



Southwest Louisiana

INITIATIVES & PARTNERS

2023-24

INITIATIVES

United Way of Southwest Louisiana's in-house programming designed to fill unaddressed critical needs

PARTNER AGENCIES

United Way of Southwest Louisiana's funded and collaborative partners working on human services projects



LONG-TERM CHANGE THROUGH LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS



FOUR PILLARS LEAD TO SUCCESS

United Way of Southwest Louisiana's CORE WORK is a focus on the four building blocks to success. Long-term change for community members struggling is our goal. Everyone benefits when each individual in our community has what they need to succeed.

EDUCATION

Our goal for students in Southwest Louisiana is a 96% high school graduation rate. We have five priority areas; Early Childhood, School Readiness, Early Grade Reading Proficiency, Middle School Transition and High School Success.

ECONOMIC MOBILITY

Our goal for families and individuals in Southwest Louisiana is an unemployment rate of 3.5% or less. We have three priority areas; Economic Mobility, Workforce Development and Earnings.

HEALTH

Our goal for individuals in Southwest Louisiana is a 10% overall increase in health ranking. We have five priority areas; Healthy Beginnings, Safe Home and Community, Supporting Healthy Choices, Independence and Healthcare.

BASIC NEEDS

Our goal for individuals in Southwest Louisiana is to decrease the number of people dependent on assistance programs. We have two priority areas; Crisis and Resources.

ALL ACTIVITIES MUST FALL UNDER AT LEAST ONE PILLAR

MEETING CRITICAL HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES NEEDS

COLLECTIVE IMPACT is the idea that large-scale social change can only be achieved when all stakeholders work together, instead of in competition or isolation.



SWLVA

SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA

ALICE Asset Limited, Income Constrained, EMPLOYED **THE WORKING POOR**

ALICE families are employed, but cannot meet the basic necessities of everyday life that the rest of the community considers essential. YET these same families, because they are employed, are unable to benefit from private or public assistance that those living under the Federal Poverty Limit can take advantage of. The income for ALICE families has not kept pace with rising inflation for decades.

ALLEN PARISH

60% ALICE: 40%
POVERTY: 20%
LIVING UNDER THE ALICE THRESHOLD

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME: \$47,660
INCOME NEEDED FOR ESSENTIALS: \$62,760

BEAUREGARD PARISH

43% ALICE: 28%
POVERTY: 15%
LIVING UNDER THE ALICE THRESHOLD

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME: \$57,130
INCOME NEEDED FOR ESSENTIALS: \$62,892

CALCASIEU PARISH

48% ALICE: 30%
POVERTY: 18%
LIVING UNDER THE ALICE THRESHOLD

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME: \$58,020
INCOME NEEDED FOR ESSENTIALS: \$65,232

CAMERON PARISH

38% ALICE: 32%
POVERTY: 6%
LIVING UNDER THE ALICE THRESHOLD

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME: \$64,525
INCOME NEEDED FOR ESSENTIALS: \$65,232

JEFF DAVIS PARISH

55% ALICE: 37%
POVERTY: 18%
LIVING UNDER THE ALICE THRESHOLD

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME: \$45,578
INCOME NEEDED FOR ESSENTIALS: \$63,120

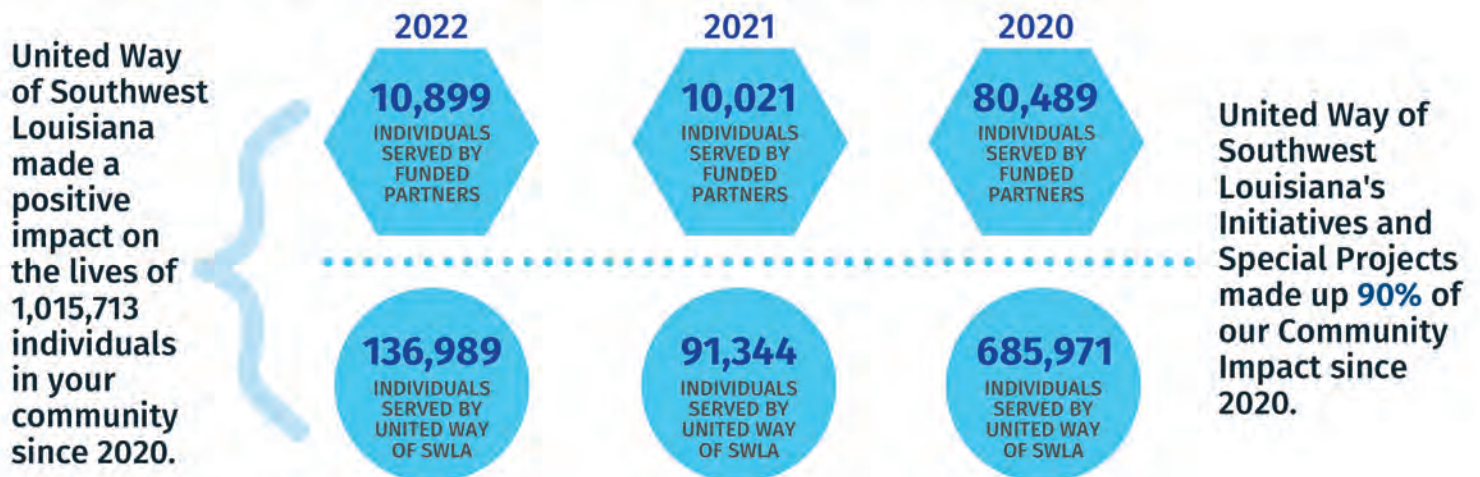
LEARN MORE ABOUT ALICE AND CALCULATE YOUR HOUSEHOLD SURVIVAL BUDGET AT

UNITEDWAYSWLA.ORG/ALICE

PARTNERSHIP GRANTS

United Way of Southwest Louisiana utilized volunteers, experts in their chosen field, to operate a grant cycle annually. Funding falls under the four pillars and must address a need the team has deemed critical. The community investment volunteers vet each 501(c)(3) organization thoroughly to ensure alignment with the mission, vision and principles of United Way. Each organization must prove the ability to fulfill the request before receiving the donor's gifts.

The Board of Directors is ultimately responsible for how grant funds are expended annually. United Way of Southwest Louisiana takes a donor's desire to entrust their gift to this nonprofit seriously. This team provides the best use and creates as much positive impact as is possible each day. The collective impact of many individuals giving of any size or type makes it possible for us to serve 1,015,713 community members since the pandemic began.



GOALS & OBJECTIVES

United Way of Southwest Louisiana uses multiple cutting-edge sources to keep its finger on the pulse of the community's needs. With the knowledge that an entire region thrives when each individual and family is healthy and prosperous, experienced team members monitor resources 24/7. The essential resource in the United Way arsenal is the 211 resource hotline, an Initiative individuals can call, text or search online for assistance with anything from childcare to rent and utilities.

211 data allows United Way of Southwest Louisiana to direct critical resources where they are most requested. From this information, the team can build community investment strategies and fluidly move goods and services. Always beneficial, it is indispensable following natural disasters. Federal, state and local governments have come to rely on the information and utilize 211 to disseminate emergency assistance quickly.

Our goals and objectives are decided by the data and knowledge gleaned from many expert sources. When critical needs are not being addressed properly or quickly, United Way of Southwest Louisiana acts quickly to fill the gaps.

FUNDED PARTNER AGENCIES

ABRAHAM'S TENT

Serves hot lunch Monday to Saturday for individuals in need

ASSIST AGENCY

Assists low- income individuals and families with rent and utility bills, legal aid and food vouchers

BEAUREGARD ARC

Provides opportunities structured toward employment for citizens with developmental disabilities in Beauregard Parish

BEAUREGARD COMMUNITY CONCERNS

Operates the June Jenkins Women's Shelter that provides housing and services to domestic violence victims in Beauregard Parish

BEAUREGARD COUNCIL ON AGING

Provides home delivered meals and social services for the elderly

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF SWLA

Helps children reach their potential through professionally supported, one- to-one relationships with adult mentors

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF ACADIANA

Provides a safe place to learn and grow with life enhancing programs and character development experiences

BUSINESS & WORKFORCE RECOVERY SOLUTIONS

Provides comprehensive disaster recovery assistance to small businesses, non-profits and faith-based organizations

CALCASIEU COMMUNITY CLINIC

Provides low-income, working, individuals who are un/under-insured with healthcare and medications

CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF SWLA

Provides basic needs assistance, as well as disaster response, to residents in Allen, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron, and Jeff Davis parishes

CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF SWLA

Provides an educational and fun environment through hands-on programs and exhibits

FAMILY AND YOUTH COUNSELING AGENCY

Provides affordable counseling, child advocacy, autism support and youth leadership

GIRL SCOUTS OF LA - PINES TO THE GULF

Scholarships are provided to engage girls in activities, support academic success and foster development into women who will lead and succeed

IBERIA COMPREHENSIVE-MERRYVILLE COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

Provides comprehensive health services to residents in the Merryville area

JEFF DAVIS CADA

Provides shelter and basic emergency needs and services to battered women and dependent children

JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT OF SWLA

Provides financial literacy instruction to students

KAY DORE COUNSELING CLINIC AT MCNEESE

Provides affordable mental/behavioral health services and suicide prevention and education programs

LITERACY COUNCIL OF SWLA

Provides instructional programs to improve educational skill levels

OASIS A SAFE HAVEN

Provides services including shelter and counseling for victims of sexual assault and domestic violence along with their children

SALVATION ARMY

Provides an emergency assistance program for food, clothing, rent and utility assistance as well as emergency shelter

SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK

Provides food distribution, advocacy, education and disaster response to local food pantries

ST. NICHOLAS CENTER FOR CHILDREN

Provides therapeutic educational and social services to children with autism, developmental delays and neurological disorders

SWLA YOUTH FOUNDATION

Implements education programs for middle and high school students on human trafficking, relationship abuse and on-line solicitation

Connected, Interdependent, UNITED

MEASURABLE RESULTS

INITIATIVES

United Way of Southwest Louisiana has the ability to initiate projects independently in each of our four focus areas. These Initiatives address important community needs not already being met and fall into the four focus areas.

211 | 898-211

An easy-to-remember phone number that links people in need to relevant information in the complex maze of human services with an accurate database of public and community-based resources, even during a disaster.

833.TXT.TEEN

This texting platform for teens serves anyone ages 13-22, in any type of crisis. It provides confidential access to 24/7 support from professionally-licensed counselors.

BANK ON SWLA

Partnerships with banks and credit unions work to ensure low-income households have access to safe and affordable financial products and services.

BORN LEARNING TRAIL

Bilingual interactive signs installed on trails or playgrounds that offer engagement and learning opportunities for young children and their families or caregivers.

BUILD BACK THE BLOCK

Gentrification of ALICE neighborhoods through grants and partnerships with the goal of saving areas decimated by natural disasters.

CAL-PRI CALCASIEU PRISONER RE-ENTRY

This vital program is a link between formerly incarcerated individuals and the resources available to help them succeed with a new life in the job market and community.

CRISIS CHAT

An online chat for anyone who is going through a difficult time, having thoughts about suicide or just needs to talk. It is confidential and operated by professionally-licensed crisis intervention specialists.

LITERACY KITS

With assistance from school systems, the kits are distributed to children across Southwest Louisiana. Each kit includes books and volunteer- designed props or games, to make the reading interactive.

MATCHED SAVINGS

This program teaches saving and budget habits for those working toward the purchase of a liquid asset. Participants are encouraged to build a down payment with a dollar match upon graduation.

THE PATH HOME

Program matching resources with the individuals and families needing assistance with issues surrounding homelessness. The goal is to help those affected move toward stable housing and a successful future.

SINGLECARE PRESCRIPTION DISCOUNT PROGRAM

A partnership focused on improving the health of individuals, families and communities by helping to make prescription medications more affordable.

SUCCESS BY 6

Newest Education Initiative will address the lack of access to quality early education childcare for ALICE families.

SUMMER OF SERVICE

Specifically designed teen volunteer program has human services projects each summer that focus on community members most in need and illustrate the value of serving.

SWLA VOAD VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATIONS ACTIVE IN DISASTER

Provides a place where governmental, faith-based, and non-profit organizations can cooperate, communicate, coordinate, and collaborate in the event of a disaster.

UNITED AGAINST CHILD HUNGER

Weekend Food Packs are created for the Summer Feeding Programs in Southwest Louisiana so children have access to easy-to-eat foods over the weekend.

UNITED AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

A coalition with stakeholders, policy makers and others interested in addressing the epidemic of human trafficking in Calcasieu Parish.

VITA VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE

IRS certified United Way volunteers offer free income tax prep for low-income individuals, persons with disabilities, the elderly and limited English speaking taxpayers.

WRITESTART PROJECT

Provides school supplies, admin fees and necessary support to children and teachers in need. Providing supplies year-round ensures teachers and students can focus on learning.

Where there is great need, our goal is to work quickly and help those most vulnerable.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

United Way of Southwest Louisiana is an expert at identifying critical issues that need to be addressed in four focus areas: Education, Economic Mobility, Health and Basic Needs.



Creating lasting change is challenging and requires everyone to work together to be successful.

ALICE ASSET LIMITED, INCOME CONSTRAINED, EMPLOYED

Our report on families working and earning above the Federal Poverty Level yet unable to afford basic expenses, rarely qualifying for assistance.

EMPLOYEE CRISIS FUND

Allows employers to offer a program that helps employees cope with unexpected hardships while an external nonprofit partner oversees the process.

CASE MANAGEMENT PORTFOLIO

- Emergency Rental Assistance Program (CPPJ)
- Emergency Food & Shelter Program (FEMA)
- Power To Care (Entergy)
- Temporary Assistance For Needy Families (DCFS)

United Way of Southwest Louisiana is committed to our mission of Positive Community Impact and will continue to make wise investments of resources, address the most important issues facing our community, and provide accountability for donations made by donors.

We are the social services safety net for our community; creating long-lasting change.

Our ability to swiftly address critical needs such as new uniforms and book fees for students at schools and bedding for the sheriff's department to use for young victims of sexual violence all the way to free tax preparation and reroofing all the homes on the block of a working neighborhood is due to global partnerships and donor trust.



WE LOOK AT THE BIG PICTURE - EMBRACING THE ENTIRE CIRCLE OF LIFE FOCUSING ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH, FAMILIES AND NEIGHBORHOODS, SENIORS AND PEOPLE REBUILDING THEIR LIVES.

COMMITTED TO BUILDING STRONG FAMILIES

UNITEDWAYSWLA.ORG

A MILESTONE

1,015,713

COMMUNITY MEMBERS SERVED
FROM THE PANDEMIC THROUGH REBUILDING

LEADING LASTING CHANGE



BASIC NEEDS

211 | 898-211

SWLA VOAD

The Path Home

United Against Child Hunger

Build Back the Block

EDUCATION

Success By 6

WriteStart Project

Literacy Kits

Born Learning Trail

Summer of Service

HEALTH

833.TXT.TEEN

Crisis Chat Online

Singlecare Prescription Discount Program

United Against Human Trafficking

ECONOMIC MOBILITY

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)

Calcasieu Prisoner Reentry Program (CAL-PRI)

Matched Savings Program

Bank On SWLA

**DONATIONS GO EXACTLY WHERE THEY SHOULD GO
- TO LOCAL AND CRITICAL SUPPORT**

