

Investment Guidelines

- Spokane County United Way (SCUW) views its grantees as partners in addressing complex social needs and looks for opportunities to assist in building capacity, improving systems, and engaging volunteers.
- Funding is available for programs and general operational support addressing complex social needs defined by Vision 2020 and SCUW Investment Strategies for Education, Financial Stability and Health.
- In preparation for each funding cycle, priorities are reviewed and adjusted as needed.
- Funding is generally awarded as a two-year grant with a semiannual review of accomplishments and outcomes.
- As steward of donor funds, SCUW invests in organizations with sound financial practices.
- Generally, an organization may not receive both program support and operational support.

PROGRAM SUPPORT (Primary Focus of SCUW's Investments)	GENERAL OPERATION SUPPORT (Secondary Focus of SCUW's Investments)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support of a nonprofit organization's program that is aligned with one of SCUW's strategies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sustain or increase the capacity of existing quality programs. ▪ Launch innovative pilot projects addressing existing and emerging social needs. ▪ Support collaborative grants/networks targeted at a particular population or issue. • Funding for prevention and intervention programs, as both are critically important for long-term impact. • Use of SCUW funding is flexible within the scope of a funded program. • SCUW prefers not to be the sole funding source of a program. We encourage SCUW funds to leverage additional State, Federal and Private funding. • Focus on quality metrics and better-off outcomes (Results Based Accountability framework). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support of a nonprofit organization's mission rather than specific projects or programs. SCUW views general operating support as the working capital necessary to sustain organization's overall financial health. • Provided to local non-profits whose missions align with SCUW's Investment Strategies and when a partnership between SCUW and the organization is desired. • Use of SCUW funding is flexible and may be used at the discretion of the recipient non-profit. Funding may provide an opportunity to increase general operational capacity by investing in professional staff, staff development, delivery systems and organizational commitment to diversity, inclusion, and equity. • SCUW will work with grantee to define organizational outcome measures that help understand the impact of the grantee's work and the impact of SCUW funds.