STRONGER, MORE EQUITABLE NEIGHBORHOODS FOR A STRONGER CHICAGO REGION
Neighborhoods, history, and culture are maintained. Life isn’t just a zip code lottery.

The Solution—Transform Neighborhoods from the Inside Out

At United Way, we believe the solution is to transform neighborhoods from the inside out by working alongside local neighborhood leaders to help identify community priorities and create a resident-driven neighborhood strategy. This place-based approach is led by the Community Quarterback, a role that helps bring to the table all of the people, resources, and ideas needed to execute community plans.

This “inside-out” neighborhood-led transformation is the key to maintaining the history and culture of neighborhoods while accelerating a regional recovery strategy that builds equal opportunities and access regardless of zip code.

**THE DEATH GAP**
Chicago life expectancies vary from 65.5 to 82 depending on neighborhood.

**MAKING ENDS MEET**
1 in 3 families in our region struggle to make ends meet and 20% of families live at such a low income level they qualify for federal benefits.

**LACK OF OPPORTUNITIES**
Ongoing disinvestment in low-income neighborhoods has negatively impacted access to opportunities, especially for our Black and Latiné neighbors.

**POPULATION CHANGE**
From 2010-2020, Chicago’s overall population increased by 1.9%, while the Black population decreased by 9.7%.

**TRANSFORMATIVE COMMUNITY INVESTMENT**
United Way has launched several catalytic investments to drive transformation and growth in the Neighborhood Networks:
- Expansion of the Healthy Lifestyle Hub and Campus in Auburn Gresham
- Opening of the BUILD community hub in Austin
- Groundbreaking of the Aspire Center for Workforce Innovation in Austin
- Investment in the upcoming new community center in Brighton Park

The Aspire Center is a faith story. It takes a village to be able to transform, to make it right, to rebuild your community. We are more than just resilient. We are united, making the impossible, possible.

**COMMUNITY QUARTERBACK**
Provides funding and staffing to help build and grow community coalitions.
The United Way Difference

Here is the unique value, resources, and vision that comes to life when you are part of the greater Neighborhood Network effort.

NO NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK

- People with great energy and ideas are working in siloes
- Work is duplicated; resources uneven
- Funding is spotty and unreliable; interrupts progress
- Outside organizations work in a top-down approach
- Innovation and ROI isn't recognized or scaled
- Promising community leaders aren’t consistently identified or developed
- Action plans aren’t connected to greater Chicago vision
- Measurement is disconnected and inconsistent

UNITED WAY NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK

- Resident-led coalitions ensure agency leaders talk and coordinate their work
- Maximizes valuable resources; minimizes duplication
- Infuses steady and ongoing capital (from donors like you!) to build sustainable solutions
- Strategies and approaches are community-led
- Provides best practice training and scaling
- Offers capacity building, leadership development, and networking for community leaders
- Works with coalitions to develop bold goals and action plans through a region-wide lens
- Creates shared planning and measurement

JOIN US! The United Way Neighborhood Network model provides the best structure to support our neighbors. Together, we can build stronger, more equitable neighborhoods.

Direct your United Way gift to “Neighborhood Networks” to be a part of this critical strategy.

LEARN MORE AT LIVEUNITEDchicago.org/neighborhood-networks
Impact Across the Region

We are working alongside our 17 Neighborhood Network partners in the city and suburbs to build a stronger, more equitable Chicago region.