

COMMUNITY
IMPACT
INVESTMENT
REPORT
2020

LIVE UNITED



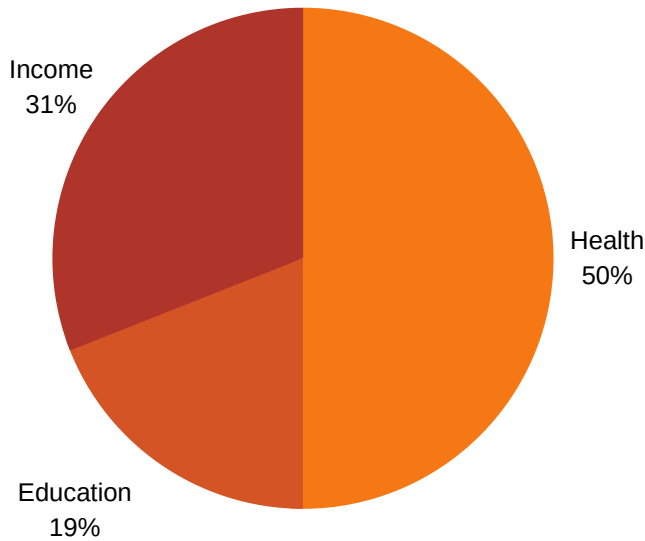
Funding Impact

Every year we look at problems in our community that need solved, the people that need help and the local programs that can meet those needs best. The money raised by our community is distributed to nonprofit programs that work to meet our priorities in the areas of Childhood Success, Youth Success, Economic Mobility and Access to Health.

This year, United Way of North Central Iowa received 32 applications for funding with a total of \$583,160.19. 30 dedicated Community Impact Volunteers donated nearly 350 hours to review, discuss and allocate \$360,000 to 24 nonprofit programs.

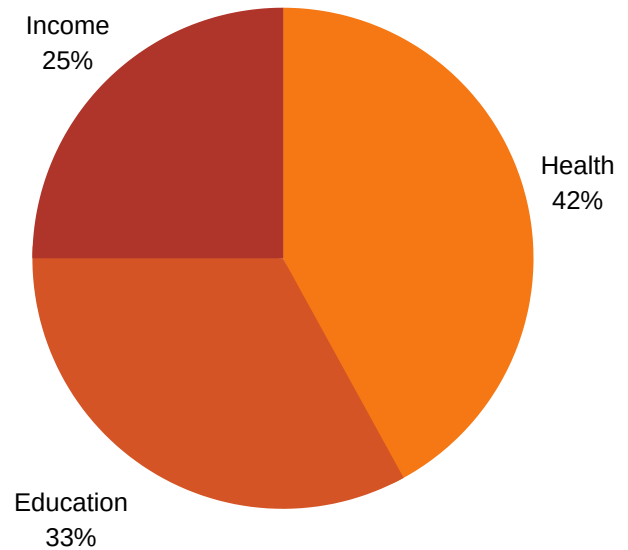
Requests by Impact Area

32 applications



Allocations by Impact Area

24 funded programs



**United Way of North Central Iowa
Community Impact Volunteers
donated nearly 350 hours of time,
an economic value of \$8,900*.**

*economic value of \$25.43 per <https://independentsector.org/value-of-volunteer-time-2018/>

Our Goals for the Community

Childhood Success

Vision: Children enter school ready to succeed

Investment Priorities

- Programs to increase protection of at-risk children and to help children establish and maintain high-quality social relationships
- Support parent skills to help foster early learning environments that nurture and stimulate growth to ensure children are ready to enter kindergarten
- Reading programs to address challenges to reading on grade-level in kindergarten through third grade

Intended Results

- Increase access to quality, affordable early care and education for children birth through kindergarten
- Improve family and caregiver ability to support social and language development in young children
- Enhance the community's ability to identify children with developmental vulnerabilities and offer early intervention
- Ensure early grade success

Funding Priority Outcomes and Required Indicators

Shared Outcome: Children Enter School Ready to Succeed

Shared Indicators

- # of children enrolled in high-quality early childhood programs supported by United Way
- # and % of children served how achieve developmental milestones
- # and % of children served by United Way funded programs reading at grade level
- # and % of clients that gain positive parenting/co-parenting skills

Our Goals for the Community

Youth Success

Vision: Youth achieve key milestones, experiencing successful transitions from elementary to middle and high school; on-time graduation, and completion of some form of post-secondary education, credentialing, or training

Investment Priorities

- Instructional support/development for academically focused programs for targeted populations reading below grade level and at risk of academic failure
- Programs to increase protection of at-risk children and to establish and maintain high-quality social relationships
- Support for parent skills that foster successful transitions from middle school to young adult
- Efforts targeted at chronically absent or academically struggling students to help them and their families to identify and address contributing factors

Intended Results

- Strengthen ability of youth to make good decisions and avoid adolescent risk behaviors.
- Increase involvement of families, caregivers, and the community in the academic and personal success of your youth
- Improve academic and soft skills of youth to ensure academic and career success after high school

Funding Priority Outcomes and Required Indicators

Shared Outcome: Youth achieve key milestones, experiencing successful transitions from elementary to middle and high school; on-time graduation, and completion of some form of post-secondary education, credentialing, or training

Shared Indicators

- # and % of middle/high school students who develop soft skills
- #/% of youth served who avoid or reduce risky behaviors
- #/% of youth served who feel cared about in their community
- #/% of youth who improve grades/reading skills, and see improved academic outcomes
- # of youth who graduate high school on time # of youth who develop positive self-concept/confidence

Our Goals for the Community

Financial Stability

Vision: Individuals/families improve their socioeconomic status

Investment Priorities

- Access to programs that help families meet basic needs, such as eliminating food insecurity, shelter and housing supports, and services for vulnerable populations with housing barriers; increase housing stability, self-sufficiency, and independent living
- Job programs designed to provide access to a full range of services to prepare, train, place and/or retain individuals seeking family sustaining employment
- Adult education programs that provide or work in conjunction with job readiness
- Programs providing low-income consumer assistance with legal/mediation services related to financial barriers
- Programs providing comprehensive financial education to low-income families including family financial planning as well as access to income supports and mainstream financial products and services.

Intended Results

- Increase availability of services that provide assistance for basic needs for people in crisis
- Improve technical and soft job skills among unemployed/underemployed
- Reduces environmental barriers to employment, including access to child care and transportation
- Increase financial literacy among members of our community
- Encourage savings and asset development within low-to-moderate income households

Funding Priority Outcomes and Required Indicators

Shared Outcome: Individuals/families improve their socioeconomic status

Shared Indicators

- # of individuals served who access affordable housing/ financial products, and services
- % of individuals served who gain or maintain employment
- % of individuals served who increase their disposable income by accessing benefits or reducing their costs
- # and % clients who have immediate needs met
- #/% of clients who gain knowledge about personal finance and money management
- #/% of clients remain in and/or transition to an improved, stable living situation

Our Goals for the Community

Access to Health

Vision: Individuals and families have access to healthcare and improve their health

Investment Priorities

- Access to programs that help families meet basic needs, such as eliminating food insecurity, shelter and housing supports, and services for vulnerable populations with housing barriers; increase housing stability, self-sufficiency, and independent living
- Job programs designed to provide access to a full range of services to prepare, train, place and/or retain individuals seeking family sustaining employment
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Funding Priority Outcomes and Required Indicators

Shared Outcome: Individuals/families improve their socioeconomic status

Shared Indicators

- # and % of individuals served participating in physical and/or healthy food access/nutrition programs
- # and % of clients free from abuse/neglect
- # and % of clients that are successfully linked with services to increase their knowledge of available services
- # and % of individuals gain knowledge about safe and healthy relationships
- # and % of clients that develop healthy relationships with family members/care givers
- # and % of individuals that find safety# and % of individuals served with access to health care and supports

Funded Programs Education

IJAG-Empowering, Engaging, and Educating Mason City

IJAG believes people are more powerful than circumstances. iJAG helps youth tap into that power to change the trajectory of their lives. Programming provides mentoring, academic tutoring, job training/placement for low-income students; activities which raise graduation rates, help students access living-wage employment, and establish long-term self-sufficiency. iJAG provides an evidence-based, comprehensive school-to-career program for students who face multiple barriers to success.

Girl Scouts of Greater Iowa- Girl Scout Leadership Program

Girl Scouts builds girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place. North Central Iowa Girl Scouts participate in the Girl Scout programs through our traditional troop program, attend day or residential camp, participate in council-sponsored programs and events, and receive membership, uniform, and camp scholarships. Troop leaders are supported through new, in-person training, as well as through online and phone support from dedicated staff.

Osage Community Daycare-Bridges Mentoring

Involvement in the program will assist youth and family members in developing trusting relationships, improving their personal relationships and increasing their sense of self-worth. Relationships are maintained with local school districts as our primary source of referrals. Many of the mentees who are referred come from single parent families, struggle with peer support, most of them have IEP's and struggle with school success.

Latinas Latinos Al Exito Inc. -Al Exito Hampton

Al Éxito Hampton (AÉH), with the school district provides free after-school programming for 6th- 12th grade students. AÉH programs include: 1) Academic Support and Enrichment Opportunities; 2) Interactive College Experiences; 3) Parental Engagement Activities; and 4) Leadership Training. AÉH goals are to increase Latino students' 1) school attendance, 2) academic achievement, 3) parental involvement, 4) graduation from high school, & 5) enrollment in post-secondary education.

RSVP-Reading Buddies

The Reading Buddy Program is an elementary school literacy program that addresses the needs of developing readers. Multiple volunteers meet with students on different days of the week, so each student receives approximately 30-60 minutes of extra reading per week. Volunteers help students with letter and sight word identification, pronunciation, as well as fluency and comprehension skills. This one-on-one, extra attention helps improve the student's reading skills and attitude towards reading.

RSVP-Reading Coaches

Reading Coach is a middle school literacy and mentoring program that provides individual attention to students and focuses on reading improvement. Volunteers use reading strategies to help students increase their literacy skills and reading level while promoting a joy of reading. Volunteers help students practice and master reading fluency and comprehension skills through intensive one-on-one attention. They are also trained in how to establish a positive relationship and mentor adolescents.

Youth For Christ-Campus Life

Campus Life combines creative programming and healthy relationships with trained adults to help young people make good choices, establish a solid foundation for life, and positively impact their schools. Our overall goal is to position trained adults to help mentor, teach, and provide support for young people as they navigate adolescence. We offer weekly small groups, meals, large group meetings, one on one appointments, camps, and leadership training and opportunities.

Salvation Army-Blast Zone

Our program offers a Gospel-centered child care program for kids K-5. We focus on building safe and healthy relationships, encouraging them through the use of online educational resources, as well as physical activity encouragement through playing in the gym and outside when weather is appropriate.

Funded Programs Financial Stability

NICAO-Outreach Program

We will assist families in obtaining and maintaining affordable housing through education. Our case managers will help families set goals to improve their socioeconomic status. The program will assist families in creating a working budget. Case managers will educate families regarding their banking needs, and if families are unbanked case managers will guide them. Families will receive rental assistance to help them overcome the obstacles or crises they face when trying to set money aside for an emergency fund.

43 North Iowa-Community Connections

Community Connections (CC) was created to fill service gaps for youth and young adults who need more support in preparing for, getting, and keeping a job due to individual employment barriers. Activities include soft skills training, work experience, Project SEARCH internship, job seeking skill training, 1x1 job seeking and job placement support, support in maintaining employment, employment boot camp, work and life skills summer programming, referrals to other supports and services.

Charlie Brown Community Day Care- Child Care Assistance for Low-Income Families

The purpose of this program is to serve families who are struggling to pay for child care when trying to begin or maintain employment and need quality child care for their children. Currently, the Department of Human Services (DHS) requires a 30-45 day waiting period for anyone who is applying for assistance for child care. This makes it nearly impossible for someone who cannot afford child care to begin a new job and it also makes it hard for employers to keep employees.

CEDAR VALLEY FRIENDS OF THE FAMILY INC-Rapid Housing Initiative

The goal of the program is to end homelessness in North Central Iowa by offering an effective homeless program. Participants take an initial assessment, secure housing, and receive case management while we provide rent/utility assistance. FOF operates under a "Housing First" model which houses people first, then allows them time to meet their basic needs such as employment and mental health. Weekly case management visits include budgeting, problem-solving, connecting to resources, and more.

NIACOG Housing Trust Fund- Housing Trust Fund

The purpose of the program is to assist low income households who are primarily ELDERLY and/or DISABLED, with emergency home repairs. Typical projects include: furnace repair/replacement, handicapped ramps, resolving electrical issues, repair/replacement of water heater, and making bathroom accessible.

Funded Programs Health

43 North Iowa-Transitional Living Supports

Transitional Living Services ensures clients meet their medical, mental health and daily living needs in a variety of supported living settings. Staff assist clients in managing daily life by encouraging and providing opportunities for skill building, community engagement, assisting in connecting with natural supports, and navigating social situations. The goal for this program is to support individuals as they transition from one level of care to another where gaps and lags in funding occur.

Francis Lauer Youth Services-Emergency Services Shelter

YSS-Francis Lauer Youth Services operates a co-ed shelter for children primarily between the ages of 12 and 17. The Child Welfare Emergency Services (CWES) Shelter operates 24 hours per day, 7 days per week and is licensed through the state of Iowa Department of Human Services, Department of Inspections and Appeals. The shelter can serve up to 15 children on a daily basis with an average daily census of 7 children.

North Iowa Child Abuse Prevention Council-Satellite Child Protection Center

The purpose for a satellite CPC in North Central Iowa is to have partnerships with related agencies to provide a comprehensive, coordinated approach to an identified gap in child abuse investigation and intervention. This will enhance access to an integrated system that addresses the need for investigation, examination, prosecution, advocacy, and mental health services for those served.

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THE SET ME FREE PROJECT-The Set Me Free Project Iowa Expansion

The overall goal of The Set Me Free Project is to stop human trafficking before it starts. The focus of this program is to stop trafficking in North Central Iowa. Our services include a variety of prevention education curricula offered in a classroom setting for school/university aged youth, parents and the community. During our presentations, program participants engage in critical thinking activities, discussions, and games that promote healthy relationships, online safety, and empathy.

Meals on Wheels-Meals for the Homebound

The goal is to provide nutritious meals to people with difficulty preparing meals for a variety of physical or mental conditions, including recovery from an illness or operation. Meals include a hot meat, vegetable, a starch, and a dessert and prepared under a dietitian's supervision at MercyOne. Rotating meal plans ensure variety. Special dietary requirements are also available. Routes are divided into 9-12 homes each. Drivers pick up the insulated carriers at MercyOne at 11:00 a.m.

Northern Lights Alliance for the Homeless- Homelessness to Permanent Housing

The overall goal of the program is to help people with an average of 500.00 to be put toward a housing barrier the client is struggling with. These barriers may include but are not limited to a rent deposit, a first month rent payment, a past due utility bill, anything that is keeping them from securing permanent housing. 3000.00 of the grant funds would be used toward case management to help find housing as well as other resources within the community.

Community Kitchen-Nutritional Meals for those in Need

The Community Kitchen works to meet the hunger needs of people in the North Iowa area. Located in Mason City, The Kitchen provides a noon meal, six days a week, including Saturdays. We serve four evenings each week. Food and supplies are provided to Clear Lake, which serves evening meals on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday at the United Methodist Church. The Kitchen provides bread to individuals who stop in and to the Clear Lake Food Bank.

Friends of Iowa CASA and ICFCRB-North Iowa CASA

The North Iowa CASA program recruits, trains and supports community volunteers who advocate for and promote the best interest of children who are victims of abuse and/or neglect. Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) are appointed by a judge as officers of the court to provide focused, individualized advocacy for CINA-adjudicated children. CASAs submit a report to the court for each hearing involving the child, allowing the judge to make more informed decisions in the child's best interest.

Crisis Intervention Services (NIAD Center for Human Development)-Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, and Other Violent Crimes Intervention Program

CIS provides a holistic approach, blending prevention, education, crisis response, supportive services, housing assistance, community organizing and collaborative partnerships to better meet the needs of victims of violence in North Central Iowa. The payoff for safe housing and crisis response is immediate and tangible. We don't necessarily fix every problem overnight, but work with the individual/family to develop a course of action.

Lutheran Services of Iowa- Families Together

Families Together is a free, voluntary, in-home prevention program for at-risk families of children ages 0-18 that live in Floyd, Mitchell and Franklin counties. Trained staff use evidence-based curriculum to support and educate families in an effort to prevent child abuse and increase positive outcomes for children. Connections to local resources help improve self-sufficiency. It is the only program in the area to provide in-home visitation at no cost to families of children over age six.

Crisis Intervention Services (NIAD Center for Human Development)-Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Prevention

Crisis Intervention Service provides a variety of evidence & research-based violence prevention & education programming for all age levels. Programming addresses individual, relational, community and societal levels. Prevention is the key to reducing abuse, but it takes time. The results of violence prevention are not immediate. While we may see small individual changes tomorrow, it will take 10+ years of deliberate prevention programming to impact meaningful social change.

Agency Name	Program Name	Impact Area	Amount Awarded
Crisis Intervention Services	Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, and Other Violent Crimes Intervention Program	Health	\$ 42,000.00
Francis Lauer Youth Services	Emergency Services Shelter	Health	\$ 42,000.00
NICAO	Outreach Program	Financial Stability	\$ 30,000.00
Community Kitchen	Nutritional Meals for those in need	Health	\$ 23,300.00
Friends of Iowa CASA and ICFCRB	North Iowa CASA	Health	\$ 23,000.00
IJAG	Empowering, Engaging, and Educating Mason City	Education	\$ 23,000.00
NIACOG Housing Trust Fund	Housing Trust Fund	Financial Stability	\$ 23,000.00
Charlie Brown Community Day Care	Child Care Assistance for Low-Income Families	Financial Stability	\$ 21,000.00
43 North Iowa	Community Connections	Financial Stability	\$ 20,000.00
Meals on Wheels	Meals for the Homebound	Health	\$ 18,000.00
RSVP	Reading Buddies	Education	\$ 13,500.00
43 North Iowa	Transitional Living Supports	Health	\$ 10,000.00
North Iowa Child Abuse Prevention Council	Satellite Child Protection Center	Health	\$ 10,000.00
Northern Lights Alliance for the Homeless	Homelessness to Permanent Housing	Health	\$ 10,000.00
CEDAR VALLEY FRIENDS OF THE FAMILY INC	Rapid Housing Initiative	Financial Stability	\$ 9,000.00
THE SET ME FREE PROJECT	The Set Me Free Project Iowa Expansion	Health	\$ 8,500.00
Osage Community Daycare	Bridges Mentoring	Education	\$ 7,000.00
Crisis Intervention Services	Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Prevention	Health	\$ 5,700.00
Salvation Army	Blast Zone	Education	\$ 5,000.00
Youth For Christ	Campus Life	Education	\$ 5,000.00
Lutheran Services of Iowa	Families Together	Health	\$ 3,800.00
RSVP	Reading Coaches	Education	\$ 2,700.00
Latinas Latinos Al Exito Inc.	Al Exito Hampton	Education	\$ 2,500.00
Girl Scouts of Greater Iowa	Girl Scout Leadership Program	Education	\$ 2,000.00