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 2023 ALICE report*, 1 out of 3 households in DuPage County and 36% 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
- Access to Healthcare
- Affordable Housing
- Job Training and Employment Support

*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 build stronger, more equitable neighborhoods through our Neighborhood Network place-based approach.

**West Chicago Neighborhood Network**

**LEAD AGENCY** WeGo Together for Kids

**COMMUNITY VISION**
Enhance the health, safety, and well-being of children and families to reach their full potential

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**IMPACT GRANT FUNDING***

- Total Investment ........................................ $1,369,322
- Total Number of Funded Agencies .................. 28
- Food Access ............................................................. 3
- Housing ................................................................. 5
- Access to Healthcare .............................................. 13
- Safety from Abuse .................................................. 1
- Legal Assistance ..................................................... 1
- Workforce Development ........................................ 1
- Early Learning ......................................................... 4

*January–December 2023

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**Cicero Neighborhood Network**

**LEAD AGENCY** Cicero Community Collaborative

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

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**Connecting West Suburban Families to Direct Support**

**UNITING FOR THE HOLIDAYS**

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 Naperville and other suburban communities across the region by providing thousands of families with a holiday meal and gifts.

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

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**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.