

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT STRATEGY



GIVE
ADVOCATE
VOLUNTEER

2025 - 2026



UNITED WAY
Southwest
Louisiana

2025 - 2026 UNITED WAY SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA

From strengthening local resilience to advancing healthy communities, youth opportunity and financial stability, our mission is positive change.

OUR MISSION IS POSITIVE CHANGE

FINANCIAL SECURITY

Equip individuals and families with knowledge and skills necessary to move to or stay above the ALICE Threshold

ADULT EDUCATION, JOB TRAINING & CAREER PATHWAYS

ACCESS

Individuals have access to resources to improve skills or credentials to gain or improve family-sustaining employment.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF SWLA
Employment & ID Program

UNITED WAY SWLA
Empowerment Through Employment

LITERACY COUNCIL OF SWLA
Adult Education & Literacy

UNITED WAY SWLA
Cal-PRI (Calcasieu Prisoner Reentry)

NEW COVENANT FAITH COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
Bethesda House

FINANCIAL EDUCATION & COACHING

STABILITY

Individuals improve financial knowledge and banking skills and become self-sustaining.

PROJECT BUILD A FUTURE
Blueprint Incentive Program

UNITED WAY SWLA
VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance)

PROJECT BUILD A FUTURE
Homebuyer Counseling

UNITED WAY SWLA
Matched Savings Initiative

UNITED WAY SWLA
BankOn SWLA

UNITED WAY SWLA
ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed)

HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION & INTERVENTION

SHELTER

Individuals are provided safe, accessible, and temporary shelter paired with comprehensive services.

BEAUREGARD COMMUNITY CONCERNS
June Jenkins Women & Children Shelter

JEFF DAVIS CADA
Communities Against Domestic Violence

OASIS A SAFE HAVEN
Emergency Shelter

THE SALVATION ARMY
Third Shift Assistance

THE SALVATION ARMY
Supportive Housing

THE SALVATION ARMY
Prevention & Stability Assistance

UNITED WAY SWLA
Casework Management Portfolio

UNITED WAY SWLA
EFSP-FEMA (Emergency Food & Shelter Assistance)

UNITED WAY SWLA
The Path Home

UNITED WAY SWLA
Power to Care

PREVENTION

Individuals are provided with emergency financial assistance and resources to prevent homelessness.

ASSIST AGENCY
Jeff Davis Emergency Assistance

CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF SWLA
ER Rent, Mortgage & Utility Assistance

CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF SWLA
Laundry & Shower Program

HOLY GROUND HOMELESS OUTREACH GIM
Mind to Thrive

SWLA LAW CENTER
Civil Legal Services

COMMUNITY RESILIENCY

Decrease the number of individuals or families in crisis

CRISIS RELIEF & RECOVERY

RESOURCE ACCESS

Individuals and community members have access to resources both during and after a community-wide crisis, such as a natural disaster.

UNITED WAY SWLA
Build Back the Block

UNITED WAY SWLA
United Gulf Disaster Fund

UNITED WAY SWLA
SWLA VOAD (Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster)

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

CRISIS PREPARATION

Community members are prepared for a crisis such as a natural disaster.

UNITED WAY SWLA
Strong Homes

RESOURCE LINE & SUPPORT

24/7/365 ACCESS

Individuals have access to resources in their region 24/7/365 that help to avoid or recover from a crisis.

FAMILY & YOUTH COUNSELING
Victim Advocacy

UNITED WAY SWLA
Employee Crisis Fund

UNITED WAY SWLA
211 Resource Line

FUNDED UNITED WAY PARTNERS

United Way Southwest Louisiana distinguishes itself through a competitive grant process designed to allocate resources effectively to community programs that best align with our strategic goals. This process invites local nonprofits to submit proposals demonstrating how their programs directly support our identified needs in education, income stability, health and basic necessities. A unique aspect of this grant process is the involvement of community volunteers in the decision-making. These volunteers, who are thoroughly trained and deeply committed to improving the community, review proposals, evaluate program effectiveness and ensure that funding is awarded to those projects that will have the most significant impact. This volunteer-driven approach not only maximizes the positive outcomes of the investments but also fosters a stronger sense of community ownership and accountability in addressing local challenges.

UNITED WAY INITIATIVES

United Way Southwest Louisiana's Initiatives are critically crucial for filling the gaps in community services that other programs are not adequately addressing. Through a deep understanding of the unique challenges facing our community, we identify areas where people are underserved and step in to provide essential support and resources. Focusing on critical areas such as education, income stability, health and basic needs, we tackle issues that are often overlooked or insufficiently covered by existing services. This approach ensures that those in need don't fall through the cracks, providing a safety net that helps individuals and families survive and thrive. United Way Southwest Louisiana's commitment to addressing these gaps showcases the dedication to fostering a community where no one is left behind, and everyone has access to the opportunities and support they need to succeed.



LOUISIANA COMMUNITY INVESTMENT STRATEGY

For economic security, United Way Southwest Louisiana is mobilizing communities to take action so all can thrive. **SEE COMMUNITY IMPACT.**

HEALTHY COMMUNITY

Empower individuals and families with the knowledge and resources needed to maintain and improve their health

MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH

PRENATAL CARE

Prenatal Care-Individuals and families have access to prenatal care to aid in healthy pregnancies and full-term deliveries.

CAREGIVERS

Caregivers are empowered with the knowledge and tools to actively support and maintain their children's health.

NUTRITION & FOOD SECURITY

FOOD

Individuals have access to food.

EDUCATION

Individuals have access to educational programs on nutrition.

ABRAHAM'S TENT
Meals for the Needy

FAITH SHARE
Cameron Parish Healthy Living Outreach

SECOND HARVEST
Food Distribution Program

UNITED WAY SWLA
United Against Child Hunger

HEALTHY SPACES & PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

EXERCISE

Individuals have access to regularly engage in exercise.

GREEN SPACES

Individuals have safe, well-maintained, and accessible green spaces and recreational areas that encourage regular outdoor activity and community engagement.

UNITED WAY SWLA
Born Learning STEAM Trails

MENTAL HEALTH

ACCESS

Individuals have access to timely, affordable, quality counseling and mental health services.

MCNEESE KAY DORE COUNSELING CENTER
Road to Wellness

OASIS A SAFE HAVEN
Sexual Assault Program

FAMILY & YOUTH COUNSELING
Children's Advocacy Center

UNITED WAY SWLA
211 Crisis Help

UNITED WAY SWLA
Crisis Chat Online

UNITED WAY SWLA
833.TXT.TEEN

UNITED WAY SWLA
Human Trafficking Initiative

PREVENTION

EDUCATION

Individuals have access to educational resources about risky behavior/ smoking/drinking/improved safe-sex practices.

SWLA YOUTH FOUNDATION
Unfiltered Facts

HEALTHCARE ACCESS

ACCESS

Individuals have knowledge and access to healthcare and/or dental services.

BENEFITS

Increase access to health insurance and related benefits by providing support and resources to navigate application process, enrollment and eligibility.

IBERIA COMPREHENSIVE
Merryville Community Health Center
SWLA ADULT & ADOLESCENCE RESOURCE SERVICES

EDUCATION



YOUTH OPPORTUNITY

Equip youth with the necessary knowledge, skills and credentials to secure family-sustaining employment

CHILDCARE & EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

EDUCATIONAL ACCESS

Expand access to affordable, high-quality early learning and intervention programs.

CAREGIVER EDUCATION

Empower parents and caregivers with the skills, resources, and support needed to actively engage in and enhance their children's learning and development.

ST NICHOLAS CENTER FOR CHILDREN
QSA Quick Skills Assessment

UNITED WAY SWLA
Success By 6

UNITED WAY SWLA
Calcasieu Ready Start Network

IN-SCHOOL RESOURCES

SUPPLIES

Provide students and teachers with the necessary educational supplies to thrive academically.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Enhance access to professional development opportunities for teachers to strengthen their skills and improve classroom outcomes.

UNITED WAY SWLA
WriteStart Project

AFTER SCHOOL & SUMMER ENRICHMENT

AFTER-SCHOOL & SUMMER LEARNING

Expand access to after-school and summer learning opportunities for students to foster continued academic growth.

EXTRACURRICULAR

Increase access to extracurricular activities for students to promote personal development, social skills, and academic achievement.

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF ACADIANA
Project Learn

GIRL SCOUTS OF LA - PINES TO THE GULF
Girl Scout Leadership Experience

GIRLIE GIRLS MENTORING PROGRAM
Mentoring Program

UNITED WAY SWLA
Summer of Service

LITERACY & STEAM DEVELOPMENT

LITERACY

Promote and support reading at home to foster early literacy development and improve overall reading proficiency.

STEAM

Expand access to STEAM learning opportunities in schools to engage students in science, technology, engineering, art and math education.

UNITED WAY SWLA
Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

UNITED WAY SWLA
STEAM Literacy Kits

COLLEGE, CAREER & FINANCIAL READINESS

SECONDARY EDUCATION ACCESS

Increase access to career pathways and higher education resources for youth.

CAREER EXPLORATION ACCESS

Expand access to career pathways by connecting youth with employers, internships, soft skills training, and networking opportunities.

JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT
K-12 Economic Education

BOYS VILLAGE
Group Care



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