

**United Way of Decatur & Mid-Illinois
Letter of Intent 2009/2010**

**Letters will go out: September 26, 2008
LETTERS ARE DUE BY: November 14, 2008
Full United Way Applications will distributed December 19, 2008
and will be due February 6, 2009**

A letter of intent is required prior to the development of a full application. This letter gives us the opportunity to learn more about the programs.

Submitting a letter of intent now does not require you to submit a full application if you should ultimately choose not to do so, but full applications will not be accepted for programs that were not submitted through the letter of intent process. A separate letter of intent must be submitted for each program for which you are considering submitting a full funding proposal.

You will have comments from the United Way Panel Review Team concerning your letter of intent by December 5, 2008.

The letter of intent will serve as a cover page for your application. The letter of intent will be the first thing that the panel will review.

United Way will accept letters of intent for the following three vision areas:

Youth Development

Every youth in our community will successfully graduate from high school with the support of their family unit and the community at-large and will move on to post-secondary education or employment that meets the basic needs of the employee and his or her dependents.

- Priority will be given to programs addressing one or more of the following:
 - Character and leadership development
 - Students reading at grade level
 - Programs focusing on parental involvement.
 - Crisis intervention
- United Way will consider funding programs that target both marginally and high at-risk youth.
- Organizations should be able to demonstrate, by using local program results and statistics, how their program can work to improve one or more of the following community indicators :
 - Increased graduation rate
 - Decreased drop out rate
 - Decreased juvenile crime rates.

If your proposed program is not working to improve one of the above community indicators, you must be able to provide strong justification and community statistics on how your program promotes positive youth development and how your organization will measure the success of the community indicator the proposed program is trying to improve.

Access to Healthcare

Every individual in our community will have access to affordable health, mental health, and dental services including access to prescription medicines to treat their illnesses.

- Funding in this vision area will primarily focus on direct services, prevention, and education.
- Priority for funding will be to cover those populations that do not have health coverage or a medical card.
- In the area of dental care, priority will be given to those organizations applying for funding to benefit children age 12 and under.
- Priority will be given to programs who find solutions to decrease dependency on area emergency rooms.
- Organizations receiving funding in the area of healthcare will be asked to provide additional healthcare education to their clients or increase access points of service.
- Organizations must be able to provide strong justification and community statistics on how your program promotes increased access to healthcare in Macon County.

Community Basics

United Way will continue to address the critical needs of Macon County by investing in programs and/or services which respond to individual or community crisis or provide services that promote self-sufficiency while providing the basics of life – food, shelter, economic well-being, and protection from violence.

- Priority will be given to applicants who expand their program to increase community connectedness and access points for service.
- Agencies will be asked to elaborate on how they are providing for the basic needs of clients while promoting self-sufficiency to reduce the need for their services.
- For the vision area of community basics, violence is defined as child, spouse, or elder abuse.
- Agencies responding to both individual and community crisis should submit separate proposals for the two programs.
- United Way will not fund utility/rent assistance programs.
- Organizations should be able to demonstrate, by using local program results and statistics, how their program can work to improve one or more of the following community indicators :
 - Increased access points of service
 - Decrease number of repeat clients
 - Decrease number of homeless individuals

If your proposed program is not working to improve one of the above community indicators, you must be able to provide strong justification and community statistics on how your program provides for basic needs while promoting self-sufficiency and how United Way can measure the success of the community indicator the proposed program is trying to improve.

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Please limit to One Page

Agency Name: _____

Executive Director: _____

Total Agency Budget: _____ Macon County Only Multi-County

Program Budget: _____ Estimated Program Request: _____

Program Name: _____

Applying for funding in:

Access to Healthcare Community Basics Youth Development

Agency Mission Statement:

Provide key demographic and other data to show the need in our community for the type of service your program provides (example: homeless population, drop out rate, unemployment rate).

Briefly describe your program:

A description of your expected outcomes and results in Macon County: