

***For Immediate Release***

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## **United Way Funding Process Set to Begin**

United Way of Southwest Wyoming (UWSW) will be accepting letters of intent (LOI) for one-year grants for the 2010-2011 funding process from any tax exempt organization that serves residents in Lincoln, Sublette, Sweetwater or Uinta Counties.

An informational meeting for organizations wanting to apply will be held in each county. Lincoln County meetings will take place on Dec. 21, 2009 at 12 o'clock in the afternoon at Lincoln Self Reliance, 1038 S. Washington, Afton, Wyo. and at five o'clock in the evening at the Lincoln County Library, 519 Emerald St., Kemmerer, Wyo.

Sublette County's meeting will be held Dec. 15, 2009 at 12 o'clock in the afternoon at the 4-H Extension office, 621 S. Pine, Pinedale, Wyo.

Sweetwater County's meeting will be held on December 16, 2009 at 12 o'clock in the afternoon at the White Mountain Library Grace Gasson Room.

Uinta County's will be held on Dec. 17, 2009 at 12 o'clock in the afternoon in the BOCES Education Center conference room, 1013 West Cheyenne Dr. Suite A., Evanston, Wyo.

"I strongly encourage any organization wanting to apply for funding this year to attend a meeting," said Kathy Tacke, United Way of Southwest Wyoming director of community impact, who will be heading up the meeting. "We will cover the funding timeline; criteria and requirement to apply including audits, non-profit status and organization outcomes; letters of intent, application overview and changes from 2009; reporting process and format; and will have a question and answer session."

Interested organizations need to submit a hard-copy, one-page LOI to United Way of Southwest Wyoming no later than Jan. 15, 2010 by 5 p.m.; no faxes or e-mails will be accepted. Additional pages will be discarded and will lead to disqualification. Letters need to be on letterhead 8 inches by 11 inches that can be fed through an automatic feed photocopier. The letter should explain how the organization's program(s) align

with United Way's priority areas as outlined in United Way's Agenda for Change. Specific Agenda for Change goals can be found on United Way's website, [www.swunitedwy.org](http://www.swunitedwy.org). Funding will be directed to programs, services, strategies and collaborations that will address short and long-term goals in three specific areas – education, income and health.

While the United Way will continue to significantly invest in a wide array of programs and services, funding will primarily be focused on achieving Agenda outcomes. "This funding system further supports the Agenda for Change, which serves as United Way's blueprint for creating sustained community change that measurably improves people's lives," Tacke.

Investing in children and youth to help them become healthy and productive citizens, developing a safe and healthy community through partnerships, and providing quality services to support independent living are the missions of the Agenda for Change. Organizations submitting a LOI should state how their program(s) meet at least one of the following program outcomes:

- decrease teen parenthood
- provide additional quality and affordable child care
- before and/or after school educational opportunities
- form partnerships to create available and safe transitional housing
- educate residents on how to be financially stable
- create additional healthcare options for all ages (including prescriptions)
- ensure that residents have adequate access to reliable methods of transportation
- provide a central intake system that directs individuals to the appropriate community program based upon their needs

"United Way looks forward to working with any organization that produces long-term changes that align with these goals. The letter of intent process will allow us to gain a better understanding of the types of programs that seek funding, the conditions that exist in various communities, and how those conditions will be addressed to create opportunities for a better tomorrow," said Suzanne Zutter, United Way executive director.

Applicants will be contacted regarding their eligibility status on Jan. 29, 2010. Organizations that submit a letter of intent that meets United Way criteria will need to submit a hard copy request for proposal no later than 5 o'clock in the evening on March 5, 2010; no faxes or e-mails will be accepted.

For more information about the LOI/Agenda for Change process (including guidelines and application deadlines) contact Kathy Tacke at 307-362-5003, or [community@swunitedway.org](mailto:community@swunitedway.org). Letters of intent can be mailed or delivered to United Way of Southwest Wyoming, 404 N St., Ste. 301, Rock Springs.

