

# INVESTMENT PRIORITY FRAMEWORK

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 initiatives.



United Way of  
Southwestern Pennsylvania

## MEETING BASIC NEEDS

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

## COMMUNITY CHALLENGES

- Too many people in our community are unable to meet their basic needs and struggle with food and housing insecurity.
- A lack of transportation, high utility bills, or necessary home repairs can lead to a financial crisis for families who are already having trouble making ends meet.
- Social isolation can have a negative impact on physical, mental, and emotional health.
- Intimate partner violence destabilizes families and jeopardizes safe shelter, employment, and emotional health.

## SOLUTION-BASED STRATEGIES

**UWSWPA invests in partners committed to:**

- Addressing food insecurity and providing access to nutritious food.
- Providing individuals and families access to safe and secure housing through programs that provide shelter, address eviction prevention, home repair, and utility assistance.
- Providing access to reliable transportation.
- Providing safety and support to survivors of intimate partner violence.
- Addressing the negative health effects of social isolation by providing interventions that promote connection and community.

# MOVING TOWARD FINANCIAL STABILITY

To break the cycle of generational poverty, it is essential that people have resources and supports to earn a living wage and the tools they need to build wealth.

## COMMUNITY CHALLENGES

- Inequitable practices, based on race, gender and ability, have prevented people from achieving financial stability.
- Working families lack access and knowledge of services and benefits, including financial education and asset building opportunities.
- Age, disability and previous convictions are barriers to employment for jobseekers.

## SOLUTION-BASED STRATEGIES

**UWSWPA invests in partners committed to:**

- Connecting people to employment through skill-building and career development programs.
- Offering equitable opportunities across race, gender, and ability for people to access services and benefits that increase their income and financial security.
- Advocating for critical policy and systems change by engaging stakeholders across the community.

# BUILDING FOR SUCCESS IN SCHOOL AND LIFE

Every young person deserves 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.

## COMMUNITY CHALLENGES

- Children enter kindergarten unprepared and without the foundational skill sets to succeed in school and life.
- Disproportionate poverty and trauma continue to put students of color at an educational disadvantage, especially with college and career readiness.
- Many students suffer learning loss because they do not have access to safe, affordable and educational out-of-school time programming.

## SOLUTION-BASED STRATEGIES

### **UWSWPA invests in partners committed to:**

- Providing affordable, high-quality early childhood educational opportunities and family supports.
- Working collaboratively with school districts and other community partners that provide positive out-of-school time opportunities for young people.
- Addressing learning loss, social and emotional well-being and kindergarten readiness.
- Providing career and college readiness tools and resources to historically underrepresented groups of students.



**MEETING**

**MOVING**



**BUILDING**

United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania will begin accepting applications for an open, competitive grant process in November 2022. For more information about our investment priorities, please contact [community.impact@unitedwayswpa.org](mailto:community.impact@unitedwayswpa.org).



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