

Gift Assessment and Funding the Advancement of UMSSW

To aid our advancement efforts and to follow the best practices in university development, the University of Maryland School of Social Work (UMSSW), as approved by the UMB Foundation Board of Trustees, has established a 6 percent gift assessment on all gifts and pledges. Below, we answer some of the frequently asked questions regarding the gift assessment.

The University of Maryland School of Social Work is a successful – and state funded – school. Why do you need to generate additional funding? Though UMSSW is a state institution, only a small percentage of our budget is funded by the state. We depend on tuition, fees, grants, and private philanthropy to keep the School operational. The State of Maryland and the University of Maryland, Baltimore are faced with serious budget challenges. The gift assessment funds UMSSW's integral development and alumni relations operation that works to ensure the School is able to obtain essential funds for scholarships, community programs, research, and faculty support, as well as provide robust programming and opportunities for our more than 14,000 alumni.

What is the gift assessment? A one-time fee of 6 percent is assessed on contributions to UMSSW. The 6 percent will be allocated to a fund that will support the operations of the Office of Development and Alumni Relations.

Have other universities taken this approach to funding advancement? A gift assessment exists at many universities across the country. Most gift assessment rates range from 5 to 25 percent. Schools within the University of Maryland, Baltimore began assessing gifts in 2013. UMSSW began assessments in 2016.

How does this affect MY gift? Donors receive credit for the full amount of their gifts, and donors will be notified that a portion of their gift received has been allocated to cover the cost of fundraising.

Are any gifts exempt from the assessment? Yes. Some exceptions include:

- Grants and sponsored research
- Sponsorships and event fees
- Gifts in kind
- Maryland Charity and United Way donations
- Payments on pledges, including planned gifts, executed prior to January 31st, 2016

Other questions? We'd be happy to discuss the gift assessment with you. Please contact the Office of Development and Alumni Relations at 410-706-0006.