Where You Are Born Across the Chicago Region Shapes Your Access to Equitable Opportunities

Your zip code can predict the quality of your education, how much money you’ll earn over the course of your lifetime, and even your life expectancy. United Way’s 2023 ALICE research showed that 30% or more of households in Cook, DuPage, Kane, and Lake counties have difficulty meeting their basic needs. These ALICE households earn too much to qualify for most public assistance programs but not enough to weather an emergency. This is disproportionately higher in Black and Latinx communities, where the ongoing impacts of inflation and a volatile economy, community violence, and other challenges continue to amplify these inequities.

It doesn’t have to be this way.

All people across our city and region deserve equitable opportunities for success. We are working to make that possible by meeting basic needs, such as food, shelter, and access to health care, and transforming neighborhoods from the inside out.

At United Way, we’re committed to being part of the next chapter in which our community thrives, our neighborhoods rise, and our people have the opportunities and access to the resources that they need and deserve.

SEAN GARRETT
President and CEO, United Way of Metro Chicago

Urban Male Network has added five locations since we have received funding from the United Neighborhoods Equity Fund and making more partnerships with city, state, and county agencies so we can ultimately make more of an impact with the young men that we are working with.

DR. MARLON HAYWOOD
Executive Director, Urban Male Network, 2022–2024 United Neighborhoods Equity Fund Cohort

UNITED WAY WORKS ALONGSIDE COMMUNITY PARTNERS TO DRIVE EQUITABLE TRANSFORMATION IN THEIR NEIGHBORHOODS.
Why invest in United Way?

United Way has the relationships and experience to deliver funding and resources while amplifying the expertise of nonprofit organizations across greater Chicago. Your gift ensures...

- Individuals can meet their basic needs
- Neighborhood-led coalitions continue to be supported with resources and capacity building
- All people have equitable access to resources and opportunities to thrive
- Our region prospers

Your gift makes a difference!

No matter the size, your gift can make a difference in the lives of our neighbors across the Chicago region. Your gift is an investment in building a stronger, more equitable Chicago region for all people.

- **$10 PER MONTH**
  - A laptop for a student to participate in education and enrichment activities

- **$50 PER MONTH**
  - Up to 1,800 meals for families struggling to put food on the table

- **$100 PER MONTH**
  - Job readiness services for five people seeking employment

- **$200 PER MONTH**
  - 12 primary care doctor’s visits to support health and well-being

United Way impact grants support local nonprofits that deliver high-quality programs addressing the basic needs of our neighbors, such as food, shelter, and access to health care.

Through the Neighborhood Network Initiative, United Way works with hundreds of agency and community partners in 17 neighborhoods across the region who live, work, and intimately know their communities’ biggest challenges and greatest opportunities. We bring together people, ideas, and resources to build stronger, more equitable neighborhoods through community-based and resident-led programs.

Our goal at United Way of Metro Chicago is to support and fund collective efforts—neighborhood-led coalitions—that bring together resources, ideas, and energy so neighborhoods and our region become stronger and more equitable. We do this work through a dual approach strategy: meeting basic needs and transforming neighborhoods from the inside out.

We believe a dual approach strategy is the key to building a stronger, more equitable Chicago region. We invite you to learn more about what we’re doing and join us in creating communities where all people can thrive.