

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

LIVE UNITED

## What does United Way do?

At United Way, we help individuals and families when a crisis strikes, but we also solve issues at the root cause using an integrated approach that focuses on the health, education, financial stability and basic needs of every person in every neighborhood. United Way invests in community programs across the region, as well as a handful of targeted neighborhood initiatives. We provide the opportunity for everyday citizens to be a part of solutions in their own communities through financial investment, volunteerism and advocacy opportunities.

## Why should I give to United Way?

United Way has the unique ability to bring together diverse sectors that don't ordinarily work together – business, government, community leaders, faith-based organizations and everyday citizens – to tackle big issues. We are working alongside neighborhood-led efforts on coordinated, unified community strategies – the only approach that will truly move us forward.

When you give to United Way, you're investing in the resources and expertise needed to support communities, uplift neighbors, and tackle the big issues facing Chicago neighborhoods. Your gift will help establish multiple pathways to success, ensuring that all our neighbors have the opportunity to be successful.

## How is United Way different?

At United Way, we address the needs of the entire family. Rather than following a single-issue funding approach, United Way invests in the whole child, family and neighborhood.

This isn't possible when we only focus on one individual piece of the puzzle. By coordinating businesses, government, nonprofits, and community leaders to work toward shared community goals, we have the unique ability to create systemic change.

## Does my investment stay in the Chicago region?

Yes, it absolutely does! When you donate to United Way of Metro Chicago, your gift supports our work across the six counties of the Chicago metro area and the suburbs. Raising more funds increases our ability to support the entire region, and thus your community. Your dollars—combined with those of your neighbors, friends and coworkers—allow neighborhoods to thrive region-wide.

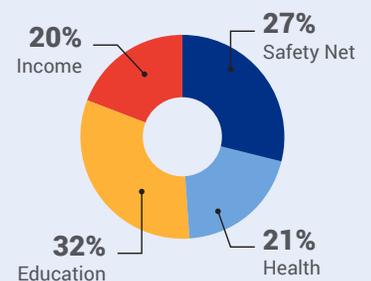
## What is a United Way Neighborhood Network?

United Way of Metro Chicago's Neighborhood Networks are coalitions of community partners providing neighborhood-specific solutions to challenges like educational success, employment, health or related issues facing community members. United Way is the backbone that provides training, funding and resources to increase the Neighborhood Network's capacity. Together, we develop solutions that create measurable, long-term impact.

United Way of Metro Chicago currently has Neighborhood Networks in Auburn Gresham, Austin, Brighton Park, Bronzeville, Cicero, Evanston, Little Village, Robbins/Blue Island, South Chicago and West Chicago.

## Where does my money go?

At United Way, we are always there for our neighbors in their time of need. But, more importantly, we work to reduce and eliminate the root causes of these needs. We solve issues using an integrated approach that focuses on the health, education, financial stability and basic needs of every person in every neighborhood.



## How can I make the biggest impact with my donation?

Your investment made directly to United Way of Metro Chicago raises community voices, supports community vision and brings neighborhood-led objectives to life.

- \$2 A WEEK / \$100 A YEAR provides a mental health visit at a Federally Qualified Health Clinic
- \$5 A WEEK / \$250 A YEAR provides an individual with financial literacy coaching and the ability to open a savings account
- \$10 A WEEK / \$500 A YEAR provides a month of home visiting services for a child under the age of 3
- \$20 A WEEK / \$1,000 A YEAR (Leadership-level gift) provides legal services for a survivor of domestic violence or elder abuse
- \$100 A WEEK / \$5,000 A YEAR (Leadership-level gift) provides a year of after-school programming for a middle school student

## Where can I find a full list of communities that United Way serves?

United Way of Metro Chicago serves a six-county region (primarily Cook and DuPage) from Chicago's North-Northwest suburbs to the Western suburbs to the South-Southwest suburbs.

For a full list, visit our website at [LIVEUNITEDchicago.org/what-we-do](http://LIVEUNITEDchicago.org/what-we-do).

## Where can I find the latest United Way materials?

Visit [LIVEUNITEDchicago.org/Campaign-Toolkit](http://LIVEUNITEDchicago.org/Campaign-Toolkit) to download materials from our Online Campaign Toolkit. The site is updated frequently, so check back often.

## Which non-profits does United Way fund?

Through a competitive grant process, United Way of Metro Chicago is proud to fund some of the most strategic and effective agencies serving six Chicago-area counties. For a complete list of nonprofit organizations that receive funding to help build brighter futures for every person and family in our community, visit [LIVEUNITEDchicago.org/Our-Partners](http://LIVEUNITEDchicago.org/Our-Partners).

## How can I get involved with United Way?

There are many ways to get connected with United Way of Metro Chicago's work. You can give, volunteer or join an affinity group.

- If you'd like to invest in the work of United Way, visit [LIVEUNITEDchicago.org/give](http://LIVEUNITEDchicago.org/give) to become a donor today.
- To learn more about volunteer opportunities for individuals and groups, visit [LIVEUNITEDchicago.org/volunteer](http://LIVEUNITEDchicago.org/volunteer).
- Join a group of like-minded people who want to make a difference in the Chicago region. Visit [LIVEUNITEDchicago.org/affinity-groups-giving-societies/](http://LIVEUNITEDchicago.org/affinity-groups-giving-societies/) to learn more.
- Follow us on social media to stay in the know! "Like" us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter, check out our impact on Instagram, connect with us on LinkedIn and see our work in action on YouTube.
- Read about the individuals and communities we're impacting by visiting [LIVEUNITEDchicago.org/stories](http://LIVEUNITEDchicago.org/stories).

## How do I get a tax receipt for my donation to United Way?

In accordance with IRS guidelines, United Way of Metro Chicago sends tax receipts to donors who give one-time gifts of \$250 or more. To request a duplicate receipt or a receipt for donations under \$250, please contact Customer Service at **312.906.2204** or [unitedwayhelp@LIVEUNITEDchicago.org](mailto:unitedwayhelp@LIVEUNITEDchicago.org).

## Where can I refer someone who needs help?

As a fundraising organization, we have the privilege to work with some of the best health and human service organizations in the region. Our network of partners provide services to individuals and families in both the city and suburbs. We have a full list of those agency partners on our website, as well as a the general resources list below, for those who need support.

Chicago.....	311
DuPage County.....	211* or <a href="http://www.dupagecris.org">www.dupagecris.org</a>
Kane County.....	211* or 630.966.9393
Lake County.....	800.826.7871 or <a href="http://www.findhelplakecounty.org">www.findhelplakecounty.org</a>
McHenry County.....	815.338.0234
Will County.....	815.722.3344 or <a href="http://www.crisisline247.org">www.crisisline247.org</a>
South Suburban Cook County.....	708.966.9482 or <a href="http://www.hubrelief.com">www.hubrelief.com</a>
Find a food pantry.....	773.247.3663
Find food benefits.....	800.359.2163

\*Please note, 211 will only work when calling from inside the designated county.