

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

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Equity is the intentional inclusion of everyone in society. Equity is achieved when systemic, institutional, and historical barriers based on race, gender, sexual orientation, and other identities are dismantled and no longer predict socioeconomic, education, and health outcomes.



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



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*

* UW funds program exclusively in Cooper and Howard Counties. The program Boone County is funded by Boone County Children's Trust Fund.



Columbia Housing Authority Low-Income Services (CHA-LIS)

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

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Agency	Program and Description	Awarded
	<p>Jabberwocky Studios</p> <p>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 youth served.</p>	\$13,000
	<p>Jabberwocky Studios</p> <p>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.</p>	\$18,522
	<p>Mary Lee Johnston Community Learning Center</p> <p>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.</p>	\$109,560
	<p>United Cerebral Palsy Heartland</p> <p>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.</p>	\$11,899
	<p>United Community Builders</p> <p>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.</p>	\$20,000
	<p>United Community Builders</p> <p>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.</p>	\$100,000

HEALTH INVESTMENT STRATEGY (2021-2023)

United Way funds services that strengthen the health and well-being of individuals and families who are most vulnerable. In alignment with the community, United Way recognizes 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.

We address the community's health needs by targeting programs that demonstrate the following client and/or community outcomes:

- ▶ Progress toward stability including but not limited to obtaining access to healthcare, benefits/entitlements enrollment, securing or maintaining safe shelter/housing
- ▶ Healthy behavior, based on client goals, including but not limited to increases and maintenance of nutritious food intake and physical activity.
- ▶ Decreases in negative health behavior, based on client goals, including but not limited to substance misuse and high-risk sexual activity
- ▶ Measurable health improvements including but not limited to, improved and maintained blood sugar, decreased stress level, improved and maintained blood pressure, and decrease in depression.

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Basic Needs



Transitions to Stability



Agency	Program Name and Description	Annual Award
Voluntary Action Center	Basic Needs Program: bridges the gap between crisis and stability by providing essentials like hygiene items and employment attire, corrective lenses, and baby formula, and information and referrals to people in need.	\$123,500
The Food Bank of Central and Northeast Missouri	Buddy Pack Program: distributing food to school-age hungry children, as identified by their teachers, through schools in Boone, Cooper and Howard Counties.	\$90,000
Turning Point at Wilkes Blvd	Day Services Center: providing inclement weather shelter and support services for people experiencing homelessness. The drop-in center meets basic needs, including access to showers, hygiene products, laundry services, mail services, personal storage, phones, computers, and the internet with positive regard for the dignity and worth of each human.	\$90,000
The Salvation Army	Harbor House: providing the largest 24-Hour Emergency shelter in Boone County, and the only shelter that serves men, women and families.	\$40,000
Agency	Program and Description	Annual Award
City of Refuge	Basic Needs Program: removing barriers for refugees accessing essential health resources and adequate healthcare by providing transportation, translation, care coordination, health education, and health promotion.	\$40,000
Mid-Missouri Legal Services	Housing Law Project: providing the only free legal services to avoid evictions, unfair monetary damages, or to preserve Section 8 eligibility, legal protection from landlords who refuse to return security deposits, illegally terminate utilities or illegally lock tenants out of their units, and legal help ameliorating substandard housing conditions presenting a danger to the safety and health of tenants.	\$70,000
The Salvation Army	Social Services: helping clients maintain safe and healthy housing with rental and utility assistance, as well as documents assistance to secure safe, healthy and affordable housing.	\$30,000

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Dental

Agency	Program and Description	Annual Award
Compass Health Network	Children's Dental Care Access and Caries Prevention Program: delivered by a qualified health care provider, this program offers school-based annual oral health promotion education, oral health status screening, bi-annual fluoride varnish applications, and referrals for follow-up care.	\$49,296



Adult Mental and Physical Health

Agency	Program and Description	Annual Award
True North of Columbia	Victim Services: helping keep victims of domestic and sexual violence safe and reducing the negative impact the violence has had on their lives, empowering victims to heal and thrive through education and support.	\$30,000
Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture	Therapy Gardens for Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation: improving mental health outcomes by using principles of horticultural therapy to enhance the effectiveness of drug and alcohol treatment at in-patient rehabilitation centers in Columbia.	\$7,640
Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture	Opportunity Gardens: increasing access to healthy food and alleviating financial pressure by empowering low-income families and individuals in Boone County to grow fresh food by providing a backyard garden, tools, education, mentorship, and support.	\$47,522
Services for Independent Living	Senior Connect: maximizes independence, improves health outcomes, reduces social isolation, provides access to basic needs, and improves connections to the community for low-income seniors.	\$26,636
*Defense Against Diabetes	Men's Health Initiative: engages minority men in the health care system to increase preventative health care and screenings and decrease incidence rates of type 2 diabetes.	\$4,500
Love, INC	Path Forward Program: provides comprehensive case management support to individuals experiencing instability in life to create a plan that addresses their immediate needs and creates manageable, sustainable long-term solutions.	\$45,000
*Easterseals Midwest	Parent Training: educating and empowering families with information regarding disabilities and strategies for successful parenting.	\$8,487



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Youth Mental and Physical Health



Agency	Program and Description	Awarded
Heart of Missouri CASA	CASA Child Advocacy: Court Appointed Special Advocates are improving outcomes for children in our local foster care system by speaking on behalf of the child's interests. Children remain free from re-abuse while in foster care, have all their needs met and achieve a safe, permanent home as quickly as possible.	\$24,000
First Chance for Children	CRIBS (Community Resources, Infant Beds and Support): reducing sudden infant death syndrome, suffocation and entrapment deaths, child abuse and neglect, building resilience in families, and increasing access to health and safety items through home visits to families in Boone, Cooper and Howard Counties.	\$8,249
First Chance for Children	Baby Bags: helping to strengthen families by focusing on family's developmental, physical, and mental needs. Families in Boone, Cooper, and Howard counties receive diapers, wipes, and other necessities to meet their specific needs.	\$14,888
Boys and Girls Club	Triple Play - Healthy Lifestyle Connections: providing affordable, healthy lifestyle programs after school, during summer break and on designated weekends for children in Columbia.	\$80,318
Compass Health Network	School Based Clinical Intervention, removing barriers to mental health care for children and families without health insurance by providing enhanced access to behavioral health interventions.	\$79,015
Great Circle	Impact Us, a peer group support increasing healthy behaviors among youth in foster care, giving them an increased chance for a better and brighter future.	\$24,300
Central Missouri Foster Care and Adoptive Association	Community Connections Youth Program, providing comprehensive case management to youth in or exited from foster care, helping them transition to adulthood with increased capacity in eight domains of well-being: employment, housing, finances, education, social supports, physical and mental health, legal, and transportation.	\$44,056
Lutheran Family and Children's Services	Pregnancy, Parenting and Adoption Program, decreasing the number of children who are at-risk for child abuse and neglect by decreasing parental stress, increasing parental well-being by addressing their mental health, and increasing coping and parenting skills through supportive education and counseling.	\$17,930

FINANCIAL STABILITY INVESTMENT STRATEGY (2020-2022)

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.

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Financial Stability



Agency	Program and Description	Annual Award
City of Refuge	Refugee Stability Program: strengthening financial literacy and stability, economic mobility, language comprehension, and securing official documents for vulnerable refugees in our community.	\$27,003
Job Point	Vocational Skills Training & Employment Services: educating and training to equip people with knowledge, skills, and/or competencies to achieve a recognized credential.	\$78,297
Love Columbia	Extra Mile: reducing financial fragility and increasing financial literacy and social capital among low-income individuals in Columbia, Missouri.	\$40,000
Love Columbia	Side by Side Coaching: increasing stability and general well-being and reducing isolation and inertia of low-income individuals in Columbia through individualized financial, housing, employment, and life purpose coaching.	\$15,005
Mid-Missouri Legal Services	Financial Stability Project: providing free legal education regarding consumer rights and free legal representation to low-income people in order to help them preserve their income and achieve financial stability for their household.	\$32,886
Rock the Community	Rock the Workforce: increasing financial stability of Columbians who experience the highest barriers to employment, and helping grow and diversify a strong workforce, ultimately strengthening our economy by reducing the share of households living in poverty.	\$10,153
Services for the Independent Living	Work Readiness Program: enhancing economic self-sufficiency of youth with disabilities by exploring jobs and careers, improving soft skills, cultivating work readiness skills, expanding financial literacy, and improving independent living skills.	\$45,000
United Community Builders	Transformations: teaching and training individuals who are unemployed or underemployed the core values necessary to seek and maintain employment, coaching for personal and professional development of soft and life skills, and recognition of self-worth; and employment-readiness training.	\$32,687