

Major Grant Guidelines



- The mission of the Baird & Warner Good Will Network is to provide human service assistance to the communities we serve, with a focus on shelter, particularly for families and children.
- Our geographic focus is the Chicago metropolitan area with an emphasis on the city of Chicago where the greatest need is concentrated. Every effort should be made to have all of the Baird & Warner geographic regions periodically represented by at least one grantee organization.
- Our funding should positively impact individuals, with the goal of improving their quality of life through providing temporary shelter and/or services that help them obtain and retain permanent shelter.
- To maximize our impact, we will fund a limited number of projects (2-4) annually. Each year we will make one major grant and several smaller ones. Organizations receiving the larger grants are vetted through a nomination process. In the fall of each year, Baird & Warner branch offices can nominate organizations that meet the criteria of the B&W Good Will Network. These nominations are reviewed and decided upon by the B&W Good Will Network board of advisors at its 4th quarter meeting.
- Baird & Warner employee involvement with the recipient organization is important, but not essential.
- Collaboration with one or more funders on our smaller grants is viable, but we would like to be the major, but not necessarily the sole, donor on our large grant.
- Visibility for Baird & Warner is an essential criteria for our large grant.
- We would like to provide seed capital for programs while recipients are establishing other funding sources. We do not want an organization to become dependent upon our contributions for ongoing operations. Therefore, repeat giving should be limited to two and on occasion, three years.
- All agencies must be 501(c)(3) non-profit corporations.