

## United Way Southeast Mississippi Impact Areas and Goals

### Impact Area: Education

1. Kindergarten Readiness: Encourage early literacy development, build kindergarten readiness skills and work to make sure every child enters school ready to learn.
  - a. Improve existing early learning environments and increase access to high quality licensed childcare programs for children and families, particularly those of low-income and educational risk.
  - b. Increase early learning opportunities, including early literacy and language development.
  - c. Provide resources, education and other needed support for families and caregivers to bolster their child's age-appropriate development.
  - d. Collaborate to create and implement a comprehensive approach to school readiness.
2. Grade-Appropriate Reading Levels: Increase the number of children from low-income families to reading proficiently by the end of third grade.
  - a. Provide resources to support in-school tutoring for grade-level reading.
  - b. Provide resources for afterschool and summer learning that will improve children's reading skills.
3. Graduation Rate: Help ensure that more students stay on track to graduate high school.
  - a. Provide mentorship program aimed at pairing nurturing adults as positive mentors to help students stay on track to graduate.
  - b. Provide resources, programs or other needed support to reduce chronic absenteeism.

### Impact Area: Health

1. Access to Quality Healthcare
  - a. Remove barriers to access public benefits and health resources.
  - b. Provide those lacking resources access to healthcare.
  - c. Provide resources to make mental, dental and primary care more affordable and/or attainable.
2. Healthy Beginnings & Quality of Life
  - a. Increase access to prenatal care.
  - b. Provide tools to improve parenting skills and encourage early childhood learning opportunities.
  - c. Provide resources and assistance that will improve the quality of life for those who may not be able to help themselves.
3. Creating Healthy Lifestyles
  - a. Address adult and childhood obesity to combat chronic diseases such as heart disease and diabetes.
  - b. Provide resources to bring health foods to more families, creating and encouraging healthy eating habits at home, work and in the community.
  - c. Educate the community and provide assistance to those affected by STIs.

### **Impact Area: Financial Stability**

1. Financial Literacy Programs: Support financial literacy programs that educate individuals about the importance of obtaining and maintaining assets.
2. Workforce Development & Skill Training: Further develop the local community workforce through job skill preparation, especially for currently low-wage under-skilled workers seeking self-sustaining employment.
3. Safe, Stable and Affordable Housing: Provide families and individuals with the resources and knowledge to gain and/or maintain safe, stable and affordable housing.

### **Impact Area: Support Services**

1. Nutrition & Food Services: Make nutritious food available to support the health and well-being of the chronically hungry.
2. Disaster Relief and Emergency Planning: Coordinate with disaster relief organizations and local emergency planners to develop recovery plans and assist in the provision of resources to meet our community's needs.
3. Protection from Domestic Violence: Provide safe housing and basic needs for individuals and families experiencing and leaving situations of domestic violence.