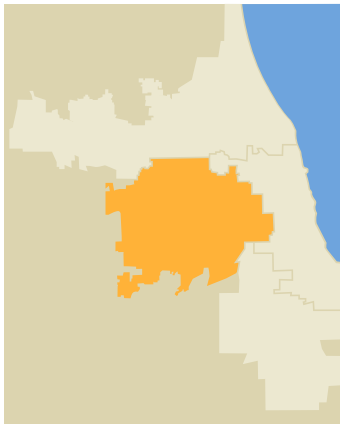
WEST SUBURBS REGIONAL PROFILE

United Way of Metro Chicago



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 2025 ALICE report*, **1 in 3 households in DuPage and Cook counties** 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

Responding to Immediate Basic Needs of West Suburban Residents

Building Neighborhood Systems Stronger in the West Suburbs

- 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 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

IMPACT GRANT FUNDING*

- **Total Investment.....$1,133,000**
- **Total Number of Funded Agencies.....27**

Access to Healthcare..... 10
Food Assistance..... 4
Housing..... 7
Safety from Abuse..... 1
Early Learning..... 5
Workforce Development..... 2

*January–December 2026

CONNECTING WEST SUBURBAN FAMILIES TO DIRECT SUPPORT

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.

2-1-1

This **free and confidential helpline is available 24/7/365** for all residents in Cook and DuPage counties. Individuals can call, text, or web chat to get connected to essential health and social service resources.

Cook County: 211MetroChicago.org
DuPage County: 211Dupage.gov

JOIN US! Together, we can build a stronger West Suburban Region.
Learn more at **LIVEUNITEDchicago.org**

Updated February 12, 2026