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United Way cuts funding for Columbus Urban League

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COLUMBUS, GA (WTVM) - The Urban League in Columbus is scraping the bottom of the barrel when it comes to money, according to the Director Reginald Pugh.

He says donations are down and now they've taken a \$125,000 hit, after the United Way cut off its contributions.

"The Urban League and the United Way have been working together for a long time and to just up and cut our funding. I have a problem with that," says Pugh.

Pugh believes the decision was political and had more to do with personal opinions.

"We're upset about it, but there's nothing we can do about it now. I don't agree with the reasons or rationale for not funding us," he adds.

We spoke with the President of United Way in Columbus.

Scott Ferguson tells us, the Urban League did not meet the criteria to receive United Way funding.

"You have to be filling a need in the community and be able to demonstrate that. You have to show you are changing lives and you have to be good stewards of the communities money and the requirements weren't fully met," he says.

The Urban League provides employment services as well as housing, counseling and other programs.

Yvonne O'Conner says she came to the Urban League when her home was in danger of being foreclosed.

"I heard about the Urban League and I took a class and got educated," says O'Conner.

O'Conner says the Urban League was able to help get her interest rate and payments lowered and now she's back on track.

"I want to say positively, the United Way is committed to the mission and vision of the Urban League. I look forward to working with Reggie and their board to help them refocus on that mission," says Ferguson.



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