

# UNITED WAY'S COVID-19 RESPONSE

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 \$2.8 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](https://UNITEDWAYSEM.ORG/COVIDIMPACT)



[UNITEDWAYSEM.ORG](https://UNITEDWAYSEM.ORG)



United Way  
for Southeastern Michigan

# \$25.8M INVESTED

● MORE THAN

# 650 GRANTS

TO NONPROFITS, SCHOOLS,  
CHILD CARE CENTERS AND  
COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

See all our COVID-19 relief partners at  
[UnitedWaySEM.org/COVIDpartners](https://UnitedWaySEM.org/COVIDpartners).



## \$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



[UNITEDWAYSEM.ORG](https://UnitedWaySEM.org)



United Way  
for Southeastern Michigan

## 2-1-1

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..



2-1-1

MORE THAN  
**115K**  
REFERRALS  
TO SERVICES PROVIDED

**77,100+**  
CALLS TO 2-1-1 ANSWERED

TOP NEEDS INCLUDE  
**FOOD, SHELTER AND  
UTILITY ASSISTANCE**



## EDUCATION

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.

**\$950K**

INVESTED IN 66 ORGANIZATIONS  
AND SCHOOLS/SCHOOL DISTRICTS

**44,100+**

PEOPLE HELPED WITH DISTANCE  
LEARNING, AND INTERNET AND  
COMPUTER ACCESS

## PERSONAL PROTECTION EQUIPMENT (PPE)

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.

**355,000+** PIECES OF PPE  
DISTRIBUTED, INCLUDING  
MORE THAN:



**231,000** MASKS AND FACE SHIELDS

**123,000** PAIRS OF GLOVES

**1,602** 5-GALLON TUBS OF HAND  
SANITIZER

## VOLUNTEERISM

Since the COVID-19 outbreak began in March, Michiganders have used United Way's volunteer portal to find ways to help those most in need. They have packed and delivered food to seniors, virtually tutored students, given blood, donated supplies and more.

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.



**6,000+**  
VOLUNTEER HOURS

**\$148K**  
IN VOLUNTEER LABOR



[UNITEDWAYSEM.ORG](http://UNITEDWAYSEM.ORG)

\*Data is accurate as of Aug. 26, 2020. Visit [UnitedWaySEM.org/COVIDImpact](http://UnitedWaySEM.org/COVIDImpact) to see current data.



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