

United Way of Johnson County Funding Priorities for agency allocations

Recommendation from the Community Impact Committee on funding priorities for agency allocations

For a full history of changes to this document since its adoption in 2018, please see the “History” section at the end.

2027-2028 Update on Funding Priorities

The Community Impact Committee met on October 21, 2025 and proposed no changes to the current Funding Priorities for agency allocations for the 2027-2028 funding cycle.¹

Top priority

Funding: First and foremost, the allocations panel will review the effectiveness in which the agency utilized its prior year’s UWJC funding and how those services were delivered to the community. Reductions from the previous allocations may be made if the program/agency is not performing per review of the allocations panel. If funds are available and per review of the allocations panel, if the program/agency is:

1. providing impact/ outcomes, and
2. increasing numbers served, or is
3. developing a new program in the top priority area

then the program/agency, COULD receive increases in funding compared to prior years. Note: Percent of increase in allocation is based on performance, effectiveness, and increase in services; and if funds are available.

Funding for programs in the areas below are open to programs serving all populations, including youth, families, adults and seniors.

Childcare for low income: Programs/agencies that provide all day, before and after school

Chronic poverty: Programs/agencies that provide case management to help overcome chronic poverty.

Financial Stability: Programs/agencies that provide services to those that were stable but that have been negatively impacted by a crisis in order for the individual/family to regain self-sufficiency. Funding for programming could include: case management; financial assistance; budgeting; employment enhancements; and housing affordability.

Homelessness: Programs/agencies that provide assistance to those that are homeless and meet the No Place to Call Home Criteria. Program or agency must be a part of the No Place to Call Home initiative or agree to participate in the No Place to Call Home initiative.

Mental Health: Programs/agencies that provide direct services for those suffering from mental health conditions caused by either physiological or external factors. This category also includes

¹ This was proposal was adopted by the board of United Way of Johnson County at their meeting on November 6, 2025.

substance abuse disorder and **violence prevention and intervention**. These are defined below:

Substance Abuse Disorder: Programs/agencies that address prevention and intervention of substance abuse disorder, especially among youth.

Violence prevention and intervention: Child abuse: Programs/agencies that address prevention and intervention of child abuse, physical and emotional. Domestic violence: Programs/agencies that address prevention and intervention of domestic violence, (physical and emotional,) including transitional housing.

Mental Health: Programs/agencies that provide direct services for those with clinically diagnosed mental illness.

Transportation: Programs/agencies that provide public transportation to individuals seeking the following services/needs: such as employment; medical; and social services.

Second priority

Funding: First and foremost, the allocations panel will review the effectiveness in which the agency utilized its prior years UWJC funding and how those services were delivered to the community. Reductions from the previous allocations may be made if the program/agency is not performing per review of the allocations panel. If funds are available and per review of the allocations panel, if the program/agency is:

1. providing outcomes, and
2. increasing numbers served,

then the program/agency, COULD receive a SMALL increase in funding (no more than cost of living) compared to prior years. Note: Percent of increase in allocation is based on performance, effectiveness, and increase in services; and if funds are available.

Funding for new programs in this priority area will only be considered for those programs in a UWJC Assessment Focus Area, and only as funds are available.

Senior services: Programs/agencies that provide ongoing support to seniors including social, educational, recreational and physical activities.

Short-term assistance: Programs/agencies that provide direct assistance to individuals and families to ensure prevention of displacement. Provide funding to the following areas: rental assistance; emergency housing, transitional housing, utility assistance, mortgage assistance; clothing; and immediate relief in the event of a disaster.

Teaching youth healthy interpersonal relationships: Programs/agencies that provide education to youth on healthy interpersonal relationships.

Tutoring: Programs/agencies that facilitate tutoring programs for K-12 students. Tutoring should be primarily focused on math and reading instruction that matches students' academic needs and aims for their grade level learning targets. Tutoring should build confidence in students' ability to succeed in school. Funding should be used for existing clients by matching them with outside tutoring programs. **New programs are accepted in this area.**

History of changes to the Funding Priorities from 2020-2021 allocations to 2025-2026 allocations

At its meeting on November 27, 2018 the Agency Relations Committee recommended the following become the funding priorities for the agency allocations process.

2019 Update on Funding Priorities:

The 2019 allocations process for 2020-2021 funding utilized the revised funding priorities for the first time. All current United Way of Johnson County agencies were able to apply for funds in one or more of the priority levels. Allocations volunteers did not recommend any changes to the funding priorities during the allocation evaluation process. It is for these reasons that the Agency Relations Committee recommended at its November 1, 2019, meeting to continue the below funding priorities.

2020 Update on Funding Priorities:

The Funding Priorities approved by the Agency Relations Committee and Board of Directors in November 2019 were used for the 2021-2022 allocations process. Panel chairs and panel members were trained for agency site visits and allocation reviews to take place in March and April 2020. Due to COVID-19, only two site visits could be completed. The Agency Relations Committee first tried to reschedule and ultimately ended up cancelling the site visits. The Panel Chairs then met 3 times to review agency documents, ask additional questions and make a final recommendation for 2021-2022 funding.

Because we did not utilize allocation volunteers this year, we do not have any feedback from them on the funding priorities below or updating or changing priorities for the next allocations cycle.

At the November 16, 2020, Agency Relations Committee meeting, the committee recommended the development of a new funding priority level to be named Emergency Intervention Priority. Recognizing that United Way of Johnson County has responded to at least 3 disasters in our community in the last 10 years, the committee feels that flexibility in responding to these disasters is needed as it relates to UWJC funding priorities. The Emergency Intervention Priority will allow UWJC to elevate a priority if needed to respond to the long-term impacts of a disaster, whether natural, economic, health-related or man-made. Each year, the agency relations committee will evaluate and make adjustments or additions to the needs of the Emergency Intervention Priority area.

2021 Update on Funding Priorities:

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the allocations process in 2021 for 2022-2023 funding took place virtually, including training, site visits and panel deliberations. Panel were smaller in 2021 to allow for more participation virtually. Feedback from panel members was positive about the process. Panel volunteers did not recommend any changes to priority levels. No agencies applied for funds in the new Emergency Intervention Priority area for the 2022-2023 funding cycle.

Emergency Intervention Priority

Funding: First and foremost, the allocations panel will review the effectiveness in which the agency utilized its prior year's UWJC funding and how those services were delivered to the community. Agencies applying for new funding or an increase in funding in this category must show how they arrive at the anticipated need for increased or new funding to assist individuals in the community. Requests for increased or new funds for an Emergency Intervention priority will be based on the agency's ability to show the need for services, previous performance of the agency, effectiveness and ability to manage an increase in services as well as if funds are available.

2023-2024 Update on Funding Priorities

The Agency Relations Committee is recommending no category be elevated in the Emergency Intervention Priority. No applications will be considered under this priority level.

The Agency Relations Committee voted via email in January 2022 to present the following funding priorities to the United Way of Johnson County Board of Directors for approval. The United Way of Johnson County Board of Directors approved the funding priorities as listed below at their meeting on January 13, 2022.

2025-2026 Update on Funding Priorities

The Agency Relations Committee, at their meeting on October 25, 2023, recommends to the board the following updates to funding priorities for the 2024-2025 Allocations process for the 2025-2026 funding:

- 1) Mental Health be placed as a "top priority", and substance abuse disorder and violence prevention and intervention be placed as subsets of this priority.
- 2) Tutoring be added as second priority.

The Agency Relations Committee recommends all other funding priorities be adopted as written below.

2026-2027 Update on Funding Priorities

The Agency Relations Committee, at their meeting on October 7, 2024, recommends to the board no changes to the Funding Priorities.