

Greetings and Happy New Year!

This e-mail is to let you know that United Way of the Central and South Okanagan Similkameen has now opened our Community Fund application cycle for the 2015-2016 year. In 2014, our organization made a decision that all of our Community Investment funding cycles would be open to any registered charities that are making an impact in our Focus Areas within our Region. This means that we no longer have member agencies that receive the funding year after year – instead, we have Partner Agencies who have been funded within the current cycle. This year's deadline is March 6, 2015.

For those who are not aware, the United Way Focus Areas are:

- Moving people from poverty to possibility
 - Food security
 - Housing
 - Employment/financial security
- Helping children and youth be all they can be
 - Engagement in learning
 - Connectedness and community involvement
 - Emotional and physical well-being
- Building strong communities
 - Connections to supports
 - Neighbourhood and community engagement
 - Personal well-being and safety

Through our Community Fund, we offer 2 funding types: Program and Core Operational. Organizations may only apply for one type of funding.

Our Region runs from Lake Country to Osoyoos and the US Border, and to Princeton.

We strongly encourage organizations to build a relationship with United Way prior to applying for funding, because becoming a United Way Partner is not just a grant-writing process. It means being publicly part of a movement, protecting and strengthening United Way's fund development partnerships, and participating in the campaign and awareness activities that generate the resources we invest in our Region. Some examples of ways to build a relationship with United Way are participating in programs such as Days of Caring, receiving smaller grants first, meeting with us to discuss your community or agency goals, participating in United Way campaign activities or events, or other types of involvement.

Organizations interested in learning more about partnering with United Way are encouraged to contact me by phone or e-mail for further discussion. I am happy to answer any questions and have more discussion as needed. We do not post our applications on our website for download, but I will give you more information and if you decide to apply, I can provide the package to you. Note that all new applicant organizations will need to declare their intention to apply no later than February 13th.

Kindest regards,

Avril Paice, BSW

Director of Community Investment

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United Way Central and South Okanagan Similkameen

Change starts here.

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