

United Way changes distribution to nonprofits

Nearly half of current agencies will no longer receive money; others will get a different amount from last year.



By Andrea Ball
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Nearly half the local nonprofits that currently receive money from the United Way Capital Area — including People's Community Clinic, Austin Children's Shelter and Caritas — won't be funded in 2008.

The United Way Capital Area announced today that 21 of its 44 partner agencies were not awarded grants for 2008-09. Of the 23 that will be funded, 12 agencies received more money than last year and 10 got less. One agency's award remained the same.

Those that were not funded will receive transition money. Today's announcement has been anticipated by nonprofits for months after the United Way said it planned to focus its efforts on education, financial stability and health.

"People are going to be sleeping on the streets that weren't sleeping there last year," said Dan Pruett president of Meals on Wheels and More, whose funding was cut \$50,000. "You can count on it."

Fourteen new agencies — including Breakthrough and Ebenezer Child Development Center — received money for the first time.

In all, the United Way will fund 47 programs from 36 nonprofits.

"I feel a heavy heart, but I feel a great excitement for moving forward," said United Way executive director David Balch.

For years, the agency, which acts as a workplace fundraiser for nonprofits across Central Texas, has doled out money to charities providing a wide spectrum of services. Over the past few decades, the United Way has funded everything from homeless programs to disaster services.

Now, United Way leaders say they want to target long-term efforts that attack the root causes of poverty. Education, financial stability and health programs do just that, Balch said.

Some of the 14 newly funded programs include: Businesses Invest in Growth Inc., which will receive \$100,000; Goodwill Industries of Central Texas, \$130,000; Ebenezer Child Development Center, \$90,000; and WorkSource Board, \$75,000.

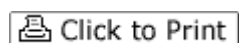
Four of the 21 agencies that won't get United Way money did not apply for it. The other 17 applied but didn't win grants, including The Arc of the Capital Area, which currently receives \$120,000; Austin Children's Shelter, \$47,000; Caritas of Austin, \$72,500; and People's Community Clinic, \$105,000.

Of the 23 that will get continued funding, 12 received more money, including Foundation Communities, which went from \$30,000 to \$170,000; Communities in School, \$115,868 to \$410,000; and Austin Habitat for Humanity, \$45,000 to \$100,000.

Ten others will receive less money, including the Salvation Army, which will see its United Way money drop from \$270,000 to \$65,000; SafePlace Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Survival Center, \$233,520 to \$89,000; and Volunteer Healthcare Clinic Inc., \$105,000 to \$59,520.

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