

United Way of Monroe County

Nondiscrimination Policy

United Way of Monroe County [UW] maintains a policy of nondiscrimination for all persons seeking access to services, employment, or volunteer opportunities at UW or member agencies' UW-funded programs. UW and its member agencies' UW programs shall not discriminate against a current or potential client, applicant, employee, member, volunteer or participant on the basis of race, color, marital or familial status, religion, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, nationality, age, ethnicity, disability, Vietnam War-era veteran status or any legally prohibited classification.

UW is firmly committed to the policy of affording equal participation to all persons in the services funded by UW and to equal opportunities for employees, volunteers, and applicants for employment and volunteer positions within UW and the programs it funds. Waivers to this policy of nondiscrimination must be requested in writing, conform to the current compliance criteria, and be reviewed and accepted by UW's Board of Directors. Member agency status and/or funding by UW is contingent upon continual compliance with the nondiscrimination policy.

Compliance Process

Member agencies will be required annually to sign and submit the UW Statement of Nondiscrimination for either its agency or its UW-funded programs. Agency leaders should carefully review the UW nondiscrimination policy to determine if the agency or UW-funded programs are in compliance. Waivers may be requested according to the procedure below. If the agency/program is to be certified, the Statement of Nondiscrimination, with any waiver requests, must be filed by deadlines in accordance with the certification process.

Waiver Process

1. The agency sends the UW Executive Director a written statement identifying the exact type of waiver requested and the reason for their request, along with supporting documentation (preferably based on independent research).

We expect that most waivers will fall into the following categories:

A. *Legally Restricted Funds*

Certain agencies receive a majority of their total funding from sources that are obligated by federal or state funding law to support programs restricted to a particular targeted population. The agency must provide a copy of the funding source's documentation explaining the specific restriction.

B. *Age, Gender or Target Population Restrictions*

Certain agencies are restricted to a particular age group, gender or target population. The basis for restrictions is that persons outside the age, gender and target population cannot receive significant benefits from the program and/or services designed to meet the underserved needs of a specific population. The agency must demonstrate that services could not be effectively provided if the excluded portion of the community were included.

C. *Agency Personnel and Volunteers*

It may be appropriate for staff, volunteers, and members of the agency's governing body to reflect the targeted population. However, good cause as determined by the Board must be shown as to why a restrictive policy for these positions is required. The agency must have a committee of unrestricted membership to make recommendations to the agency on the use of funds provided by UW.

D. *Special Circumstances as determined by the UW Board*

2. UW staff reviews the agency's request for specific waivers to the Statement of Nondiscrimination. Staff will forward its recommendations to the Agency Relations Committee, which will then issue recommendations to the Executive Committee.
3. The agency will receive written notice within two weeks after the Executive Committee meeting as to whether or not the application for a waiver is approved. Approved waivers will be kept on file for use in subsequent years by agencies that have not changed their program services and/or membership, volunteer or employment policies.
4. If the waiver is not approved, the agency has ten working days from the date on the written notice of denial to submit a request for an appeal hearing before the UW Board or a committee appointed by the Board. UW will schedule a hearing within thirty days and will notify the agency of the date and time of the hearing. The agency may be represented by up to five persons, which must include the agency's Board Chair/Chief Volunteer Officer [CVO] and Executive Director/Chief Professional Officer [CPO]. The UW Board will notify the agency in writing of its ruling on the appeal within ten working days of the hearing.

Policy Noncompliance

If a member agency's UW-funded program appears, whether through a complaint or other form, to be in noncompliance with its signed Statement of Nondiscrimination, the matter may be investigated in the following manner:

- A. All complaints concerning member agencies in noncompliance with the nondiscrimination policy, whether verbal or in writing, must be directed initially to the UW Executive Director for intake and assessment.
- B. UW staff will document the complaint and inform the complainant that the matter will be reviewed. The complainant will also be informed that he/she may be offered the opportunity to appear before the Agency Relations Committee, if necessary, to address the issues related to the complaint.
- C. If warranted, staff will notify the agency in question within one week after receipt of the complaint that a complaint has been received and will request a written response. The agency's written response will be filed with the complaint. The agency will be informed that its response is being forward to the Agency Relations Committee for review and action.
- D. Staff will submit a written assessment of the complaint and forward it to the Agency Relations Committee.
- E. The Agency Relations Committee may schedule a meeting with the agency. The agency may be represented by up to five persons, which must include its Board Chair/CVO and Executive Director/CPO.
- F. The Agency Relations Committee will review and take action in accordance with the UW bylaws, which could include, but is not limited to, recommending:
 - a. Dropping the matter because the agency is in compliance with the policy; the complaint is not valid;
 - b. Accepting the agency's proposed action plan to comply with the policy;
 - c. Withholding UW funds until the agency makes the proposed operational/policy changes; or
 - d. Terminating funding to the agency immediately or at a specified time in the future, but allowing the agency to remain a member of UW.
 - e. Decertifying and defunding the agency immediately or at a specified time in the future. ("Defunding" means that the agency will no longer receive Undesignated Funds, but will still receive funds designated by donors.)
- G. The Agency Relations Committee will forward a recommendation to the Executive Committee for review. This will go to the Board for final action. The agency will be notified within ten days of the Board's decision.

September 19, 2000
name updated 2006

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Statement of Nondiscrimination

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_____ Our agency already has a waiver on file with UW.

_____ Our agency is requesting waivers as follows:

I certify that the practices of _____ (organization/program), with any waivers requested above, conform to the Statement of Nondiscrimination.

Date

Executive Director/CPO

Board Chair/CVO

For office use only: