

# UNITED WAY AND BASIC NEEDS

## Frequently Asked Questions

United Way  
of Racine County



United Way is a community impact organization and resources must be allocated to where the greatest impact can be made while still supporting individuals in crisis. Following a review of community conditions and a thorough analysis by nearly 50 volunteers, United Way found that resources needed to be realigned to better reflect the issues of the community. The United Way board unanimously voted to dedicate resources to initiatives and programs that will move the needle on the focus of building an educated workforce.



Goal: Meet individuals' basic needs for food, shelter and safety.

### WILL UNITED WAY FUND BASIC NEEDS SERVICES?

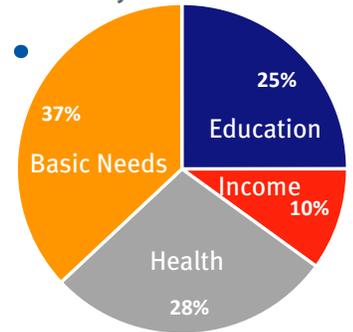
Basic needs programs (food, clothing, shelter, etc.) serve our county's most vulnerable residents by making sure they have adequate access to services that allow them to become stable and work towards self-sufficiency. United Way will continue to support the efforts of our various community partners that administer basic needs programs. Basic Needs funding is intended to support programs in the areas to the right:



### HOW WILL RESOURCES BE REALLOCATED?

The updated investment process will incorporate changes that provide clearer measurements for our basic needs partners to maximize the annual review process based on performance and funding availability. By the 2020-21 funding cycle, no more than 25 percent of total community investment allocations will be granted for basic needs funding.

United Way's Current Allocations



### WHAT ABOUT INDIVIDUALS IN CRISIS?

While issues such as poverty, homelessness and food security are very important, they are also very complex. Long before individuals and families fall into a crisis situation, there are most likely issues in education, income and/or health that are inextricably linked. United Way intends to work on finding ways to make the greatest impact on Racine County and solutions for the long term. By focusing on Building an Educated Workforce, United Way will address the root causes to many issues, which will in turn create a decreased need for basic needs services over time.



Less than **1%** of the total Racine County population is homeless.

**12.8%** of Racine County residents are food insecure.  
**13.3%** of Racine County individuals are below poverty level.

Sources: Institute for Community Alliances, 2014; Feeding America, 2013; U.S. Census Bureau, 2014.



**8 in 10** RUSD students graduate in 4 years, compared to 9 in 10 in the state of Wisconsin.

**Nearly 1 in 3** RUSD students is habitually truant, 3x the state average

**31.5%** of students entering UW-Parkside need English and Math remediation.

**66.4%** of RUSD students receive free/reduced lunch.

**32%** of Racine County residents are considered obese.

Sources: Wisconsin DPI, 2013-14; University of Wisconsin System, 2013; Robert Johnson Wood Foundation, 2015.