Our Region

Known for its prominent communities and clustered office parks with great school districts, the **West Suburban Region (WS)** of approximately 1.3 million residents living in 63 communities throughout DuPage and West Cook Counties is experiencing a rise in poverty that is negatively impacting households and whole communities.

**CHALLENGES FACING THE REGION:**

- According to our [2020 ALICE report*](#), prior to the COVID-19 pandemic 1 out of 3 households in DuPage County and 35% in Cook County are struggling to make ends meet.
- Lack of access to mental and behavioral health services.
- Growing pockets of concentrated poverty as a result of lack of affordable housing and limited public transportation.

**BUILDING STRONGER COMMUNITIES: A DUAL APPROACH IN THE WEST SUBURBS**

- Food
- Mortgage and Rental Support
- Safety from Abuse

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*United Way ALICE – Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed – research provides statewide insight into the financial struggles facing many households.*
Investment Strategy
in the West Suburbs

United Way of Metro Chicago is committed to helping our neighbors meet their basic needs and working alongside community leaders to rebuild stronger, more equitable neighborhoods through our Neighborhood Network place-based approach.

UNITED WAY INVESTMENT

West Chicago Neighborhood Network

LEAD AGENCY: West Chicago

COMMUNITY VISION: Enhance the health, safety, and wellbeing of children and families to reach their full potential.

UNITED WAY INVESTMENT CY21: $240,000 CY19: $220,000 FY18: $381,245*

Cicero Neighborhood Network

LEAD AGENCY: Cicero Community Collaborative

COMMUNITY VISION: Cultivating homegrown leaders to improve lives through trauma-informed community health and safety.

UNITED WAY INVESTMENT CY21: $240,000 CY19: $220,000 FY18: $281,245*

*FY18 investment includes a 6-month extension from July 1–December 31, 2018

Connecting West Suburban Families to Direct Support

UNITING FOR THE HOLIDAYS

In partnership with local community partners, United Way hosts Uniting for the Holidays, a festive drive-through food and basic needs donation event that takes place in November and December. Uniting for the Holidays addresses food insecurity facing our neighbors in West Chicago and 9 other communities across the region by providing thousands of families with a holiday meal, toys, PPE, and other essential items.

CARE PROJECTS

United Way partners with volunteer groups to create essential item care package kits that are distributed to United Way nonprofit community partners across the region. Kits include Hygiene Kits, Baby Kits, Snack Packs, Literacy Kits, New Home Kits, School Supply Kits and Senior Kits.

JOIN US! Together, we can build the West Suburbs stronger and more equitably. Learn more at LIVEUNITEDchicago.org