

Innovative Programming Concept Proposal Process

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Innovative Programming Concept Proposal is for organizations within the community to introduce ideas for new or enhanced programming outside of the United Way's currently funded programs. The United Way Innovative Programming Concept Proposal would be used to evaluate the potential for a new or enhanced program or project that addresses the priority community areas of the aging population, financial stability or mental health.

AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

There are no grant funds connected to or associated directly with this process. Potential funding of new programs or projects will be considered after consideration of proposal ideas as part of the annual budget process.

ELIGIBILITY

Non-profit organizations, not for profit, government and for profit organizations are encouraged to submit an Innovative Programming Concept Proposal. Collaborations on proposals is strongly encouraged.

PROPOSAL CONTENT

Those seeking to propose program or project ideas with an Innovative Programming Concept Proposal should contact United Way of Portage County. If the programming is felt to be in line with the priorities of United Way, you will be asked to submit a white paper. The white paper should be no more than 2 pages and should include the following information:

- **How the programming aligns** to United Way identified priority areas of aging population, financial stability or mental health
- **Problem or issue** –Highlight the community need or problem your program is intended to address or the human condition your program seeks to change
- **Ideas for meeting the need or addressing the issue** – Provide a brief summary of how you will meet the need, address the problem or issue. If programming will use a collective or collaborative approach, the White Paper should identify potential collaborators
- **An estimated timeline** for implementation of programming
- **An estimated range of cost** for the program

White papers will initially be reviewed by the Director of Community Impact and the Executive Director of the United Way. If your white paper appears to be in alignment with the identified United Way priorities, and it appears to have the potential to demonstrate an innovative approach to an issue or problem, the white paper will be referred to the United Way Vision Council. If it is determined your white paper does not fit the criteria, you will be notified of this decision.

White papers that are referred for consideration to the Vision Council will be considered at the next regularly scheduled Vision Council meeting where the agenda allows for thorough consideration. The Vision Council will review the white paper no later than 90 days from the date of referral.

After the review of the White Paper by the Vision Council, they may recommend next steps, which could include a meeting with the Vision Council or designated committee, further development of the paper including a full proposal request, or referral to an Investment Team or other committee for further evaluation and consideration.