

Understanding the Process

The Community Investment Committee is comprised of volunteers representing a cross section of the community from the parishes of Allen, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron and Jefferson Davis. The Committee assists in deciding the most effective way to distribute United Way of Southwest Louisiana campaign funds. It is the committee's responsibility to ensure that each donor's campaign contributions are invested in closely-monitored, local programs that truly benefit the needs of the Southwest Louisiana community.

The volunteers from the committee are divided into groups; each is based on one of the four United Way of Southwest Louisiana impact areas - Education, Financial Stability, Health and Basic Needs. These groups are referred to as Impact Councils. Each Council includes a Chair, Co-Chair and United Way staff member. Each Council will visit their assigned agencies to evaluate their program's effectiveness. During the on-site visit, agencies will give a presentation explaining their programs, services and investment of United Way funds. Council members are encouraged to ask questions regarding the agency and their programs.

Duties Include:

- Attend orientation meeting, usually 1/2, day in January (Finance Committee) or March (Program Committee) to get acquainted with other volunteers and staff who are participating in the community investment process including those who will be reviewing the same programs. Volunteers will receive necessary program and budget information on each assigned program, including links to the online application software.
- Review and learn about the requesting agency, its clients, mission and program in detail, including budget information.
- Attend and participate in an agency site visit, for each program assigned. Each visit should last 1-2 hours and will be scheduled within a 1-3 day period, depending on individual schedules. Volunteers are encouraged to understand the agency's governing boards, policies, budget and program information.
- Evaluate each program online utilizing United Way's ecimpact program.
- Attend the recommendation meeting in May(usually 1/2 day) where each program will be presented by the reviewing Impact Council to the entire Community Investment Committee for consideration of funding. A recommendation from the United Way Board of Directors will be the result of the meeting.
- Keep materials, findings and matters discussed *confidential*.

Time Requirements: Approximately 20-30 hours from January - June for Finance Committee members or March - June for Program Committee members including training, travel, council meetings and agency visits.

Conflict of Interest: Persons associated with an agency receiving or seeking United Way funding should disclose this to United Way staff. No person may serve on the Community Investment Committee if they or a member of their immediate family are employed by or is currently serving on the Board of Directors of any agency that is currently receiving or seeking a grant from United Way of SWLA.

MAKE CHANGE HAPPEN

Each year, United Way of Southwest Louisiana relies on the generous help of our volunteers. Impact Council volunteers provide critical support to our community investment process. Impact Councils are multi-sector collaborations of non-profit, government and business leaders who are issue experts in the area of **Education, Financial Stability, Health & Basic Needs**. Impact Councils report to the Community Investment Committee, a standing committee of the United Way Board of Directors.

IMPACT COUNCIL VOLUNTEERS ASSIST UNITED WAY BY...

- Evaluating the effectiveness and alignment of current community investments (funding)
- Actively participate in the allocation process by reviewing, scoring and ranking programs based on alignment and program performance
- Recommending program investments to the Community Investment Committee (CIC)
- Serving as an advocate for United Way

HOW YOU BENEFIT

- Be a Community Impact leader
- Deepen awareness of community issues, needs and resources
- Develop your personal skills
- Increase your visibility in the community

When we partner with United Way of Southwest Louisiana, together, we can do great things. We can reach people that we may never be able to reach on our own. It is important to **LIVE UNITED** so that we can do our part in helping more people and making our community a better place to live.”

Jason Guidry
CITGO Petroleum Corporation

WHAT MAKES A GREAT IMPACT COUNCIL VOLUNTEER?

- Issue expertise and intellectual curiosity to deepen knowledge about community issues
- Passion for working with the community
- Good verbal communication and analytic skills
- Understanding of measurable outcomes and community impact
- Ability to commit 20-30 hours per year for committee meetings, application review and research

BE A PART OF THE CHANGE!

Contact Dana Redburn at dredburn@unitedwayswla.org to learn more about volunteering on a United Way Impact Council.

GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.

Help ensure the high standard of stewardship our donors expect.

Join the dedicated group of individuals from throughout Southwest Louisiana who make up the United Way of Southwest Louisiana Community Investment Committee. Our volunteers are entrusted with reviewing the services provided by United Way agency partners, carefully considering the needs for those services in our community and analyzing the impact of United Way funding in meeting those needs.

The term for the Community Investment Committee runs from January through May of each year. Ideal volunteers should have a strong desire to make an impact in Southwest Louisiana and the flexibility to attend a few weekday meetings. By being a part of this committee, you are helping United Way to ensure fiscal and program accountability.

Community Investment Committee

Name: _____

Organization/Company: _____ Title: _____

Mailing Address: _____
P.O. Box or Street City, State and Zip Code

Email: _____

Office #: _____ Cell #: _____ Fax #: _____

I am interested in serving on the following Impact Council(s):
 Education Financial Stability Health Basic Needs No Preference

If you have a professional background in accounting, do you wish to serve in a financial capacity on the committee? *Please provide resumé supporting financial experience.*
 Yes No

Do you have a conflict of interest (or volunteer in any capacity) for any agency receiving or applying for United Way funding?
 Yes No

If yes, please explain: _____

Please note: No person may serve on the Community Investment Committee if they or a member of their immediate family are employed by or is currently serving on the Board of Directors of any agency that is currently receiving or seeking a grant from United Way of SWLA. Please call our office if clarification is needed.

Tentative dates for meetings and/or agency visits are as follows:

Finance Committee

Jan. 31, 2017 - Finance Committee Orientation
 Feb. 15, 2017 - Finance Committee Meeting
 Feb. 23, 2017 - Finance Committee Review Complete
 May 5, 2017 - Community Impact Council Recommendation Meeting

Program Committee

March 8, 2017 - Program Committee Orientation
 March 27 - April 14, 2017 - Site Visits
 May 5, 2017 - Community Impact Council Recommendation Meeting

Please return this form by fax to 337-433-3679, mail to United Way of SWLA 815 Ryan Street, Lake Charles, Louisiana 70601 or by email to dredburn@unitedwayswla.org.