Before COVID-19 hit our region, 44 percent of Southeastern Michigan households already struggled to meet their basic needs like food, housing and health care.

Now, the problem has grown.

As businesses closed their doors and laid off or furloughed workers, unemployment claims in Michigan reached an all-time high of 1.3 million in early April. Additionally, schools and most child care facilities closed, placing added stress on families to provide care and schooling at home.

And for the most vulnerable members of our community — like senior citizens, people without health insurance, and those experiencing homelessness — the pandemic meant they needed more help while resources dwindled.

THE SOLUTION

Since March, United Way for Southeastern Michigan has worked with hundreds of partners to give individuals and families the support they need to weather this crisis, as well as to ensure they can help their children thrive and learn.

We have invested more than $25.8 million back into our community through our COVID-19 relief efforts. With your support, we’ve helped shelters and child care facilities stay open, provided children with nutritious meals, and supported families so they could stay in their homes and keep their lights on.

With support from Black Entertainment Television, we invested $25.8 million into supporting Black families and neighborhoods in our community. Our investment focused on supporting nonprofits that provide financial, food and employment assistance, as well as health and student learning supports.

Learn more about the work you’ve helped make possible:
UNITEDWAYSEM.ORG/COVIDIMPACT
$25.8M invested

$2.8 million invested to support communities of color through our BET grant

15.4 million meals served

184k people provided with physical and mental health services

2.3 million people helped

650 grants to nonprofits, schools, child care centers and community organizations

See all our COVID-19 relief partners at UnitedWaySEM.org/COVIDpartners.
Since the start of the pandemic, United Way and our partners have been working to close the digital divide in our region. As schools in our community transitioned to remote learning, the issue of inequity in access to technology was greatly exacerbated.

Through our COVID-19 Community Response Fund, we have awarded more than $950,000 in educational and technological grants to community organizations and schools or school districts. The grants further support the educational, social, emotional, and technological needs of students and families across Southeastern Michigan. As students go back to school — even virtually — we continue to work with school districts, nonprofit partners and community organizations to support students during and after school hours.

As the demand for basic needs and other health and human services grows, the staff at frontline nonprofit agencies are increasingly at risk for exposure to COVID-19.

United Way’s COVID-19 Community Response Fund helped ensure that those who care for our most vulnerable community members had the protection they needed. With donor and corporate partner support, we were able to provide masks, gloves, sanitizer and other supports to hundreds of child care facilities, nonprofit organizations and schools.

United Way’s 2-1-1 helpline has served as a crucial resource to our community during the COVID-19 crisis.

When the COVID-19 outbreak began in Michigan, calls to 2-1-1 jumped from an average of 500 per day to 750. In March 2020, our 2-1-1 team handled more than 19,000 calls for help.

In response to the increased call volume, staff from United Way and nearly a dozen of our corporate partners volunteered to field 2-1-1 calls. These trained volunteers have worked up to six hours per week taking calls from people in crisis.

As the demand for basic needs and other health and human services grows, the staff at frontline nonprofit agencies are increasingly at risk for exposure to COVID-19.

United Way’s COVID-19 Community Response Fund helped ensure that those who care for our most vulnerable community members had the protection they needed.

Though the pandemic has made in-person volunteerism more difficult, the need for volunteer support has not stopped. United Way volunteers have remained committed to helping our community overcome this crisis.

*Data is accurate as of Aug. 26, 2020. Visit UnitedWaySEM.org/COVIDimpact to see current data.