

# 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



United Way provides funding to partner agencies that engage stakeholders across the community in advocating for critical policy and systems change so that everyone has the opportunity to 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 regardless of race, age or ability 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 people 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.
- Offering safety and support to survivors of intimate partner violence.
- Addressing social isolation by promoting connection and community.



## MOVING TO FINANCIAL STABILITY

People who earn a living wage and have the tools needed to build wealth are able to fulfill their potential.

### WHAT OUR COMMUNITIES NEED

- Equitable practices, where success is not dependent on race, gender and ability, are vital to helping people achieve financial freedom.
- Access to and awareness of services and benefits—including financial education and asset-building opportunities—transforms the lives of working families.
- Meaningful work helps all people, regardless of age, disability, gender and previous convictions, 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.

### 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 and transportation, that makes meaningful employment possible.
- Helping working families to move from surviving to thriving by promoting two-generation approaches that meet the needs of children and their adults to foster academic success and break the cycle of poverty.
- Providing opportunities for people to increase knowledge, skills and assets through financial education and empowerment.



## 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.
- Students, regardless of race or ability, thrive when educational programs help them achieve college and career readiness, and take a trauma-informed approach that helps children and youth overcome challenges.
- Access to safe, affordable and educational out-of-school time programming builds on skills learned at school and instills a lifelong love of learning.

### SOLUTIONS-BASED STRATEGIES

United Way invests in partners committed to:

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

For more information about how our  
investment priorities help people in communities  
across the region, please contact  
**[community.impact@unitedwayswpa.org](mailto:community.impact@unitedwayswpa.org)**.



United Way of  
Southwestern Pennsylvania