

How we invest in a brighter future for our community.



United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania is committed to creating long-lasting change for the betterment of our community through strategic investments in programs, services and community collaboratives.



UNITED WAY
of Southwestern
Pennsylvania

unitedwayswpa.org/our-impact



United Way provides funding to partner agencies running direct service programs that help individuals and families meet their basic needs, move toward financial stability and build success for school and life. We engage with stakeholders across the community. Their insights inform our advocacy efforts to change critical policies and systems so that everyone can thrive.



MEETING BASIC NEEDS

Individuals and families have greater opportunity when they have access to nutritious food, a safe place to live, and community resources that help them thrive.

WHAT OUR COMMUNITIES NEED

- Basic needs — such as food and safe affordable housing — are the foundation of well-being and make it possible for individuals and families to have happiness and success.
- The ability to get to school and work, pay for utilities and rent and fund necessary home repairs keeps families on track and out of financial crisis.
- A strong network of community support positively impacts physical, mental and emotional health and helps older adults live meaningful lives.
- When families are strong and safe, they can then fulfill their dreams of education, good jobs and healthy relationships.

SOLUTIONS-BASED STRATEGIES

United Way invests in partners committed to:

- Addressing food insecurity and providing access to nutritious food.
- Helping individuals and families access safe and secure housing through programs that provide shelter, prevent eviction, support home repairs and offer utility assistance.
- Providing access to reliable transportation.
- Addressing social isolation for older adults by promoting connection and community.
- Offering safety and support to survivors of intimate partner violence.



MOVING TO FINANCIAL STABILITY

People who earn a living wage and have access to resources that build wealth are able to fulfill their potential and achieve financial freedom.

WHAT OUR COMMUNITIES NEED

- Meaningful work helps all people — regardless of age, disability, ethnicity or gender — have pride and confidence that they can support themselves and their families.
- Affordable child care and transportation allows people to find and sustain good jobs that advance their goals and help them become vital contributors to their community.
- Awareness of and access to financial education and asset-building opportunities transforms the lives of working families.
- Pathways to wealth, such as homeownership and entrepreneurship, empower families to reach their financial goals.

SOLUTIONS-BASED STRATEGIES

United Way invests in partners committed to:

- Connecting people to skill-building and career development programs and working with employers to ensure that all workers are positioned to achieve job success.
- Providing access to safe and reliable child care, transportation and other resources that makes meaningful employment possible.
- Offering opportunities for people to increase knowledge, skills and assets through financial education and empowerment.
- Helping working families move from surviving to thriving by promoting two-generation approaches that meet the needs of children and their adults to foster academic and career success.



BUILDING FOR SUCCESS IN SCHOOL AND LIFE

All young people deserve the chance to have a positive start toward adulthood, to learn and succeed to the level of their educational ability and reach their full potential in life.

WHAT OUR COMMUNITIES NEED

- Children entering kindergarten need the preparation and foundational skills to succeed in school and life.
- Access to safe, affordable and educational out-of-school time programming builds on skills learned at school and instills a lifelong love of learning.
- Students, regardless of race or ability, thrive when educational programs help them achieve college and career readiness.
- Programs and services that help children and youth overcome mental, emotional and educational challenges.

SOLUTIONS-BASED STRATEGIES

United Way invests in partners committed to:

- Providing affordable, high-quality early childhood educational opportunities that foster early literacy development, prepare children for kindergarten, and support the entire family so they can grow and learn together.
- Working with school districts and community-based organizations to provide positive out-of-school time opportunities that keep young people engaged and help them retain what they have learned.
- Providing a wide variety of career, trade school and college-readiness support to students and families who live in communities that have historically experienced underinvestment.
- Supporting resiliency and mental health so that students at all grade levels can succeed in school and beyond.



STRENGTHENING NONPROFIT CAPACITY

Strong nonprofit organizations are essential to strong communities. When organizations have access to the resources, knowledge, partnerships and support systems needed to thrive, they are better positioned to respond to community challenges, innovate and deliver lasting impact.

WHAT OUR COMMUNITIES NEED

- Strong nonprofit organizations are better equipped to respond to community needs, and deliver high-quality services that improve lives.
- Access to data, research and evaluation helps organizations make informed decisions, track results and respond effectively to emerging community needs.
- Opportunities for collaboration and shared learning strengthen community networks and help organizations address complex challenges together.
- Skilled and supported nonprofit staff and volunteers are essential to creating sustainable solutions and long-term community change.

SOLUTIONS-BASED STRATEGIES

United Way invests in partners committed to:

- Strengthening organizational effectiveness through data, evaluation and continuous improvement.
- Increasing access to resources, expertise and technical assistance.
- Fostering collaboration to solve complex community challenges.
- Advancing advocacy and systems change that improve outcomes for communities.



For more information about how our investment priorities help people in communities across the region, please contact community.impact@unitedwayswpa.org