

United Way Blackhawk Region

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**United Way
Blackhawk Region**



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United Way Blackhawk Region invests more than \$3.654 Million in Community

(BLACKHAWK REGION) – United Way announces an investment of more than \$3.6 million to fight for the health, education, and financial stability of individuals and families in the Blackhawk Region.

United Way's Community Grants are awarded to programs, not agencies. A nonprofit organization may receive more than one Community Grant depending on the number of applicant programs approved under a single agency's umbrella. Programs awarded grants in the 2019 – 2021 funding cycle will be administered by 29 nonprofit organizations.

The now 24-month Community Grant process is designed to award funds to programs demonstrating community need, articulating program efficacy and results. Through the highly competitive process, United Way Blackhawk Region (UWBR)'s volunteer board of directors approved \$3,412,782 in grants for 54 local health and human services programs.

This Community Grant funding cycle will run July 2019 through June 2021, and is United Way's final step in implementing a two-year grant cycle. Most recently, the grant period spanned 18 months. Multi-year funding has become a standard across the United Way network, as it places an emphasis on longer-term programming to achieve greater impact. Both partner agency executives and United Way volunteers agree that benefits of a multi-year funding cycle include more time focused on delivering outcomes, less time spent on the application process, and the ability to be increasingly forward-looking.

“Our community entrusts United Way to help identify the greatest challenges our neighbors are facing and invest donor dollars in programs designed to improve people's lives and the conditions of our region,” said UWBR Board Chair Al Hulick. “Speaking from first-hand experience, I can proudly attest to the integrity of this robust volunteer-driven evaluation process.”

United Way works hard to identify every donor and dollar possible to move the needle on tough-to-solve issues, our region's most daunting social ills including poverty, hunger, homelessness, family violence, and addiction, to name a few. For example:

Health: \$ 800,737 will be invested across 18 programs to:

- Improve community wellness by ensuring access to medical, dental and mental health care.
- Provide kids with opportunities to enhance their health, as well as empower youth about how to make healthy choices and avoid risky behaviors.

- Provide individuals and families with services to lead healthy and productive lifestyles.

Education: \$1,087,077 will be invested in 10 programs to:

- Help kids be ready to learn and succeed in school through access to quality early care and education, and parent/family awareness and engagement.
- Support youth to be successful inside and outside the classroom through mentoring and enrichment opportunities.
- Provide students with pathways to high school graduation and post-secondary success.

Financial Stability: \$1,524,968 will be invested via 26 programs to:

- Stabilize families in crisis by providing emergency food, shelter, transportation, rent assistance, and advocacy.
- Help adults become self-sufficient through access to quality and affordable child care, job training, and wrap around support to overcome barriers to sustaining employment.
- Improve the education level or employability of adults and create more financially secure situations for individuals and their families.

In advance of its competitive Community Grants, United Way announced in March 2019 a \$40,000 Capacity Building Grant was awarded to ECHO for a new, full-time housing and resource navigator. This position will help families and individuals who need assistance across Rock County to navigate a complex system with the long-term goal of attaining affordable housing. The board of directors has also approved up to \$40,000 in emergency funding for funded partners. Also previously announced is United Way's investment in early literacy, including Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and Scholastic Book Fairs in South Beloit; the sum of the combined literacy investments for 2019-2021 is \$133,440.

United Way will again invest \$25,000 to provide 211 for the region; United Way's 211 is a 7/24/365 information and referral helpline that can connect residents to local resources. An additional \$3,000 is budgeted to continue hosting [Get Connected](#), a volunteer engagement website.

"Our donors and volunteers play a lead role in helping to serve the most vulnerable among us," said United Way Blackhawk Region President & CEO Mary Fanning-Penny. "As always, United Way's ability to fulfill its commitment to the community is contingent upon the generous financial support of both new and loyal donors, corporate partners, and successful workplace campaigns."

To find out how to facilitate an employee giving campaign, make a donation, or learn more about United Way's work, visit [LiveUnitedBR.org](#) or call (608)757-3040.

About United Way Blackhawk Region

United Way fights for the health, education, and financial stability of every person in every community. We win by Living United, by forging unlikely partnerships and by finding new solutions to old problems; by mobilizing the best resources; and inspiring individuals to join the fight against a common foe, each community's most daunting social crises. United Way Blackhawk Region Lives United against poverty, family violence, hunger and homelessness to name a few, by providing community grants and resources to 54 human services programs at 29 nonprofit agencies in Rock County, Wis. and northern Winnebago County, Ill. More information is available at [LiveUnitedBR.org](#).

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Community Investments

Impact Area: Health

Agency Name	# Programs	Total Invested
AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin	1	\$10,000.00
Beloit Health System Inc - Beloit Regional Hospice	1	\$67,200.00
Catholic Charities Inc	2	\$55,000.00
Children's Service Society of Wisconsin - Children's Hospital of Wisconsin Community	1	\$40,000.00
Community Action Inc.	1	\$20,000.00
Family Services of Southern Wisconsin and Northern Illinois Inc.	3	\$126,000.00
HealthNet of Rock County	3	\$147,751.40
Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan, Inc.	1	\$56,000.00
NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) Rock County, Inc.	1	\$20,000.00
Nutrition & Health Associates Inc	1	\$10,500.00
Special Methods In Learning Equine Skills, Inc. (SMILES)	1	\$15,400.00
YWCA Rock County	2	\$232,885.39
	18	\$800,736.79

Impact Area: Education

Agency Name	# Programs	Total Invested
Boys & Girls Club of Janesville	1	\$221,750.00
Community Action Inc.	2	\$235,000.00
Family Services of Southern Wisconsin and Northern Illinois Inc.	1	\$160,000.00
Janesville Mobilizing 4 Change	1	\$50,000.00
Retired and Senior Volunteer Program of Rock County Inc.	1	\$15,000.00
Stateline Boys & Girls Clubs Inc.	1	\$280,000.00
Stateline Family YMCA	2	\$118,327.00
Wisconsin Badger Camp Inc.	1	\$7,000.00
	10	\$1,087,077.00

Impact Area: Financial Stability

Agency Name	# Programs	Total Invested
American Red Cross of Southwest Wisconsin	1	\$56,000.00
Beloit Meals on Wheels	1	\$150,000.00
Community Action Inc.	5	\$253,000.00
ECHO Inc.	1	\$150,000.00
Edgerton Community Outreach	2	\$60,000.00
Family Promise of Greater Beloit	1	\$33,400.00
Family Services of Southern Wisconsin and Northern Illinois Inc.	1	\$100,000.00
Janesville Community Day Care Center Inc	1	\$80,000.00
KANDU Industries Inc.	1	\$50,000.00
Retired and Senior Volunteer Program of Rock County Inc.	1	\$35,000.00

Agency Name	# Programs	Total Invested
Special Methods In Learning Equine Skills, Inc. (SMILES)	1	\$5,000.00
Stateline Literacy Council-Beloit, Inc.	2	\$72,000.00
The Salvation Army Rock County - Beloit	3	\$135,800.00
The Salvation Army Rock County - Janesville	1	\$80,000.00
YWCA Rock County	4	\$264,767.83
	26	\$1,524,967.83

Total Investments

	# Programs	Total Invested
Community Grants: 24 Month Investments for 2019 - 2021		
Health	18	\$800,736.79
Education	10	\$1,087,077.00
Financial Stability	26	\$1,524,967.83
Total	54	\$3,412,781.62
Additional 24 Month Investments for 2019 - 2021		
Dolly Parton's Imagination Library		\$121,440.00
Scholastic Book Fairs		\$12,000.00
Total		\$133,440.00
Additional 12 Month Investments in 2019		
Capacity Building Grant to ECHO for Housing & Resource Navigator		\$40,000.00
Emergency Funding		\$40,000.00
United Way's 211		\$25,000.00
Get Connected		\$3,000.00
Total		\$108,000.00
Grand Total of Community Grants + Additional 24 & 12 Month Investments		\$3,654,221.62

United Way's 6-Step Community Grant Review Process

Application: First, eligible applicant organizations complete a 14 page online application with nine required document attachments or uploads. The application spans myriad topics including substantiating community need, program delivery, demographics, outcomes, etc.

Financial Review: The second step is a rigorous financial analysis conducted by a volunteer team of accountants and finance professionals. Volunteers review applicants' IRS Form 990s, agency budgets and specific program budgets, a Partner Certification Form and the most recent Audit. Any concerns identified by the Financial Review Team are then forwarded to the Investment Panel (also regularly referred to as community volunteers and/or the volunteer panel).

Investment Panel Reviews & Evaluates Application: Next is the formation of diverse volunteer Investment Panels, which are comprised of 50-60 local subject matter experts and knowledgeable professionals who have full access to the completed application and all the required attachments. The Investment Panel looks closely at the value of a program in the community and its ability to achieve outlined goals in our focus areas of health, education and financial stability. In our most recent grant cycle, volunteers spent more than 750 hours performing these functions.

Panel Presentation: The Investment Panel is tasked with evaluating the application and being present for an in-person interview (the panel presentation) with the applicant organization. Required attendance from the applicant organization includes their CEO, board representative and financial expert (e.g. CFO, board treasurer, etc.). Our community volunteers understand the panel presentation is a face-to-face opportunity for a deeper dive into any questions or concerns they may have.

Investment Panel Develops Recommendation(s) to the Community Impact Council: The purpose of the volunteer Community Impact Council is to provide executive leadership and oversee all steps of the Community Grant process. As such, the Council conducts a thorough review to approve and/or modify funding recommendations from the Investment Panels and makes the final investment / grant award recommendation(s) to the Board of Directors.

Final Community Grant Award / Investment Approval: The volunteer Community Impact Council, as well as the UWBR Board of Directors must ensure responsible stewardship and accountability for funds allocated by United Way as part of the investment plan. Final approval of Community Grant Awards is voted upon by the board.

