

## STANDARDS OF PARTICIPATION

To qualify for funding from High Country United Way, an organization must meet the following basic criteria as the “minimum” standards:

- Legal Authorization:** The organization is duly incorporated as a non-profit organization or as a governmental agency. Non-profit organizations hold a valid determination of exemption from federal income tax issued by the IRS (501-c-3 or comparable non-profit status) and the NC Department of Revenue. Further, non-profit and governmental agencies must qualify for and have a current solicitation license issued by the NC Secretary of State, if required by law to possess such licensure.
- Memorandum of Agreement.** The relationship between High Country United Way and the organization or grantee shall be outlined in a written MOA when funding is granted.
- Board.** The organization has an active and responsible volunteer governing (or advisory) body that is broadly representative of the area it serves and which serves without compensation, holds regular meetings and exercises effective control.
- Purpose.** The organization has a legitimate purpose that meets a recognized need in the field of health and human service. Objectives of the organization both immediate and long range, should be clearly defined and the scope of the programs must involve a significant portion of the population in one, two, or all three of the counties – Avery, Mitchell, and Watauga.
- Representation.** The organization represents or will represent itself as a High Country United Way funded program partner when soliciting funds from the general public and general publicity.
- Programs.** The organization is expected to demonstrate that
  - a. it is meeting or will meet a community service need through the provision of timely, effective and efficient programs and/or services
  - b. it operates in all respects without discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, age, sexual orientation, national origin and physical or mental disability
  - c. it cooperates with other organizations both governmental and voluntary in eliminating unnecessary duplication of effort, in promotion economy and efficiency and in the development of new programs to meet human needs
  - d. HCUW grants are used solely for the programs intended and not used to supplant other programs' costs
- Financial.** The organization must maintain accounting records that conform to the current standard of accounting and financial reporting for non-profit organizations.
- Audit.** Agencies with budgets over \$300K must submit an audit every three years with a financial statement prepared by an independent CPA (compilation) submitted in the off years. Those organizations with budgets \$100k to \$299K must submit an audit, a CPA Review, or compilation. Organizations with budgets less than \$100K must submit an audit, a CPA review, or tax returns/internal financial statements. However, if said organization is required to have an audit by some other oversight group or is required by organization's Board of Directors, then the HCUW requires copy of said audit. The HCUW reserves the right to require an audit or CPA review of any organization considered for funding.