes.

What tests are reading scores based on?
The data we presented regarding third grade reading proficiency was from the 2016-2017 English Language Arts PARCC assessment. This information can be obtained here:
https://www.cde.state.co.us/assessment/cmas-dataandresults

Data Slides

Third Grade Reading Proficiency:
Source: Colorado Department of Education; PARCC Data; 2016-17

3rd Grade Students taking English/Language Arts PARCC 2016-17
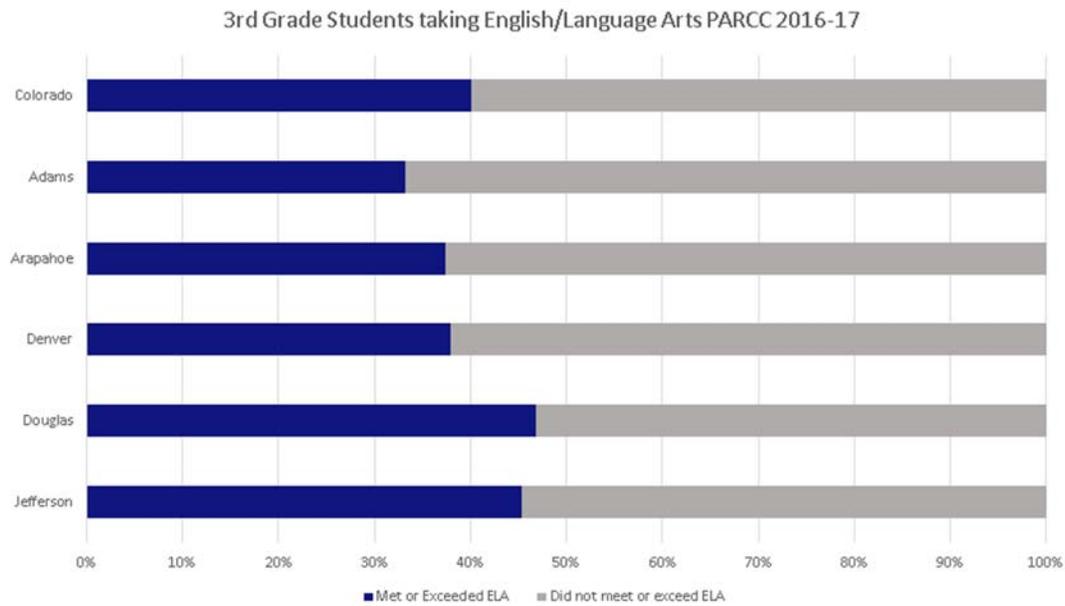
High School Graduation
Source: Colorado Department of Education; Graduation Statistics

High School Graduation 2015-16

Bar chart showing graduating vs. not graduating percentages by county:
- Colorado: ~79% Graduating
- Adams: ~73% Graduating
- Arapahoe: ~79% Graduating
- Denver: ~67% Graduating
- Douglas: ~90% Graduating
- Jefferson: ~83% Graduating

Legend: ■ Graduating ■ Not Graduating
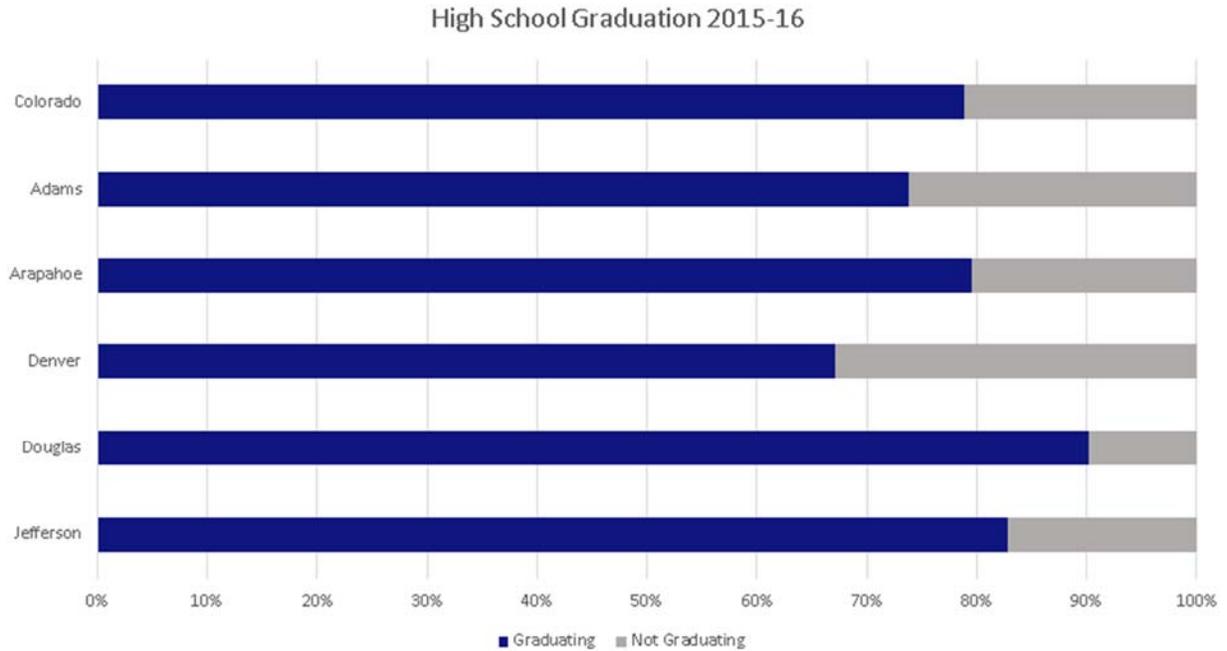
Individuals living above or below 300% of poverty
Source: ACS 2016-1Year Estimates; Table B17024

High School Graduation 2015-16

Bar chart showing graduating vs. not graduating percentages by county:
- Colorado: ~79% Graduating
- Adams: ~73% Graduating
- Arapahoe: ~79% Graduating
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Legend: ■ Graduating ■ Not Graduating
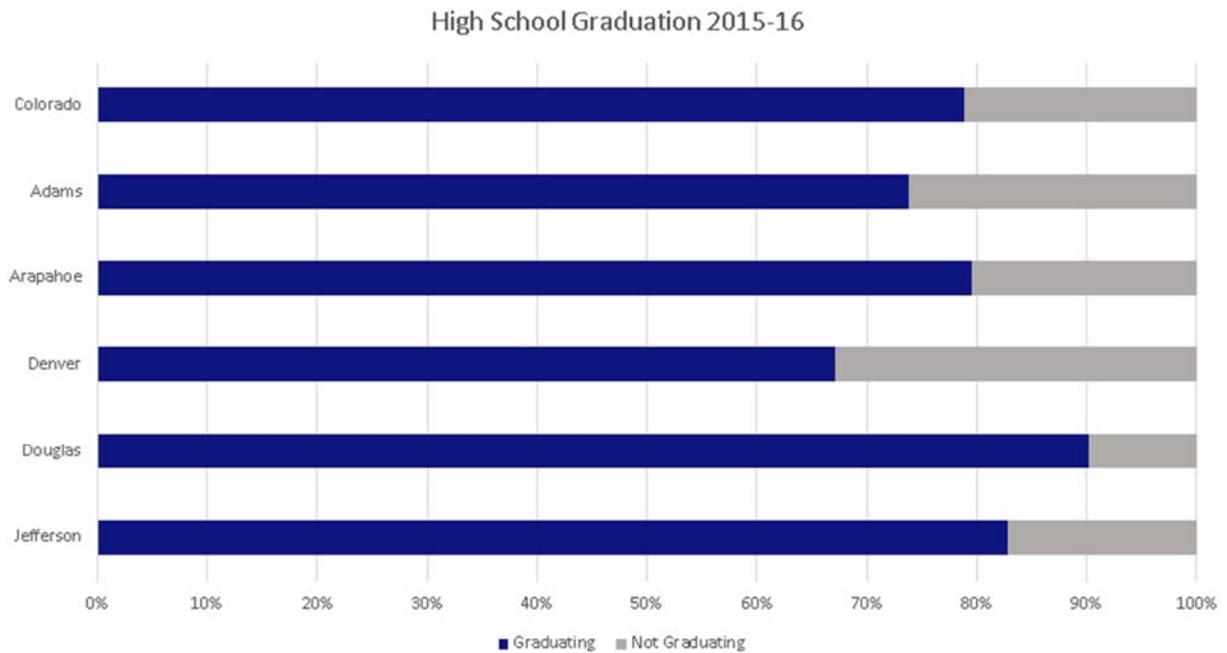
Children living above or below 300% of poverty
Source: ACS 2016-1Year Estimates; Table B17024

Children under 18 living above or below 300% of Poverty - 2016
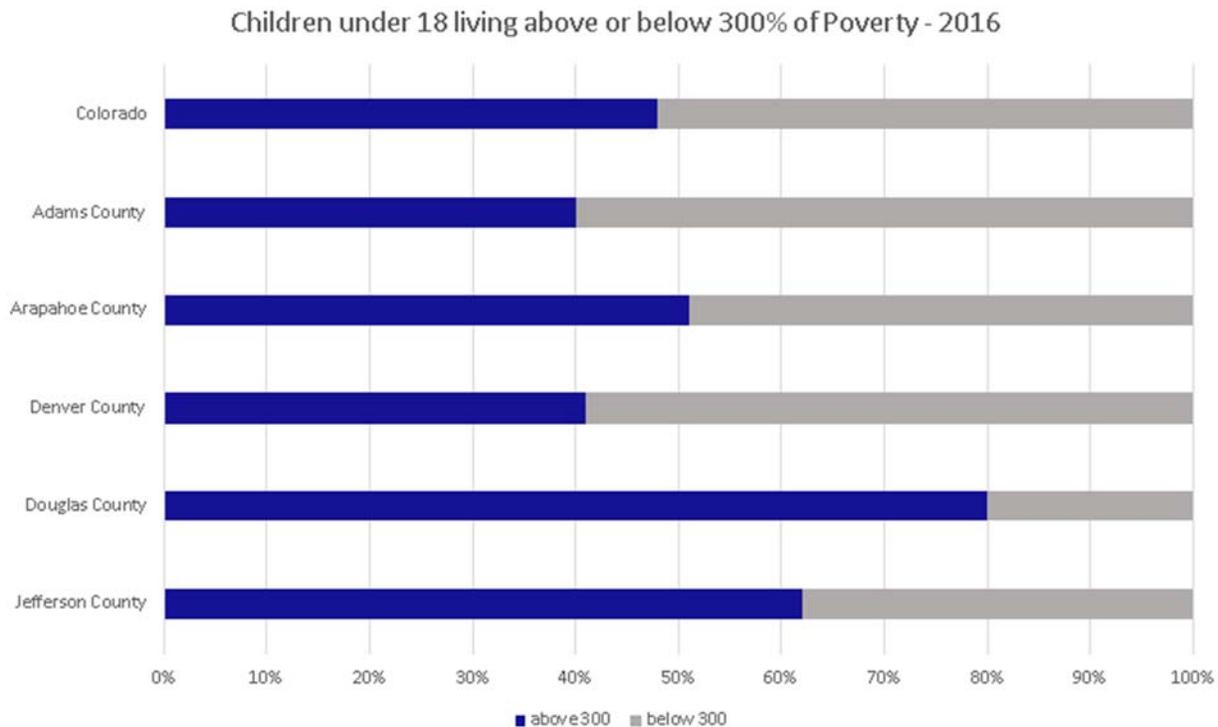
EMERGENCY AND BASIC NEEDS CATEGORY

The Emergency and Basic Needs category states that you will support "access to healthcare" but in the RFP information packet you state that you will not support direct medical care and treatment. Please clarify.
Access to healthcare is a new emergency and basic needs strategy within this funding category. As with other strategies within this category, we used 2-1-1 data to help inform us of the needs of the community. Access to healthcare emerged as a need. People were looking for healthcare coverage. We are looking to fund work that provides people with access to healthcare, including coverage under the Affordable Care Act or Medicaid.

FUNDING AMOUNTS

Is there a maximum amount of funding (ceiling) that an organization can receive within the Strategic Priorities Application?
There is no maximum amount within the Strategic Priorities Application.
We ask that your request for funding is reflective of your scope of work, and that you consider that we have limited resources.

Child Care Tax Credit Eligible organizations/activities may be considered for higher amounts of funding.

What was the average grant award during the 2016-2018 grant cycle?
The average grant award was $60,000 per year.

The minimum amount of funding is $25,000. Does that mean MIle High United Way will fund organizations at least $25,000 or is there a chance you would give less than $25,000?
The minimum amount at which organizations will be funded is $25,000. We will not fund an organization less than this amount.

Do you have limits/guidelines around the proportion of budgets you will fund?
As you are considering the request amount, please take into consideration that the average grant size in our previous process was $60,000. We will not fund requests for all or most of your program/organization expenses. It is possible that we will not fund your entire request. For example, if you request $50,000, our board may decide to fund you at $25,000. In this case, we will work with you on a revised scope of work to accommodate the reduced funding amount.

Are the minimum and maximum funding amounts per year or the two year total?
The $25,000 - $75,000 is the per year amount.

Will asking for too much disqualify us?
As you are considering the request amount, please take into consideration that the average grant size in our previous process was $60,000. We will not fund requests for all or most of your program/organization expenses. It is possible that we will not fund your entire request. For example, if you request $50,000, our board may decide to fund you at $25,000. In this case, we will work with you on a revised scope of work to accommodate the reduced funding amount.

Is there a nonprofit budget range that is too high for consideration?
We have funded organizations with large budgets in the past. Our funding goes to high-performing organizations that are aligned with our goals and that can demonstrate impact.

If your application funding request is $100,000, is it possible to be approved for a lower amount? Is it an all or nothing process?
It is possible that we will not fund your entire request. We may fund you at a lower amount. This is not an all or nothing process.

If we are child care tax credit eligible, is there a suggested amount?
Please request an amount based on what is needed to conduct your work.

If my organization works across two key strategies, and need money for both, do we detail how much we need for each program or the total?
You can provide the total amount requested, **and** include budget information for both programs.

GENERAL OPERATING AND PROGRAM SUPPORT

Will funds support salaries for both general operating support and program support?
General operating support funds can be used at the discretion of the organization applying. We trust that you know where best to use your funds.
For program support, salaries of staff providing the programming can be funded.

If our organization is a school, school foundation or school district, should we apply for general operating or program support?
School, school foundations or school districts should only apply for program support.

Does Mile High United Way have a preference for general operating or program support applications?
We do not have a preference.
If you are applying as a school, school district, or school foundation please apply for program support.

Can you apply for general operating support and program support, or just one?
Please apply for either general operating support or program support. Keep in mind that general operating support allows you to use funds where they are most needed, as long as the work is aligned with our Community Impact Goals and key strategies.

Can the funding be used for capital expenses?
Yes. However, know that an application for capital expenses will be reviewed alongside applications for program or general operating expenses. Please submit the application for which your organization will fare best in this competitive process.

PRIORITY AREAS

In the past, Mile High United Way had priority areas in the Metro Denver area. Is this still the case?
For our 2017 Strategic Investment Grants we do not have geographic priority areas. Our focus is on priority populations, i.e. those needing services and living at or below 300% of Federal Poverty Guidelines.

POPULATIONS SERVED

Is there a focus on children aging out of the child welfare system?
Our priority population focus is on those living at or below 300% of federal poverty guidelines. Children aging out of the child welfare system fall within this guideline.

Will you fund shelter for single men?
A successful application that provides shelter services for single men may be funded.

Can we serve individuals outside of the five county Metro area?
Yes, your organization can serve individuals outside of the five county Metro area. However, if you have a site outside of the five county area, our funds can only be applied to assistance given to individuals in our five county area. If you have a site within the five county area, and individuals from outside of the five counties seek services at that site, this is allowable.

CHILD CARE TAX CREDIT CONTRIBUTION

What is the process to become to receive a Child Care Tax Credit license?
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SCHOOLS, SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND SCHOOL FOUNDATIONS

Is a preschool program considered a school?
The preschool program itself is considered a program and not a school. If the preschool program is operated by the school, and the entity applying for funds is the school, the entity can only apply for program support.

May a school district foundation and a school district both apply for a grant if they are applying for different programs?
Both entities may apply if each has their own, separate EIN with which to apply.

If our organization is a school, school foundation or school district, should we apply for general operating or program support?
School, school foundations or school districts should only apply for program support.

If partnering with a school, do you have to add a letter of collaboration?
This is not necessary, but could strengthen your application.

SITE VISITS

Will Mile High United Way be conducting site visits?
Unfortunately, we will not be conducting site visits. In order to be fair to all (200-300) organizations that apply, no site visits will be held.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES APPLICATION

In the Strategic Priorities Application, is it beneficial to site multiple key strategies or focus on just one?
If your organization employs multiple strategies, please identify those strategies. Remember to explain all the strategies that you select. If you employ just one strategy, please explain that one strategy. It is not about the number of strategies that you select, but how you are using the strategies to work toward our Community Impact Goals.

What are reporting requirements (generally) once a grant is made?
Funded organizations report twice annually on output and outcome data.

Do you allow collaborative applications for Strategic Priorities Grants?
Yes.

WORKPLACE GIVING MEMBERSHIP

If we are a member of another workplace giving group (Community Shares of Colorado), are we eligible to apply?
Yes. Your organization's membership in workplace giving campaigns does not disqualify you from applying.

Does it help to be a Mile High United Way organization (vs Community Shares)?
Workplace giving campaigns through Mile High United Way are kept separate from our Strategic Investment Grant process. One does not affect or influence the other.