



# United Way of Metro Chicago

## Building back a stronger, more equitable Chicago region

### ➔ Zip Code Determines Destiny— Help Us Change That

**Research resoundingly shows zip code determines destiny. Future income levels. Health outcomes and life expectancy. Population rates. You name it.**

Many families in communities across our region struggle to survive, even if we can't see it. We know that nearly 20% of households in the city of Chicago and 6% of households in suburban areas experience poverty. But a United Way research report showed that an additional 25% of families are walking a financial tightrope, unable to afford basic necessities or handle an unexpected expense. Chicago also owns the largest upward mobility gap between White males and Black males in the country, resulting in significant financial, health, and education outcome disparities. This has only been amplified by COVID-19, which led to job loss and health concerns for those families that were barely hanging on.

**This is not a result of the pandemic. This is a result of years of disinvestment in the education, healthcare, and economic development of neighborhoods and our residents. But we have an approach to build back better.**



“Our area code has been hit hard. There's the death of people and the death of normalcy—losing your job, not being able to interact with people—I knew we needed to make support groups for others, to help people cope.”

—**Tiarra Owens**, Program Coordinator,  
Claretian Associates

United Way  
of Metro Chicago



United We are Building Back a  
**Stronger, More Equitable Chicago Region**



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We believe a **dual approach strategy** is the key to the Chicago region's long-term recovery. To building back better, stronger, and more equitably.

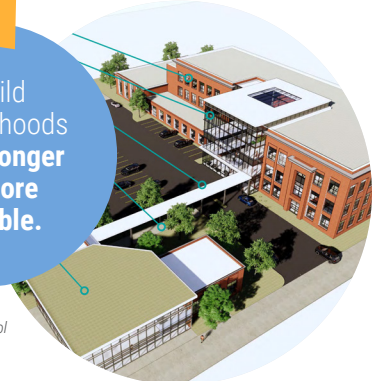
**We invite you to learn more about what we're doing and join us in the fight.**



Continue to support our local communities in **meeting their basic immediate needs.**

**UNITED WAY'S DUAL APPROACH STRATEGY**

Rebuild neighborhoods to be **stronger and more equitable.**



*Redevelopment of Emmet School in Austin*

**COVID-19 hit us hard this past year. It was tough on everyone, but particularly highlighted the significant inequities across our city and our nation in education, health, income, and basic needs.**

United Way has been working for several years on what we believe is the solution to addressing the inequities across our region: our Neighborhood Network strategy. We are providing support to leaders to transform neighborhoods from the inside out. By creating more equitable opportunities for Black and Brown communities that in turn create better outcomes, we can disrupt the effects of racism.

And, alongside the Neighborhood Network strategy, we believe the second approach to building back stronger is to continue to support the basic needs of every household across the region, especially those hit hardest by COVID-19.

## ➔ Why invest in United Way?

United Way has a finger on the pulse of the whole community, as well as the relationships and experience to help create real change. **Your dollars ensure...**





- ✓ Basic needs are met in an efficient way
- ✓ Families who need a hand up can get one
- ✓ Neighborhood-led coalitions continue to be supported with steady resources, best practices, and capacity-building that create revitalization and better opportunities for all



**Nicor Gas**  
**Designate your gift to transforming neighborhoods!** Nicor Gas will match \$1 for \$1 any donation directed to the Strong Neighborhoods Challenge Grant, up to \$65,000.

## ➔ Give a Neighbor a Hand up!

Convert your 2020 commute savings into action!

<p><b>2 TO-GO COFFEES</b></p> <p><b>\$8</b></p> <p><b>PER MONTH</b></p>  <p>A laptop for a kid who needs access to remote learning</p>	<p><b>MONTHLY FILL-UP</b></p> <p><b>\$50</b></p> <p><b>PER MONTH</b></p>  <p>A month of home-visiting services for a 3-year-old</p>	<p><b>30-DAY CTA PASS</b></p> <p><b>\$100</b></p> <p><b>PER MONTH</b></p>  <p>Legal services for a survivor of domestic violence or elder abuse</p>	<p><b>DOWNTOWN PARKING</b></p> <p><b>\$200</b></p> <p><b>PER MONTH</b></p>  <p>12 COVID doctor's visits</p>
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