

Strategic Investment Grants Funding Philosophy and Guiding Principles FY23-25



HOMEUW is committed to honoring our donor dollars in all aspects of our work, especially the Strategic Investment Grants Process.

To encourage widespread participation and competitive access to HOMEUW Strategic Investment, applications will be accepted for Fast Track proposals. Program award requests can range between \$2,500-\$10,000. Approximately \$50,000 in funds are available to agencies serving resident of Somerset County.

Grant requests will not exceed 35% of a program's budget.

Heart of Maine United Way's Strategic Investment Grant decisions are made by a trained team of community volunteers. These funding decisions are based on:

- Demonstrated community needs
- Quality and strength of the application
- Alignment with HOMEUW Opportunity 2028 Bold Goals
- Geographic representation of clients served
- Generating impact for marginalized populations through a commitment to equity
- Organizational capacity
- Fiscal responsibility
- Measurable program results

In addition to the scope, strengths, and impact of each applicant as demonstrated in their application, volunteer reviewers will also consider the following when prioritizing applications:

- Collaborative efforts working to meet and address community needs
- Efforts to reduce duplication of existing programs
- Highest potential for positive impact, including but not limited to: geographic scope; ability to strengthen relationships or build new partnerships; potential to increase donor engagement and/or giving
- Existing community momentum around an issue or community need
- Ability to positively affect the population indicator of the Bold Goal(s)

This is a highly competitive process in which not all applicants will receive funding. When possible, it is the intent of HOMEUW to fully fund the requests of the highest scoring applicants with the greatest potential impact on Opportunity 2028 Bold Goals.

Funding recommendations are based on the overall score of each application as determined by the team of volunteer reviewers. Allocation amounts are then determined by the Community Impact Committee based on individual scores, overall impact, and available dollars.

Heart of Maine United Way believes diversity, equality and inclusion are vital to achieving our mission, living our values and advancing the common good. HOMEUW is committed to upholding these values as part of our Strategic Investment Grants process.

Programs with the greatest positive impact and strongest applications will be determined through the evaluation of our trained team of community volunteers. HOMEUW's Community Impact Committee will review the scoring and strategically determine final investment based on each program's impact towards each of the Opportunity 2028 Bold Goals, while also balancing geographic representation and promoting equity for marginalized populations.