



United Way
of East Central Iowa

WE FIGHT FOR

lasting change

A Note From Our CEO



This is the time of year when we celebrate our achievements from the past year and look ahead to what's to come. Our success over the last 365 days is an intersection between two points of our deeper commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion and our communities' top issues.

The tool for our success in addressing these? Our new three-year funding decisions through our Community Impact Fund and Women United Fund.

We knew we had to prioritize funding for housing and building economic mobility this cycle. We've been working hand-in-hand with the non-profit community to determine where the gaps are and what solutions could be imagined. With UWECI's investment of both employees' time to create new solutions and funding applications for new innovative programs, system change can happen. With Unite to Inspire strategies directing our funding, this cycle UWECI moved from funding five programs that focused primarily on shelter or crisis housing to twelve programs that span the spectrum of housing from crisis to stable.

Specifically, we look towards the shift to permanent supportive housing for individuals experiencing homelessness.

A partner agency commended us for this by telling us that when the funders ask for change, it happens. UWECI asked for change, and the landscape of helping our homeless population will look different at the end of this three-year funding cycle than what it does today.

As you read this, I hope you understand that United Way isn't just about funding 29 agencies and 49 programs during our next cycle from July 2023 to June 2026. We're about being on the cutting edge of solutions to our community's biggest obstacles, rolling up our sleeves and finding ways to create change.

And we couldn't do it without you. Thank you for joining us in these efforts.

Kristin Roberts
President, CEO

Learn About Our New Funded Community Partners

Our funded partners cover a lot of ground in East Central Iowa, so we aimed to align our new investment process with our Unite to Inspire strategies for building economic mobility, fostering childhood success, improving access to healthcare, and supporting safety net services. These funding decisions will take effect from July 2023 – June 2026 and are the result of United Way engaging in conversations with a clear focus on these issues while also focusing on vulnerable populations and incorporating diverse cultures and identities. This three-year cycle will fund 29 agencies and 49 programs.

Read more about these programs at uweci.org/what-we-do/our-impact/who-we-invest-with/.



Unite to Inspire Strategies

Building Economic Mobility, Fostering Childhood Success, Improving Access to Healthcare & Supporting Safety Net Services.

Economic Mobility

Building economic mobility creates a pathway from crisis to stability with housing being the key. When individuals or families have safe and affordable housing, it improves their physical, mental, and emotional wellbeing. Our long-term goal is to work collaboratively with our community to address the need for more affordable housing units, improve housing quality, and address access to housing, all by doing so through an equity lens.

Learn more about how UWECI is addressing economic mobility at uweci.org/what-we-do/our-focus/unitetoinspire/economicmobility/.

Childhood Success

Fostering childhood success is crucial in the early ages of childhood, and it doesn't end there. Our children are the future, and we are continuing to invest in them. We aim to work together to align towards solutions for quality and affordable childcare while connecting to the workforce to reduce the stigma of childcare professionals and convene a group to discuss how to ensure at risk youth are setup for success in the future.

Read more about UWECI's involvement with the childhood success strategy at www.uweci.org/what-we-do/our-focus/unitetoinspire/childhood/.

Access to Healthcare

Improving access to healthcare ensures that physical and mental healthcare is available and affordable for those who need it. Through the UWECI Assisted Transportation Program in Jones and Benton Counties and our partners in Linn and Cedar County, we will work to expand this free service, which ensures individuals over 55 get to their non-emergency medical appointments that are outside of the county. Our Women United Advocates will continue to reduce barriers to ensure preventative health concerns are addressed.

Learn more about how UWECI is addressing access to healthcare at uweci.org/what-we-do/our-focus/unitetoinspire/healthcare/.

Safety Net Services

Supporting safety net services means "catching" individuals and helping them bounce back up if they fall onto hard times. UWECI does not want a family or individual to have one crisis that sets them back for years. Our long-term goal is to understand barriers and implement strategies for individuals to access resources and help them navigate during times of crisis through services such as 211.

Read more about UWECI's involvement with the safety net services at www.uweci.org/what-we-do/our-focus/unitetoinspire/safetynetservices/.



What Inspires You?

What inspires us at UWECI is seeing our Unite to Inspire strategies grow in its capacity through community champions like you to build a stronger Eastern Iowa. So, we ask you, "What Inspires You?" We hope that our vision will inspire you to be the change we need to foster an inclusive and prosperous community.

Scan below and tell us, what inspires you?

