

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT STRATEGY



2026 - 2027



UNITED WAY
Southwest
Louisiana

2026 - 2027 UNITED WAY SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA

From strengthening local resilience to advancing healthy communities, youth opportunity and financial security

OUR MISSION IS POSITIVE

FINANCIAL SECURITY

Equip individuals and families with knowledge and skills necessary to move to or stay above the ALICE Threshold

ADULT EDUCATION, JOB TRAINING & CAREER PATHWAYS

Individuals have access to resources to improve skills or credentials to gain or improve family-sustaining employment.

CAREER PATHWAYS

CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF SWLA
Employment & ID Program

UNITED WAY SWLA
Empowerment Through Employment

UNITED WAY SWLA
Cal-PRI (Calcasieu Prisoner Reentry)

ADULT EDUCATION

LITERACY COUNCIL OF SWLA
Adult Education & Literacy

SWLA AREA HEALTH EDUCATION CENTER
FOUNDATION
SWLA Healthcare Career Pathways

COUNSELING OR CREDENTIALS

NEW COVENANT FAITH & COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT
Bethesda House

FINANCIAL EDUCATION & COACHING

Individuals improve financial knowledge and banking skills and become self-sustaining.

STABILITY

PROJECT BUILD A FUTURE
Blueprint Incentive Program

PROJECT BUILD A FUTURE
Homebuyer Counseling

UNITED WAY SWLA
Safety Net Fund

UNITED WAY SWLA
ALICE (Asset Limited, Income
Constrained, Employed)

UNITED WAY SWLA
Bank on SWLA

UNITED WAY SWLA
Matched Savings Initiative

UNITED WAY SWLA
Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)

HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION & INTERVENTION

Individuals have access to resources prior to or during a crisis creating a pathway to stable housing.

PUBLIC BENEFITS ACCESS

SHELTER

OASIS A SAFE HAVEN
Emergency Shelter

THE SALVATION ARMY
Supportive Housing

PREVENTION

ASSIST AGENCY

Jeff Davis Emergency Assistance

BEAUREGARD COMMUNITY CONCERNS
June Jenkins Women & Children Shelter

CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF SWLA
ER Rent, Mortgage & Utility Assistance

CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF SWLA
Laundry & Shower Program

THE SALVATION ARMY
Prevention & Stability Assistance

UNITED WAY SWLA
EFSP-FEMA (Emergency Food & Shelter
Assistance)

UNITED WAY SWLA
Power to Care

COMMUNITY RESILIENCY

Decrease the number of individuals or families in crisis

CRISIS RELIEF & RECOVERY

Individuals and community members have access to resources both during and after a community-wide crisis, such as a natural disaster.

UNITED WAY SWLA

SWLA Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD)

UNITED WAY SWLA
Build Back the Block

UNITED WAY SWLA
United Disaster Fund

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Community members are prepared for a crisis such as a natural disaster.

UNITED WAY SWLA
Strong Homes

RESOURCE LINE & SUPPORT

Individuals have access to resources in their region 24/7/365 that help to avoid or recover from a crisis.

FAMILY & YOUTH COUNSELING
Victim Advocacy

UNITED WAY SWLA
211 Resource Line

UNITED WAY SWLA
Employee Crisis Fund

FUNDED UNITED WAY PARTNERS

United Way Southwest Louisiana invests in local programs through a competitive grant process that ensures funding is directed where it can make the greatest impact. Local nonprofit organizations submit proposals demonstrating how their programs address critical community needs and align with our focus areas of Financial Security, Community Resiliency, Healthy Community, and Youth Opportunity.

A defining feature of this process is the involvement of dedicated community volunteers. After receiving comprehensive training, volunteer review teams evaluate each proposal, assess program effectiveness, and recommend funding based on community need, measurable outcomes, and organizational capacity. This volunteer-led approach promotes transparency, accountability, and local ownership while ensuring resources are invested in programs that create meaningful, lasting change across Southwest Louisiana.

UNITED WAY INITIATIVES

United Way Southwest Louisiana develops and leads initiatives that address unmet needs and fill critical gaps in community services. By continuously assessing local challenges, we identify areas where individuals and families lack access to the support they need and create solutions that respond directly to those needs.

Our initiatives focus on strengthening education, improving financial stability, promoting health, and meeting basic needs while responding to emerging issues that may not be addressed through traditional programs. By working alongside community partners and leveraging local resources, we provide targeted support that helps individuals and families overcome barriers, build resilience, and achieve long-term stability.

This proactive approach reflects our commitment to ensuring that every person in Southwest Louisiana has access to the resources, opportunities, and support needed to thrive.



LOUISIANA COMMUNITY INVESTMENT STRATEGY

Financial security, United Way Southwest Louisiana is mobilizing communities to take action so all can thrive.
MAKE COMMUNITY IMPACT.

HEALTHY COMMUNITY

Empower individuals and families with the knowledge and resources needed to maintain and improve their health

MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH

Individuals and Caregivers are empowered with the knowledge and tools to actively support and maintain their children's health.

PRENATAL CARE

CAREGIVERS

GENESIS THERAPEUTIC RIDING CENTER
Therapeutic Riding

NUTRITION & FOOD SECURITY

Individuals have access to food and educational programs on nutrition.

FOOD

ABRAHAM'S TENT
Meals for the Needy

FAITH SHARE
Cameron Parish Healthy Living Outreach

ONCE WAS
Service Saturday

SECOND HARVEST
Food Distribution Program

BEAUREGARD COUNCIL ON AGING INC.
Congregate Meals

BEAUREGARD COUNCIL ON AGING INC.
Home Delivered Meals

UNITED WAY SWLA
United Against Child Hunger

EDUCATION

HEALTHY SPACES & PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Individuals increase their frequency of regular physical activity, contributing to improved overall health and wellness.

UNITED WAY SWLA
Born Learning Trails

MENTAL HEALTH

Individuals have access to timely, affordable, quality counseling and mental health services.

FAMILY & YOUTH COUNSELING
Children's Advocacy Center

OASIS A SAFE HAVEN
Sexual Assault Program

ONCE WAS
Meals of Remembrance

UNITED WAY SWLA
211 Crisis Help

UNITED WAY SWLA
833.TXT.TEEN

UNITED WAY SWLA
Crisis Chat Online

UNITED WAY SWLA
Human Trafficking Initiative

PREVENTION

Individuals have access to educational resources about risky behavior/ smoking/drinking/improved safe-sex practices.

SWLA YOUTH FOUNDATION
Unfiltered Facts

HEALTHCARE ACCESS

Individuals have knowledge and access to healthcare and/or dental services.

BEAUREGARD COUNCIL ON AGING INC
Transportation

EVERGREEN PRESBYTERIAN MINISTRIES
Dental Services

FAMILIES FOR INCLUSION
Family Resource & Support Group

MSGR. DEBLANC - DAUGHTERS OF MARY
MOTHER OF MERCY JOY CARE CENTER
Adult Day Health Care Program

YOUTH OPPORTUNITY

Equip youth with the necessary knowledge, skills and credentials to secure family-sustaining employment

CHILDCARE & EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

Expand access to affordable, high-quality early learning and intervention programs.

ST NICHOLAS CENTER FOR CHILDREN
QSA Quick Skills Assessment

UNITED WAY SWLA
Calcasieu Ready Start Network

UNITED WAY SWLA
Success by 6

IN-SCHOOL RESOURCES

Expand access to affordable, high-quality early learning and intervention programs and professional development for teachers.

COMMITMENT TO CHANGE
Calculators for Youth

UNITED WAY SWLA
WriteStart Project

AFTER SCHOOL & SUMMER ENRICHMENT

Increase access to extracurricular activities for students to promote personal development, social skills, and academic achievement.

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF SWLA
Summer Mentoring Program

UNITED WAY SWLA
Summer GAPS

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF ACADIANA
Project Learn

UNITED WAY SWLA
Summer of Service

GIRL SCOUTS OF LA - PINES TO THE GULF
Girl Scout Leadership Experience

GIRLIE GIRLS MENTORING PROGRAM
Mentoring Program

LITERACY & STEM DEVELOPMENT

Increase access to extracurricular activities for students to promote personal development, social skills, and academic achievement.

Expand access to STEM learning opportunities in schools to engage students in science, technology, engineering, and math education.

LITERACY

UNITED WAY SWLA
Literacy Kits

UNITED WAY SWLA
Reading for Success

STEM

UNITED WAY SWLA
Born Learning STEM Trails

UNITED WAY SWLA
Literacy STEM Kits

COLLEGE, CAREER & FINANCIAL READINESS

Expand access to career pathways by connecting youth with employers, internships, soft skills training, and networking opportunities.

LITERACY COUNCIL OF SWLA
Ready to Work



LIKE
SHARE
TAG



facebook.com/unitedwayofswla



[@unitedwayswla](https://instagram.com/unitedwayswla)



[@unitedwayofswla](https://twitter.com/unitedwayofswla)



youtube.com/unitedwayofswla



linkedin.com/unitedwayswla

unitedwayswla.org



UNITED WAY
Southwest
Louisiana