

Plan of Action



UNITED FOR YORK COUNTY

OUR GOALS IN EDUCATION, INCOME, AND HEALTH FOR 2016 – 2019

The United Way of York County establishes priorities for working in the community with partner agencies and other community organizations. These priorities also impact our advocacy work by educating lawmakers about issues facing families. Our priorities are based on what we know about the environment for people living and working in York County and the realities of their daily lives. We believe that children are the future of York County and strive to ensure that all children in York are successful in school and life. All children should have access to quality early childhood education, live in a supportive family with parents who care for them and provide food, health care, and safe shelter so that they can thrive. We realize that many families struggle to make ends meet and need help finding a path to family financial stability. *United Way's mission is to improve people's lives.*

CHALLENGES WE FACE IN YORK COUNTY



EDUCATION

Helping children and youth achieve their potential

INCOME

Providing for basic and crisis needs and promoting financial stability

HEALTH

Improving people's physical and behavioral health

United Way Funding Priorities 2016 - 2019

Education

According to the Pennsylvania Department of Education, 57% of York County children are at risk for school failure because they live in households with an income of \$69,849 or below, which is 300% of the federal poverty level.

United Way's goal is for all children to successfully graduate from high school and transition to post-secondary education, the workforce, or public service. In York County, all school districts struggle to teach children who enter school behind their peers who had access to an early education. To improve the long-term outcomes for at risk children, we fund programs that improve the odds of success for all children, with an emphasis on those living in poverty.

- ✓ Enter kindergarten ready to learn
- ✓ Read proficiently by the end of 3rd grade
- ✓ Receive the academic and socio-emotional support needed to graduate from high school

The result will be more children are prepared to "read to learn" in 4th grade, a fact that will increase the likelihood they will succeed in middle and high school.



Income

United Way's goal is to improve the chances for families in York County to become financially stable.

Families earning less than the median income for York County may struggle to make ends meet and are one financial crisis away from being unable to pay their mortgage or buy enough food for their family. Other families live paycheck to paycheck with no way to change that fact. United Way takes a two-pronged approach and funds programs that first stabilize families and then work with them to improve financial literacy skills, enroll in public benefit programs, build a family budget, and improve their job skills.

- ✓ Basic needs met
- ✓ Access to education and training
- ✓ Job skills and securing employment

The long-term goal is to prepare people to find better jobs through education and training. The end result will be increasing income for York County families that will enable them to thrive.



Health

76% of individuals exercised in the past month, but only 17% exercised 30 minutes for 5 days in the past week. People who exercise regularly are less likely to develop the risk factors for chronic conditions such as diabetes and heart disease.

United Way believes the health of individuals is critical to the health of York County. A healthy community includes access to health care, physical fitness, and mental health services, as well as independent living for older adults and educating individuals about healthy relationships. United Way funds programs that focus on prevention as a way to improve people's physical and behavioral health.

- ✓ Access health care services and engage in healthy eating and physical activity
- ✓ Learn strategies to live a healthy lifestyle
- ✓ Assist people with physical and intellectual disabilities
- ✓ Help older adults lead independent lives

The long-term goal is build a healthy community in which residents of York County are able to participate in activities that lead to a long, happy, and productive life.



LIVE UNITED

unitedway-york.org