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UWEM is committed to honoring our donor dollars in all aspects of our work, especially the Community Investment Process.

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United Way of Eastern Maine Community Investment 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 UWEM Opportunity 2028 Bold Goals
- Geographic impact
- Organizational capacity
- Fiscal responsibility
- Measurable program results

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In addition to the scope, strengths, and impact of each applicant as demonstrated in their application, volunteer reviewers should 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)

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

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Grant requests cannot exceed \$50,000 or 35% of a program's budget.

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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. Final allocation amounts will be submitted for final approval by the UWEM Board of Directors.

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The United Way of Eastern Maine commits to funding partner programs for a period of three years.

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We believe the programs with the greatest positive impact and strongest applications will naturally determine where our funding is most needed in our community regardless of location or goal area. Therefore, there is no formula to determine funding amounts between Bold Goals, objectives, and/or counties.