

Join Connect U

Connect U is United Way's 9-week program for young professionals to engage with community leaders & subject experts, develop philanthropic leadership skills & make lasting relationships.

Through a variety of educational and experiential sessions, participants will better understand the mission and purpose of United Way and other human service nonprofit agencies, the critical role of leaders in community problem-solving, how basic human needs are met in the region and why volunteerism is vital to nonprofits.



UNITED WAY
of Southwestern
Pennsylvania



The Sessions:

When: Spring of 2025. Sessions will be held weekly, with most on Tuesday evenings from 4-6 p.m.

Where: Sessions will be held in-person at local agency partners across our five-county region and our Pittsburgh office.

What: Each session will cover vital subject matter related to complex human service issues. You'll get a behind-the-scenes look at the services that local nonprofits provide to our community, a deep dive into the populations that these agencies serve and learn how United Way is working to help all people in our community has access to all the resources they need to thrive.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

WEEK 1: Navigating the human services landscape
Feb. 11, 2025

WEEK 2: 211 Experience
Feb. 18, 2025, subject to change

WEEK 3: Funding for change
Feb. 25, 2025

WEEK 4: Equity in action
Mar. 4, 2025

WEEK 5: Basic needs focus
Mar. 11, 2025

WEEK 6: Education focus
Mar. 18, 2025

WEEK 7: Financial stability focus
Mar. 25, 2025

WEEK 8: Project work & marketing
Apr. 1, 2025

WEEK 9: Graduation
Apr. 8, 2025



Interested in joining the 2025 Connect U cohort? Scan the QR code to submit an interest form.



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Connect U frequently asked questions:

Who are the participants?

The Spring 2025 participants will be Next Gen Circle Ambassadors, who are emerging leaders in their industry and share a common desire to make our region a more equitable place for everyone.

Why participate?

This experience provides unique opportunities to visit highly impactful local agencies, see their facilities, and hear from their staff first-hand about their work. You'll also have the chance to develop new relationships that can provide both professional opportunities and meaningful friendships built on your shared passion of community advancement.

Not only will you have the chance to learn more about local nonprofits, but you'll also get to delve into the work of United Way of Southwestern PA. You will be visiting agencies that receive grants from United Way, that help members of our community meet basic needs, move to financial stability and build for success in school and life.

What do former Connect U participants think of their participation?

"The Connect U program in the fall of 2022 met and surpassed my expectations... The variety of classroom presentations, visits to support organizations and the ability to participate in a volunteer project kept the weekly sessions interesting and eye-opening."

"I thought traveling to the different locations was going to be a hassle, but that turned out to be the best part of Connect U. It was great seeing these organizations, meeting their leaders, and learning how they operate on their home turf."

"Connect U was a tremendous opportunity to see the United Way in action and learn about the many needs of our Western Pennsylvania communities."

Will my company know I am participating?

Yes - United Way will connect with your employer to alert them of your participation. They will be informed that you'll need occasional work hour accommodations to travel to various agencies across our five-county region.

Is there a fee associated with this program?

Connect U is open to all Next Gen Ambassador members. There is no additional fee for Connect U.

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To learn more or register for Connect U, contact Allaina Wagner at
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