

February 2012

Dear Agency Community Partner,

The purpose of this memo is to update the community on United Way of Metropolitan Chicago's (UWMC) next application process.

In Fall 2011, we held Agency Forums at which time we shared our strategic vision – Live United 2020 (LU2020). At that time, we stated we would notify the community in early 2012 about our next funding process.

The LU2020 vision brings Income, Education, and Health resources together into communities of highest need across UWMC's six county footprint (maps are located on our website at <http://agencies.uwmc.org/program-funding/>). Further, LU2020 maintains UWMC's commitment to crisis response and will continue its investment in that strategy both within *and outside* of UWMC Partner Communities.

To begin to move UWMC's community investments towards the LU2020 vision, UWMC volunteer leadership has reviewed, approved and supports the concept of a single, integrated application across all issue areas. Our intention is that by running all applications during one year, the non-application years will allow for significantly more program support, evaluation, and community engagement by UWMC, as well as more time for direct service provision by agency partners.

The effect of this decision is:

1. There will not be an application/RFP process for any United Way Issue Area (Income, Health or Education) during FY12.
2. Currently funded Income (a/k/a Financial Stability) programs will be extended one additional year through FY13 (pending performance and availability of funds). Current Health and Education program funding is scheduled to also cease at the end of FY13.
3. A single integrated application will be released in FY13, with funding to commence in FY14.

NOTE: Reporting for currently funded programs will still occur.

In order to save agency time and resources, a single application will be submitted across issue areas, at the agency level, rather than several program applications. This application will be designed to flex based on the breadth of the programs under consideration.

We are beginning our work to shape this process and the timetable over which it will occur. However, we understand that this represents a significant process change for agency partners. To that end, we will publish the application in advance for agency review, and double the time allotted for agencies to submit applications. A rough timeline of the FY13 application cycle is as follow:

Early Fall, 2012—publication of integrated investment plan and application
Fall, 2012—application launch
Spring, 2013—volunteer decision-making

Summer, 2013—agency notification
Summer-Fall, 2013—funding commences

Additionally, we will be hosting conference calls to answer questions.

Tuesday, February 21, from 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Thursday, February 23, from 3 – 4 p.m.

Dial In 877-495-8137

Pass Code 1013262494

(Pre-registration to participate on the call is not required.)

In the interim, please contact your Issue Lead, Member United Way contact, or me with any questions.

Thomas Galassini

Director, Agency Relations

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