

HEALTH & BASIC NEEDS

United Way funds services that strengthen the health and well-being of individuals and families who are most vulnerable.

HEALTH & BASIC NEEDS INVESTMENT STRATEGY (2024-2026)

United Way addresses four programmatic areas necessary to achieve health and well-being: (1) Basic Needs, (2) Safe, Healthy, Affordable Housing, (3) Mental Health care, and (4) Medical and Dental Care by targeting programs that help individuals and families:

- Achieve/Maintain permanency (reunification, adoption, guardianship)
- Born at a healthy birth weight
- Develop and/or make progress toward goals to address identified needs
- Develop healthy relationships with family members/caregivers
- Develop positive values, social competencies, and positive identities
- Develop/Maintain a healthy lifestyle
- Gain knowledge about pertinent legal rights and obligations
- Gain positive parenting/co-parenting skills
- Gain strategies for enhancing safety
- Identify, manage, and appropriately express emotions and behaviors
- Improve protective factors within family
- Increase access to healthy food
- Increase knowledge of health conditions
- Increase social connectedness
- Immediate basic needs are met (food, clothing, shelter)
- Maintain or gain housing stability
- Maintain or gain independent living
- Receive age-appropriate immunizations
- Reduce risk for abuse/neglect
- Resolve immediate crisis
- Successfully able to manage mental and behavioral health conditions
- Successfully able to manage physical and oral health conditions
- Successfully linked with services



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AGENCY	NAME AND DESCRIPTION	ANNUAL AWARD
City of Refuge	Basic Needs Program: The program goals are to strengthen individual stability, encourage healthy behavior, and promote health improvements as we coordinate services and advocate on behalf of the needs of resettled refugees. We seek their long-term health and stability as members who belong in the Columbia community.	\$54,959
Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture	Opportunity Gardens: Increase consumption of healthful, culturally relevant fruits and vegetables; Increase outdoor engagement which can include the whole family; Alleviate the pressure of poverty on food choices by increasing access to healthful foods; and Increase skills, knowledge, self-esteem, and confidence. The program empowers low-income families in Boone County to grow fresh food for their family in their own backyard. Through two interdependent services, Household Gardens and Health Education, it provides a backyard garden, tools, plants, education, mentorship, and support, all at no cost to the family.	\$49,495
Compass Health Network	Dental Program: The program will focus on three vital service areas: oral health screenings, preventative dental care, and dental treatment services. The goal is to inspire hope and promote wellness as we serve the most vulnerable populations in our geographic service region, regardless of their ability to pay for services (or insurance status). Every individual deserves the right to affordable, high-quality, dental services and supports - this program gives low-income, vulnerable residents the ability to seek quality dental care.	\$25,000
First Chance for Children	C.R.I.B.S Program: The goal of the CRIBS program is to reduce sudden infant death syndrome, suffocation and entrapment deaths, child abuse and neglect and increase resilience in families by utilizing home visitation and increasing access to tangible health and safety items in times of need. Community Resources Infant Beds and Support (CRIBS) works with at-risk families in critical times. It is based on trauma-informed practices, child safety information and is a companion piece to other home visitation models.	\$10,000
First Chance for Children	Baby Bags Program: The goal of the Baby Bags program is to reduce child abuse and neglect and increase resilience in families by increasing access to tangible health and safety items, resources and child health information in times of need. We provide a multifaceted approach addressing the needs of entire systems associated with at risk children. Each of FC4C's programs fit together to provide holistic, wrap around support for families. Baby Bags is one of these pieces. It is based on trauma-informed practices and is designed to strengthen families by developing protective factors and providing basic necessities in times of need.	\$20,000

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Heart of Missouri CASA	Child Advocacy Program: A CASA speaks up for children in the 13th Judicial Circuit Court system who've been abused or neglected by educating and empowering diverse community volunteers to advocate for them in the court system. Our goals are to improve outcomes for every child in need through best interest advocacy. We aim to ensure children remain free from re-abuse while in foster care, have all their needs met (educational, medical, therapeutic), and achieve a safe, permanent home as quickly as possible.	\$39,959
KVC Behavioral Health	Impact Us: The programs goals are to provide tools to youth in our community to develop positive values, social competencies, and positive identities, while teaching positive youth and personal development. KVC's vision is to ensure every person is safe and connected to a strong family and a healthy community, with the mission to enrich and enhance the lives of children and families by providing medical and behavioral healthcare, social services, and education.	\$13,150
Love Columbia	Path Forward Program: Path Forward connects relationships and resources to love people forward by 1) Providing exceptional assessment, information, referral, and case management services; 2) Enhancing the wellbeing and self-sufficiency of individuals in crisis and transition; 3) Reducing informational, relational, and material poverty in our community	\$64,959
Lutheran Family & Childrens Services	Mental Health Services & Parenting Program: The overall goal of the program is to decrease the number of children in the region who are experiencing child abuse and neglect (CAN), by decreasing parental risk factors associated with CAN. The overall mission of the agency is to empower children and families to overcome obstacles to build a better life. The goal of reducing child abuse and neglect builds strong and stable families, in turn building strong and stable communities.	\$19,287
Mid-MO Legal Services	Housing Law Project: The goal is to expand access to justice despite the encumbrances of poverty and prevent homelessness by providing free civil legal assistance to low-income families facing potential eviction, substandard living conditions, and unlawful actions by landlords. The Project will also provide legal information, advice, negotiation without litigation, extended representation in court and admin hearing cases, outreach, community education, increase awareness.	\$70,000
Services for Independent Living	Senior Connect: The goal is to maximize the independence of low-income seniors in Boone County by providing services to improve health outcomes, increase access to resources, and grow social connections in the community. This program strives to reduce social isolation, provide access to basic needs, and keep low-income seniors safe and independent in their homes. We envision a barrier-free community for all people.	\$14,868

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True North	Domestic & Sexual Violence Victims Services: The goal is to keep victims of domestic and sexual violence safe and to reduce the negative impact violence has had on their lives, empowering victims to heal and thrive through education and support.	\$39,987.50
United Cerebral Palsy - Heartland	Autism Services: To help children to reach their full potential through extraordinary care and support, our program will help children build upon their strengths while decreasing behaviors that endanger their health and safety and limit opportunities for participation in activities and education.	\$20,000
Voluntary Action Center	Basic Needs Program: VAC's Basic Needs Program responds to the immediate basic needs of individuals and families, from birth to any given age, currently housed or experiencing homelessness, within our Columbia and Boone County community. The services within this program intend to support those who are most vulnerable to overcome economic hardships, lower stress levels, strengthen health and well-being, and achieve personal stability..	\$125,000
Wilkes Blvd UMC	Turning Point Program (Day Services Center): Turning Point's mission is to restore dignity and provide hope to those experiencing homelessness. It is our goal that through Turning Point, 100% of our clients have access to basic needs such as safe shelter, laundry, showers, hygiene items, and mail. These services, and the relationships built, provide the tools needed to restore dignity and provide hope to our most vulnerable population.	\$116,125

FINANCIAL STABILITY

United Way funds services that strengthen the financial stability and economic mobility of financially vulnerable individuals and families.

FINANCIAL STABILITY INVESTMENT STRATEGY (2023-2025)

Our Goal: Strengthen the financial stability and economic mobility of individuals and families who are financially vulnerable.

Our Targets: Increase the number of households who:

- Gains in skills and/or credentials needed for employment and/or increased wages,
- Gain and sustain employment and/or increase income,
- Increase disposable income by increasing financial literacy and/or reducing costs and/or accessing benefits



FINANCIAL STABILITY

AGENCY	NAME AND DESCRIPTION	ANNUAL AWARD
Central Missouri Community Action	The goal of the Financial Opportunity Center is to create long term relationships with the individuals we serve in the FOC, with a focus on three key areas: Employment Services, Financial Education/Coaching, and access to Income Supports. The FOC program is aligned with CMCA's mission to empower people, strengthen resilience, and improve quality of life for all members of the community and the organization goal to increase income and net worth and decrease expenses of our FOC members to improve their overall economic stability.	\$10,000
City of Refuge	The goal of the Refugee Financial Stability program is to empower resettled refugees in Columbia, Missouri to achieve financial independence by helping them obtain employment, delivering education on household personal finance, providing individualized English language instruction, and assisting them in obtaining legal identification documents. We help them navigate a new life and become productive, successful, contributing members of our community	\$30,000
Love Columbia	The goal of the Extra Mile program is to reduce financial fragility and promote upward economic mobility among low-income individuals in Columbia, Missouri. This goal will be accomplished by providing instruction to increase financial literacy and giving opportunity to practice new financial skills. Participants will be further helped through assistance to access available resources and, if needed, provided no interest loans to eliminate high interest debt.	\$43,992
Love Columbia	The goal of the Side by Side Program is to increase stability and general well-being and reduce isolation and inertia of low-income individuals in Columbia through access to community resources and social capital by offering individualized housing, employment, and life purpose coaching. SBS addresses the struggles many in Columbia experience to achieve employment and housing stability to become financially self-sufficient.	\$74,730
Mid-Missouri Legal Services	The goal of the Financial Stability Project is to provide free legal education regarding consumer rights, employment, and expungements, and free legal representation to low-income people in order to help them preserve their income and achieve financial stability for their household.	\$30,000

FINANCIAL STABILITY

AGENCY	NAME AND DESCRIPTION	ANNUAL AWARD
Rock the Community	The goal of Rock the Workforce is to increase the financial stability of individuals who experience highest employment barriers by providing hands-on job readiness training, job coaching and financial literacy. RTW will grow and diversify a strong workforce and reduce opportunity gaps in workforce development and employment, strengthening our economy by reducing households in poverty. Rock the Workforce (RTW) will engage our target populations with an evidenced-based, 3 prong approach to meet stated goals: Job readiness training, employment support and financial literacy. After 2 years of operating our program in a pandemic, RTW has refined a successful program model assisting the target population to obtain and retain employment in the community while successfully managing their finances.	\$27,948
Services for Independent Living	The goal of Journey to Independence is to minimize barriers to employment and enhance financial stability of people with disabilities. Through career exploration, job readiness education, and life skills trainings, our consumers will improve soft skills, cultivate work readiness skills, improve their financial literacy, and maximize their independence. We plan to enhance economic self-sufficiency and increase confidence in employment of people with disabilities. Journey to Independence will focus on providing job readiness skills, career exploration, and financial literacy education to promote financial stability and gain skills needed for employment.	\$45,060
United Community Builders	In the Transformations program clients establish goals for success in their personal and professional lives. Clients will be encouraged to maintain employment or continue their education and will be encouraged to develop supportive relationships. The Transformations program implements the Jobs for Life curriculum that provides proven techniques that will enable enrollees to obtain and maintain employment or secure a higher paying position. The program includes career assessment, in-class reading, class and group discussions, and required home assignments.	\$38,270

EDUCATION

We fund services that support school readiness, literacy, and academic success for children in our community.

EDUCATION INVESTMENT STRATEGY (2022-2024)

United Way funds services that ensure young people have equitable access to gain the knowledge, skills and credentials so they are prepared for the workforce and able to obtain family-sustaining employment. We recognize community investments are crucial from early childhood through transition to young adulthood (age 0-26).

We remove educational barriers for young people and their families by investing in programs that demonstrate the following client age-appropriate outcomes:

- Meet or exceed age-appropriate developmental milestones
- Gain positive parenting/co-parenting skills
- Improve kindergarten readiness
- Increase social connectedness
- Increase prosocial behaviors
- Develop positive values, social competencies, and positive identities
- Improve or maintain academic performance
- Graduate from high school on time, and/or earn HiSET, and/or earn credentials based on client goals
- Gain further education, vocational skills, and/or job readiness skills based on client goals



EDUCATION

AGENCY	NAME AND DESCRIPTION	ANNUAL AWARD
Big Brothers Big Sisters	Community based mentoring pairs youth ages 5 through 18 who are facing adversity with a caring adult mentor and help them achieve educational success, set high aspirations, avoid risky behaviors, and have healthy relationships with peers and adults.	\$38,517
Boys and Girls Club	Great Futures Start Here program.	\$118,568
Central Missouri Community Action	BRIDGE Program supports the social emotional health of the whole family, engages teachers in activities that lead to classroom success, develop relationships between families and their schools, and connect a community of support to both parents and their children. BRIDGE empowers children and families to be self-reliant by fostering social resiliency, supporting academic success, and building social connectedness	\$84,514*
Columbia Housing Authority Low-Income Services (CHALIS)	Moving Ahead Program helps low-income youth and children succeed in school and live by providing quality trauma-informed out-of-school programming enhanced with supportive services and activities to promote social emotional development of the entire family.	\$56,797
Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture	Farm to School Program is a nutrition and garden-based program at schools that improves fruit and vegetable consumption leading to better physical and mental health outcomes and academic achievement for children living in the City's three most economically distressed neighborhoods	\$32,424
Community Playground of Columbia	Fun City Youth Academy improves mental health outcomes and socioemotional resilience, promotes academic achievement and healthy lifestyle choices, and strengthens family units for City of Columbia/Boone County Children.	\$20,000
First Chance for Children (FC4C)	Lend & Learn Libraries supports positive parenting behaviors and child exploration in an educational, safe, and inclusive space, ultimately leading to children's kindergarten readiness.	\$44,336
Grade A Plus Incorporated	Academic Support and Enrichment Program reduces disparities in school success through out-of-school tutoring, mentoring, academic and cultural enrichment, and life skills development along with supportive engagement of parents	\$80,417
Harrisburg Early Learning Center	Early Childhood Program provides early childhood education to prepare children for kindergarten success.	\$120,000
Jabberwocky Studios	STEAM Program helps youth develop positive values, social competencies and positive identities; increases social connectedness; and increases participant likelihood of graduating from high school, contributing to increased academic, social, and personal equity for the	\$13,000

EDUCATION

AGENCY	NAME AND DESCRIPTION	ANNUAL AWARD
Jabberwocky Studios	The Art Bus provides out-of-school arts experiences to children in low-income neighborhoods who would otherwise not have access to the benefits of these experience. We aim to help participants develop positive values, social competencies and positive identities, while supervising them during times that they may be at risk of becoming involved in destructive behaviors.	\$18,522
Mary Lee Johnston Community Learning Center	Mary Lee Johnston Community Learning Center Program provides high quality, affordable care and education programs based on the needs of our community and preparing children to enter kindergarten ready to succeed	\$109,560
United Cerebral Palsy Heartland	Autism Services/Early Childhood Intervention helps children reach their full potential through extraordinary care and support by building on their strengths while decreasing behaviors that endanger their health and safety and limit opportunities for participation in activities and education. This program address the community need for expert collateral information and data to the referring pediatrician so that at timely, accurate diagnosis is made.	\$11,899
United Community Builders	Club Kid Connect is a six-week youth academy for pre-k to sixth grade students. We provide children a safe and nurturing environment during the summer to enable them to successfully transition to the new school year. Our staff provide instructional learning in math, reading, and the creative arts to help students maintain academic skills gained during the previous school year and provide instruction to prepare them for higher grade courses.	\$20,000
United Community Builders	United Community School House provides child development programming for pre-kindergarten to fifth grade students with curriculum that provides a sequence of learning objectives that prepares each child for kindergarten readiness. Elementary school participants receive homework assistance, instructional learning in math, reading, and sciences. Our goal is to develop a love of learning in each child and to provide the foundations for their future academic success.	\$100,000