

2021 -2023 MILE HIGH UNITED WAY STRATEGIC INVESTMENT GRANT (SIG) for Emergency and Basic Needs

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

(updated as of January 8, 2021)

1. How much funding is available for Mile High United Way Strategic Investment Grants?

We continue to fundraise for the Strategic Investment Grants. At this time, we do not know how much will be available.

2. I saw that Mile High United Way just received \$20 million dollars from philanthropist and author MacKenzie Scott. Are we applying for that funding?

No. In the coming weeks and months, we will have thoughtful and strategic conversations with our executive leadership, impact team, and Board of Trustees to determine a path forward for this gift. As we solidify these details, more information will be provided at a later date. This gift will *not* influence our Strategic Investment Grant process this year.

3. Are there current partners who won't get funded?

As with previous years, the Mile High United Way Strategic Investment Grants is a competitive grant process. Previous funding is not a guarantee of continued funding. We invite organizations aligned with our key strategies to apply for a Strategic Investment Grant. Through a rigorous community review, our new partners will be announced.

4. Is this a one-year grant or a multi-year grant?

This is a multi-year, two-year award. Selected organizations will receive funding for year one. The second year of funding is contingent upon a non-competitive renewal process, organizational performance, and available funds from Mile High United Way.

5. How many nonprofits do you plan to fund?

As with all competitive grant processes, the number of organizations applying for funding often exceeds the funding available. We won't know how many nonprofits will be funded until the community review process is complete.

6. How many applications do you typically receive compared to what you fund?

During our last RFP process we received 166 applications requesting over \$12 million in funds. We were able to award 104 organizations with \$4.5 million in grant funds.

7. Are examples of successful applications available?

There are no sample applications available, however you can join us for an application bootcamp on January 20, 2021. Registration information is [on our website](#).

8. 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 mid-May. Please refer to the timeline and key dates in the RFP information packet.

9. When are funds distributed?

Funds will be distributed in July 2021, following the signing of grant agreements. Please refer to the timeline and key dates in the RFP information packet.

10. Is it helpful to Mile High United Way to submit applications prior to the deadline? 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 in the RFP information packet.

11. Do you allow collaborative applications?

Yes.

12. Can our organization be part of another application while still submitting our own application?

An organization can only be part of one application for the Strategic Investment Grant opportunity.

13. Are there restrictions on organizations that have received funding in previous years?

No.

14. Are ongoing programs eligible for funding or are only new programs eligible?

Organizations can apply for funding for established programs or new programs.

15. Can we apply for policy and advocacy related work?

We do not fund policy and advocacy related work through the Strategic

Investment Grant opportunity.

16. Are any funds dedicated specifically to evaluation?

There is no dedicated evaluation funding within the Strategic Investment Grant opportunity.

17. How long does an organization need to be in existence to apply (how long after receiving our 501(c)(3) designation)?

We do not have a requirement on the length of time that an organization has to be in existence or have their 501(c)(3) designation. If an organization does not have a 501(c)(3) designation, they can apply using a fiscal sponsor that maintains the designation.

18. Can we apply for program expansion?

Yes.

19. 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>

20. Should we use citations for data points?

Yes.

21. The minimum amount of funding is \$10,000 or \$25,000 depending on the organization budget. Does that mean Mile High United Way will fund organizations at least \$10,000 or \$25,000 or is there a chance we could receive less than \$10,000 or \$25,000?

The minimum amount that an organization can apply for is \$10,000 or \$25,000 depending on your budget. It is possible that an organization will receive less than this amount.

22. 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 \$44,000. We will not fund requests for all or most of your program/organization expenses.

23. 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.

24. Will asking for too much disqualify us?

It will not disqualify you, however, as you are considering the request amount, please take into consideration that the average grant size in our previous process was \$44,000. 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 \$25,000. In this case, we will work with you on a revised scope of work to accommodate the reduced funding amount.

25. 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.

26. 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.

27. Are the funding ranges for one year or both years of the grant cycle?

One year. Successful organizations will receive funding for year one. The second year of funding is contingent upon a non-competitive renewal process, organizational performance, and available funds from Mile High United Way.

28. 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.

29. 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 goals and key strategies.

30. 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.

31. Will Mile High United Way be conducting site visits?

Unfortunately, we will not be conducting site visits during the application process. In order to be fair to all organizations that apply, no site visits will be held.

32. What are reporting requirements (generally) once a grant is made?

Funded organizations report twice annually on output and outcome information.

33. If we are a member of another workplace giving group (e.g., Community Shares of Colorado), are we eligible to apply?

Yes. Your organization's membership in workplace giving campaigns does not disqualify you from applying.

34. 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.

If you have further questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to Roweena Naidoo, Senior Director of Policy and Impact Investing at Mile High United Way: Roweena.Naidoo@UnitedWayDenver.org or 303.561.2325