SUPPORTING ALICE HOUSEHOLDS’ BASIC NEEDS: FOOD

OUR VISION
All households in Southeastern Michigan have reliable access to quality food that is nutritious and affordable.

CHALLENGE
680,910 people regionally — including 179,280 children — lack access to enough food or adequate nutrition. This represents nearly 18 percent of all individuals in our region and more than 20 percent of children.

SOLUTION
United Way employs a variety of strategies to eliminate food insecurity and nutritional risk for households in Southeastern Michigan. Our focus on food access has led to a dramatic increase in the number of children who receive high-quality meals through child nutrition programs, the implementation of emerging evidence-based nutrition education initiatives, and our continued investment in food access for the region.

KEY PROJECTS
- Supporting in-school and summer meal programs
- Building a network of food security through our Community Information Exchange
- Supporting food access through grant partnerships

KEY POLICY INITIATIVES
- Reauthorization and expansion of federal child nutrition programs
- Protect funding for and access to emergency food services such as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program, and Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP)
- Increase access to school meal programs

FY 2021 KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
- Number of households assisted with SNAP application
- Number of households served through emergency food system
- Number of children participating in child nutrition programs

HOW TO SUPPORT
The support of our donors, advocates and volunteers is critical to the success of our food programs. Donors help fund the infrastructure to support our food programming, while advocates help push for policies at the state and federal levels that provide critical funding for food programs. Our volunteers help prepare summer meal sites, and pack and distribute food for families and children.