The West Suburban Region is known for its prominent residential communities, and clustered office parks with great school districts and numerous amenities. However, this region of 1.4 million residents living in 63 communities throughout DuPage and West Cook Counties is experiencing a rise in poverty that is negatively impacting these neighborhoods.

THE CHALLENGE

Today, the suburbs are home to fastest growing population of people living at or below the poverty line (U.S. Census 1995–2015). This is in contrast to the City of Chicago, which has seen stabilization in the low income population.

DuPage County in particular has seen substantial deterioration of safety net services while experiencing an unprecedented level of increased need.

- The largest need in the western suburbs is for mental and behavioral health services (limited services, specifically psychiatry)
- Since 2016, 91% of agencies surveyed have cut the number of clients they serve (800,000+), with the biggest cuts to mental health, substance abuse, domestic violence and childhood education services.

The western suburbs are poorly equipped to advocate for the resources to support the basic needs of their residents.

INVESTMENT STRATEGY

United Way’s investment strategy identifies the most needed services in the West Suburban area and supports the best in class agencies in the region.

West Suburban Partner Agencies: 43
Total United Way Funding: $2.3M

- Safety net (housing, food, safety and legal assistance) ................................................................. 30%
- Education (early childhood and middle school) .............................................................. 28%
- Health (mental and behavioral health, health access & literacy, community health) ............ 27%
- Income (career pathways, financial capability, and tax prep) .................................................. 15%

Safety Net Services:

- Receiving food assistance .......................................................................................... 105,241 people
- Emergency housing or financial assistance .......................................................... 91,068 people
- Brief legal services ................................................................................................. 12,750 people
- Safety from abuse or violence ............................................................................. 9,333 people

Companies can INVEST WITH CONFIDENCE because we:

- Are UNIQUELY QUALIFIED to deliver interconnected services which move families out of poverty
- Have an OUTCOME-BASED INVESTMENTS and synergistic approach to working with agencies delivers high (1+1=3) ROI
- Use CONVENING POWER that efficiently drives the delivery of services at the community level
- Demonstrate PROVEN SUCCESS with the Neighborhood Network Initiative
The United Way of Metro Chicago Neighborhood Network is comprised of 10 neighborhoods. West Chicago and Cicero are in the West Suburban region.

WEST CHICAGO

A suburb approximately 30 miles west of Chicago, United Way of Metro Chicago works with WeGo Together for Kids: a coalition of more than 40 organizations, to strategize on challenges, identify resources and implement programs to improve lives for community residents. Among the challenges in West Chicago are a 74% poverty rate in the school district, a childhood overweight or obese rate of 46% and 27% of residents age 25 and older with no high school diploma.

OUR RESULTS

- Hired parent liaisons, health promoters and social worker
- Opened family resource center in middle school
- Families received $631,000 in tax refunds through volunteer tax assistance
- Established food pantry in middle school
- 196 parents connected to community resources
- 153 connections to individual and family mental health services
- New playground built by volunteers from the Chicago Bears

COMMON AGENDA

To support and enhance the health, safety and well-being of children and families through a collaborative, coordinated and comprehensive approach for West Chicago schools and community.

BOLD GOAL

By 2025, 90% of k-8 students will meet projected improvement in reading and math; obesity rate among youth will be reduced by 6%.

LEAD AGENCY

WeGo Together for Kids

CICERO

The Cicero Neighborhood Network has engaged with more than 800 community residents to gather perspectives on education, employment and health opportunities in Cicero, and has used the information to connect residents to services.

OUR RESULTS

- Developed new Neighborhood Network infrastructure, known as the Cicero Community Collaborative which has developed a committee structure and Community engagement plan completed
- Residents have a coordinated plan and shared metrics and resources
- Recruited 23 actively participating agencies and built collaborative relationships with local school districts
- Completed their 3yr plan which focuses on:
  - Enrolling young families into qualifying human services
  - Development of elementary school parent ambassador program to provide reading support for English-learners and/or at-risk youth
  - Development of a parent ambassadors supporting at-risk students and their families

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>NETWORK FUND</th>
<th>COMMUNITY FUND</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY18</td>
<td>$208,700</td>
<td>$284,434</td>
<td>$493,134</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY17</td>
<td>$106,250</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>$106,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY16</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The United Way of Metro Chicago

333 S. Wabash Avenue, 30th Floor, Chicago, IL 60604

As the largest private funder of social services in the region, United Way fights for the health, education, financial stability and safety of every person in every Chicago region neighborhood.

@UNITEDWAYCHICAGO

@UNITEDWAYCHI

LIVEUNITEDCHICAGO.ORG

@UNITEDWAYCHI