Health is not based solely on clinical services—social and economic factors also impact our overall health and our ability to be productive at work, school and home. United Way supports programs and agencies that provide mental, behavioral and clinical health services; lifelong healthy living initiatives that increase physical activity and healthy nutrition for youth and families; and increase health access and literacy.

**THE CHALLENGE**

- **38%** of Medicaid enrollees lose access to health care because they are unable to complete their renewal paperwork.
- Chicago residents in areas of high economic hardship experience life expectancy that is **16 years lower** than those living in better economic conditions.
- **1 out of 4 CHICAGOANS** are obese. Obesity is the leading risk factor for preventable diseases that cost local health systems billions every year and reduce quality and length of life—such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and hypertension.

**THE GOAL**

A commitment to helping people live fulfilling, healthy lives. Strong communities exist when individuals are insured and can access physical and mental health care with ease, and when the places where they live, work, learn and play consistently support healthy behaviors.

**WHAT WE’RE DOING**

In our experience, no single agency or program can address all the health needs a family might be facing. Our role as funder and coordinator allows us to provide a network of services and programs that directly improve the health of our communities through practical partnerships with nonprofit agencies, government and health care providers.

To achieve our goal, we are focused on the following strategies:

**HEALTH CARE ACCESS**
Reduce barriers to care and connect more families to health services, a primary care physician, comprehensive mental health services and substance abuse care

**HEALTH EDUCATION**
Invest in school-based programs that educate youth about healthy behaviors and promote physical activity

**OUR IMPACT**

- **36,310** individuals received financial assistance to access health care*
- **25,959** health coverage enrollments have been facilitated by health navigators**
- **61,559** individuals received behavioral and mental health services’

---

*between July 2016 and June 2017  **since 2013
THE UNITED WAY DIFFERENCE

Three years ago, United Way of Metro Chicago was searching for a structured way to partner with Chicago region residents to create long-term change in their neighborhoods. The Neighborhood Network was formed as a region-wide strategic initiative to address local community challenges by driving focused collaboration to achieve lasting change.

The coalitions in 10 Chicago-region neighborhoods consist of community stakeholders who identify the challenges that the collective group works toward solving. Stakeholders include:

- Residents
- Schools
- Nonprofits
- Government officials
- Churches
- Hospitals
- Businesses

**Health Progress Highlights in our Neighborhood Networks include:**

- 136 Cicero Police Department officers and 10 command staff received trauma-informed ACE (Adverse Childhood Experiences) training, with plans to extend training to school social workers and security staff.
- In Brighton Park, a school-based health program engaged over 200 parents at five schools in nutrition workshops, cooking demos, grocery tours and exercise classes to improve understanding of health and wellness.

WE ARE INVESTING MORE THAN $3.1 MILLION IN 67 AGENCIES ACROSS THE REGION.

These vetted, best-in-class agencies provide high quality preventive services, mental illness and addiction treatment and health education. Through these programs and partnerships, we have made steady progress toward our goal. View a full list of our agency partners online at LIVEUNITEDchicago.org/Our-Partners.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Healthy students are better learners. Good nutrition and physical activity have been linked to better grades, school attendance, cognitive performance and classroom behaviors. **We focus on education, income, health and basic needs strategies to address interconnected challenges and ensure that our community members have the support they need to thrive.**

**COLLABORATIONS**

**Healthcare Navigator Program**

Since 2013, United Way of Metro Chicago has partnered with community-based non-profit organizations to rally around the goal of increasing access to health coverage. United Way’s partners, known as Navigators, have facilitated nearly 26,000 enrollments into health insurance and Medicaid for individuals and families across the region. Beyond enrollment, Navigators also provide health insurance literacy education to ensure that individuals understand how to properly utilize their new coverage to access health care.

Donate online at LIVEUNITEDchicago.org/DONATE
Learn how to get involved at LIVEUNITEDchicago.org/VOLUNTEER