

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.



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