



United Way  
of Southeast Mississippi

# IMPACT AREAS, GOALS, & STRATEGIES



## EDUCATION

- 1. Encourage early brain development, build kindergarten readiness, and ensure every child enters school ready to learn**
  - a. Increase access to high quality, licensed child care and pre-K programs, particularly for low-income and educational at-risk children
  - b. Provide resources, education, and support for families and caregivers to bolster their child's development
  - c. Collaborate to create and implement a comprehensive and high-quality approach to school readiness
- 2. Increase number of children from low-income families reading proficiently by end of 3rd grade**
  - a. Provide resources to support in-school tutoring for grade-level reading
  - b. Provide resources for after-school and summer learning that improve children's reading skills
  - c. Incorporate mentoring and one-on-one connections to encourage positive in-school behavior
- 3. Provide opportunities for quality education services for children with special needs**
  - a. Provide high-quality brain development services from birth to graduation.
  - b. Diversify clients being served by programs intended for children with special needs through intentional recruitment.
  - c. Encourage positive peer social interactions with children in neurotypical settings.



## HEALTH

- 1. Remove barriers to quality and affordable healthcare resources and benefits starting from birth**
  - a. Provide free, public education about health resources available to the community
  - b. Provide preventative healthcare and treatment to the community's uninsured and underinsured
  - c. Coordinate a community baby shower for new and expecting mothers
- 2. Treat and address root causes of obesity, diabetes, and heart disease**
  - a. Provide exercise/nutrition programming to most at-risk populations for obesity, diabetes, heart disease, and comorbidities
  - b. Find pathways for community members to gain access to healthy food at low- or free-of-cost
  - c. Encourage young children to establish healthy habits/routines
- 3. Provide trauma-informed care to victims of violence and addiction**
  - a. Provide shelter/assistance to survivors of domestic violence, suicide, and other violent events
  - b. Educate community to advocate for survivors of abuse and detect warning signs of abuse
  - c. Implement wrap-around programs to treat those with addiction to place them back on a path of self-sustainment.



## ECONOMIC MOBILITY

- 1. Support programs placing people on a path to self-sustainment through life- and job-skill preparation**
  - a. Educate clients using financial literacy and money management curriculum
  - b. Provide job preparation and career readiness opportunities for unemployed/underemployed
  - c. Implement long-term mentoring programs for adults seeking to better their circumstances
- 2. Assist community members in their efforts to build personal assets and net worth**
  - a. Provide pathways to affordable and sustainable housing
  - b. Advocate for policy change that removes barriers to financial freedom for low-income households
  - c. Connect individuals seeking to grow skills and talents to local small business resources and financing
- 3. Increase access to affordable financial products to effectively manage money and achieve financial goals**
  - a. Partner with banking institutions to offer low-to-no fee financial products to the banked and underbanked
  - b. Educate community members on dangers of payday loans and check cashing
  - c. Increase credit scores through small loan programs



## SUPPORT SERVICES

- 1. Serve the chronically hungry by providing resources to combat food insecurity**
  - a. Support food pantries and their ability to purchase healthy food options for clients
  - b. Provide food to the elderly and homebound through meal delivery programs
  - c. Implement pop-up pantries to rural and hard-to-reach neighborhoods
- 2. Coordinate with disaster relief organizations and local emergency planners to develop and implement recovery and response plans [not grant funding eligible]**
  - a. Establish a Volunteer Response Center (VRC) in the event of a disaster in our service area
  - b. Coordinate with local businesses to supply donations to meet immediate needs in disaster areas
  - c. Utilize Community Crisis Fund to provide grants to disaster response organizations when needed
- 3. Engage community members beyond the workplace through volunteerism [not grant funding eligible]**
  - a. Partner with area nonprofits to identify needs and volunteer opportunities
  - b. Coordinate individual, group, and business volunteers to meet area organization needs
  - c. Organize community volunteer days to promote the importance of volunteerism