



INVEST IN OUR CHILDREN

The stress of poverty affects children’s physical health, emotional resilience and brain development.

DID YOU KNOW? In Cuyahoga County, **42% OF KIDS ARE NOT PREPARED** or on-track for kindergarten. This means they are already behind from the moment they walk into a school. School readiness has effects beyond the first few months of kindergarten; children with higher levels of school readiness at age five are generally more successful in grade school and are less likely to drop out of high school, and are more likely to earn more as adults.

OUR COMMUNITY – THE FACTS

51% of children in Cleveland live in poverty.

42% of children enrolling in kindergarten in the past school year were not adequately prepared to succeed.

93% of children entering kindergarten in Cleveland have a detectable amount of lead in their blood.

What is United Way doing about it?



THE COMMUNITY HUB FOR BASIC NEEDS: MEETING HERE-AND-NOW NEEDS TODAY

The Community Hub for Basic Needs provides an immediate, coordinated response for people experiencing hunger, homelessness and more.

2-1-1 HelpLink

United Way’s 2-1-1 HelpLink is a community information and referral line. Our trained specialists are available 24/7 to help parents access basic needs resources, such as housing and food assistance, and educational services including early child development programs.

135,000
individuals and families were helped in 2020 by 2-1-1 Specialists.

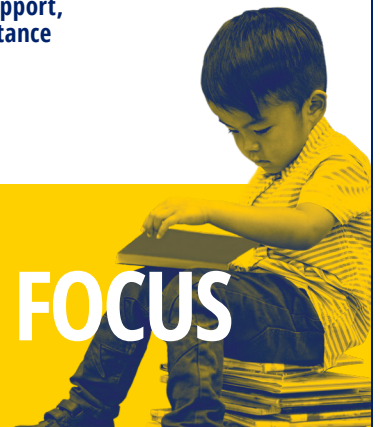
Strategic Investments

Working with our agency partners over the past year, we have invested in programs that provided:

7,756
at-risk children with enriching after-school programming

12,100
children access to high-quality early learning experiences, including pre-school

1,320
childcare providers with professional development training, on-site support, and technical assistance



SCHOOL READINESS IS OUR FOCUS

Poverty impacts children's ability to learn and contributes to social, emotional, and behavioral problems.



THE IMPACT INSTITUTE: UPENDING THE ROOT CAUSES OF POVERTY FOR THE FUTURE

The Impact Institute challenges the root causes of poverty by creating innovative, long-term solutions to prevent the cycle from continuing forward.

FamilySpaces

Children living in poverty are more likely than their peers to experience frequent Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). **Cumulative exposure to these stresses affects the developing brain of a child.**

FamilySpaces will be an accessible neighborhood hub for families with preschoolers. Using the Family Strengthening Model to foster positive relationships between children and their caregivers, FamilySpaces will help buffer children from ACEs while providing services including lead testing, family coaching and access to basic needs.

Lead Safe Cleveland Coalition

Exposure to lead can seriously harm a child's health, including damage to the brain, slowed growth and development, learning and behavior problems, and hearing and speech issues.

United Way is part of the Lead Safe Cleveland Coalition. The Coalition is committed to reducing lead exposure among Cleveland's children by working with landlords to remove lead hazards from their properties and screening children and families affected by lead poisoning.

Scholar House

United Way of Greater Cleveland and CHN Housing Partners are breaking ground on Scholar House, a service-enriched apartment building for single parents who are college students and their minor children. **Scholar House will consist of 40 units for single parents of both Cleveland State University and Cuyahoga Community College and feature in-house daycare services.** United Way will coordinate wrap-around services for Cleveland Scholar House's residents including childcare and early childhood education.

Right to Counsel

Sixty percent of evictions filed in Cleveland are against households with children. **Evicted families are more likely to have children who become chronically absent from school.** In addition, children under the age of two touched by the eviction process are at an elevated risk for lead exposure.

In July 2020, United Way of Greater Cleveland and The Legal Aid Society launched Right to Counsel, providing Cleveland tenants with children access to an attorney when facing an eviction. **In the first six months of Right to Counsel, 93% of tenants seeking assistance avoided eviction or an involuntary move.**

ELEVATED BLOOD LEAD LEVELS IN CHILDREN MEAN:

27% less likely to be ready for kindergarten

34% more likely to be incarcerated as young adults

MOST EVICTIONS IN CLEVELAND INCLUDE:

60% of evictions filed in Cleveland are against households with children

77% of individuals at high risk of eviction include low-income, single mothers with young children