



United Way
of York Region

An Overview of the Community Review Process

- Community Review is the process by which volunteers recommend levels of funding for United Way member agencies and ensure that donor dollars are spent in response to the current and emerging human service needs of the community as efficiently and effectively as possible.
- Each panel consists of five to six volunteers who are selected and placed based upon their interest and knowledge of human services and needs, community experience and areas of expertise. We are striving to place volunteers in such a way that each panel represents a cross-section of backgrounds including business, professional, labour and the community-at-large and a reflective balance of gender and diverse ethno-cultural groups.
- Each panel is chaired by an experienced panel volunteer and all panels include one volunteer with financial expertise and a member of the United Way of York Region (“UWYR”) Community Investment Committee.
- Each member agency is assigned to one Community Review Panel. Agencies are grouped by category of service, geographic area and/or funding priorities addressed by the proposed programs, with two to three agencies assigned to each panel.
- United Way Community Investment staff assist in the planning and coordination of the Community Review process. Their role is to provide volunteers with the documentation and assistance necessary to make informed funding recommendations.
- Member agencies are reviewed annually, bi-annually or tri-annually according to their overall assessment rating. Reviews involve a thorough examination of program and financial information included in each agency’s submission and an interview with senior agency staff and volunteers.
- Panel volunteers review agency requests for funding according to set allocation policies, priorities and criteria and make an allocation recommendation for each agency. All recommendations go to the Community Investment Committee for review and final funding recommendations are presented to the UWYR Board of Directors for approval.