



United Way
of Wyoming Valley

COMMUNITY IMPACT



2022-23 GRANTS MADE UNDER THE FOCUS AREA OF EDUCATION

Catholic Youth Center - Preschool Readiness Program - \$30,000

The Catholic Youth Center (CYC) Preschool Program, a Keystone STARS 3 Center, provides quality year-round early education and child care services for children ages 6 weeks through 5. The CYC is the only program in Wyoming Valley offering services 24 hours per day to address the unique employment needs of at-risk families and their children. Funding will be used to support weekly tuition fees for income-eligible families.

Catholic Youth Center - School Age Development Program - \$40,000

The Catholic Youth Center (CYC) School-Age Development Program supports children ages 5 through 14 in a year-round before/after-school setting. Activities include tutoring & homework assistance, enrichment activities and a healthy meal. Funding will be used to support weekly tuition fees for income-eligible families residing in the Wyoming Valley.

Child Development Council of NEPA - Child Care and Early Learning Program - \$30,000

The Child Development Council (CDC) of NEPA is a leading provider of high-quality child care services for children ages 6 weeks to 12 at seven locations throughout Wyoming Valley. CDC of NEPA's Centers have achieved STAR 3 and STAR 4 designations by the Keystone STARS program for their early learning programs, staff qualifications and professional development, partnerships with family and community, and leadership and management. Funding will be used to support tuition scholarships for income-eligible families.

Greater Wyoming Valley Area YMCA - Early Childhood Education Child Care Program - \$55,000

Serving youngsters from 6 weeks to age 5, the Wilkes-Barre Family YMCA's Early Childhood Education Child Care Program operates year-round as a child care center offering early care and preschool programs. The program promotes age-appropriate learning and assessments to engage families in their child's development. Funding will support tuition scholarships for income-eligible families.

Greater Wyoming Valley Area YMCA - Power Scholars Academy - \$55,000

Funding will be used to support Power Scholars Academy, a six-week, school-based summer learning program that combines math and reading instruction with STEM activities designed to keep children learning all summer long. The program will partner with the Wilkes-Barre Area School District and the Hanover Area School District. No less than 55 scholars will participate in the six-week program.

McGlynn Center - After-School Program - \$60,000

The McGlynn Center will use grant funds to support its After School Program which serves residents in Wilkes-Barre public housing. The After-School Program aims to prepare all school-age children for a successful future by instilling a lifelong love of learning. Guidance is offered year-round to participants in the form of tutoring and mentoring services, as well as a variety of unique, hands-on recreational activities.

Wilkes University - Schools and Homes IN Education - Luzerne County (SHINE LC) - \$50,000

Wilkes University's SHINE program addresses the needs of at-risk students and their families by providing home-based visitation services and year round after-school programs for children pre-K through eighth grade. Home visits led by a certified SHINE instructor include reading and math activities for children in pre-K and Kindergarten. Students grades 1 through 8 are connected to round after-school programs that provide homework support, STEAM activities, and nutritious meals. A family engagement component ensures parents/caregivers are connected to their children's progress as well as additional supportive resources, if needed.

2022-23 GRANTS MADE UNDER THE FOCUS AREA OF EDUCATION CONTINUED...

Wyoming Valley Children's Association - Together We Grow Preschool Program - \$70,000

Wyoming Valley Children's Association (WVCA)'s is a unique preschool program combining quality early education and early intervention services to support typically developing children and children with developmental disabilities. Funding will be used to support tuition and fees associated with physical, occupational, speech therapy, and other related services.

2022-23 GRANTS MADE UNDER THE FOCUS AREA OF FINANCIAL STABILITY

Advantage Credit Counseling Services of NEPA - Financial Counseling Program - \$5,000

The Financial Counseling Program helps families in poverty to make a permanent shift to a stable, healthy financial future through intensive counseling led by certified credit counselors. At the end of the program, participants have created a plan with achievable goals to overcome barriers to financial stability. Funding will be used to expand the program to serve additional eligible families in Wyoming Valley.

2022-23 GRANTS MADE IN THE FOCUS AREA OF HEALTH

Catholic Social Services - The Parenting Education Program - \$40,000

Catholic Social Services will use the funding to support the Parenting Education Program, a home-based early intervention program serving at-risk families in Wyoming Valley. Using the Nurturing Parent curriculum, caseworkers provide parents/caregivers with the knowledge and realistic expectations of age-appropriate development milestones and behaviors. Information is shared with families on a variety of parenting topics and ways that parents can support their children's development and learning. Participating families will benefit from personal home visits and learn methods to improve parenting skills.

Luzerne County Head Start - Early Head Start - \$72,000

Luzerne County Head Start (LCHS) is using grant funds to provide weekly, 90-minute home visitation services to expectant mothers and their babies through age 3. Led by family educators, the visits include health and developmental evaluations, and parenting education on the stages of healthy child development, nurturing skills, and coaching. Special emphasis is placed on connecting children to oral and primary health prevention education and services, early literacy efforts, and family engagement opportunities held onsite, twice per month

Luzerne Intermediate Unit 18 - School-Based Community Navigator - \$70,460

The School-Based Community Navigator provides students and their families with an array of prevention and early intervention strategies to increase school attendance. Chronically absent students are at serious risk of falling behind in school, particularly children in early grades. Chronically absent children in preschool, kindergarten and first grade are much less likely to read at grade level by the end of third grade. Students who cannot read at grade level by the end of third grade are four times more likely than proficient readers to drop out of high school. Funding will be used to support the cost of one school-based community navigator position.

Maternal and Family Health Services, Inc. - Nurse-Family Partnership - \$53,500

The Maternal and Family Health Services Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) program is part of a national, high-quality research-based nurse visitation program that provides health education and screenings, counseling, life skills training, and other prenatal intervention to first-time low-income expectant women and their babies. Bi-weekly home visits by an RN ensure a safe, healthy pregnancy for at-risk moms, healthy birth weight deliveries, and quality caregiving for the child during the first two years after birth. United Way funding will support staff time, educational materials and mileage.

2022-23 GRANTS MADE UNDER THE FOCUS AREA OF HEALTH CONTINUED...

Victims Resource Center - Preventing Child Abuse - \$5,000

The Preventing Child Abuse Program is a sexual abuse prevention effort for children in Pre-K through 2nd grade. Grant funding is being used to provide educational presentations and companion materials emphasizing personal safety skills. A specially designed "No, Go, Tell" coloring book detailing the information presented will serve to repeat and reinforce the lesson and will provide an opportunity for children to share what they've learned with their parents/caregivers.

Volunteers in Medicine - A Healthy Smile for a Healthy Start - \$30,000

Through the Healthy Smile for a Healthy Start Program, the Dental Clinic at Volunteers in Medicine (VIM) will partner with local child care centers and preschools to provide preventive dental education to at-risk children on topics such as the importance of dental hygiene, brushing, flossing and healthy dietary habits. Un/underinsured children identified as in need of oral health services will be connected to VIM's Dental Clinic. Funding will support services such as dental cleanings, screenings and education, and the application of sealants for children.

Volunteers of America - Caring Alternatives - \$10,000

VOA's Caring Alternatives Program provides health education, counseling, life skills training, and developmental screenings during the mother's pregnancy and during the first year of the baby's life. Funding will be used to expand home visitation services to include siblings in the program.

2022-23 GRANTS MADE UNDER THE FOCUS AREA OF SAFETY NET

The United Way of Wyoming Valley funds 15 programs at 10 agencies to support access to food, shelter, and protective services.

Catholic Social Services - Mother Teresa's Haven - \$40,000

Mother Teresa's Haven provides emergency shelter and supportive services to adult males experiencing homelessness in Wyoming Valley. The program offers intake and assessment services, transportation assistance to shelter sites and free health clinics, and referrals for transitional and permanent housing. Funding will be used to support direct service staff.

Commission on Economic Opportunity - Emergency Temporary Housing - \$40,000

The Commission on Economic Opportunity (CEO) Emergency Temporary Housing Program connects at-risk individuals and families in Wyoming Valley with case management services that can assist in obtaining emergency shelter, rent/mortgage assistance for eviction prevention, and utility assistance.

Commission on Economic Opportunity - Emergency Services - \$40,000

The Commission on Economic Opportunity (CEO) Emergency Services Program is a unique service that delivers much-needed relief to income-eligible individuals and families in Wyoming Valley. Through this grant, support is available to address a wide range of needs such as material aid in the form of shoes, clothing, and household items; prescription assistance that connects un/underinsured families with access to immunizations and single-course treatments for acute episodic conditions to reduce the number of school days or work days missed due to illness or injury; and traveler's aid to maintain employment or access other necessary services. In addition, some funds will be used to provide a bus ticket to a home or intended destination outside of Wyoming Valley for transients who would otherwise be unable to access.

Domestic Violence Services Center - Crisis Counseling - \$25,000

Funds will be used to support the Crisis Counseling Program at Domestic Violence Service Center. The 24-hour hotline for crisis intervention and counseling programs serves individuals of all ages who have experienced domestic violence or assault. Counselors are specially trained to address the safety needs and concerns of domestic violence survivors. Individual counseling is available and victims can also be assisted with protection from abuse orders, shelter resources, and referrals for other health and human service needs.

2022-23 GRANTS MADE UNDER THE FOCUS AREA OF SAFETY NET CONTINUED...

Domestic Violence Service Center - Emergency Shelter - \$40,000

Domestic Violence Service Center will use funds to support the Emergency Shelter Program, the only 24-hour emergency shelter to harbor battered women and their children. The shelter is a gateway to crisis intervention resources including adult counseling, safety planning, protection from abuse hearings, and parenting education. Special emphasis is placed on children who are able to continue their schooling, receive counseling and are offered a variety of supportive activities to help them to feel safe and secure during a challenging time.

Family Service Association of NEPA - 2-1-1 NE/Help Line - \$45,000

United Way funding will be used to support Family Service Association's 2-1-1 NE/Help Line, a comprehensive health and human services information and referral program in Wyoming Valley. 2-1-1 NE/Help Line provides residents with access to information and referral services via an 800 number, website, or by simply dialing 2-1-1. Help Line/PA 2-1-1 is a free resource.

Victims Resource Center - Sexual Assault Support Services - \$40,000

Victims Resource Center's (VRC) Sexual Assault Support Services is a multi-pronged approach to addressing sexual assault in Wyoming Valley. VRC maintains a 24-hour crisis and support hotline and trained certified counselors are available to provide counseling to assault victims, as well as to non-offending parents and partners, accompaniment to law enforcement and court offices, prevention education, and information and referrals for additional support, as needed.

Volunteers of America - Dial-A-Driver Program - \$10,000

Funding will be used to support the Dial-A-Driver program, which provides door-to-door transportation services to help older or disabled adults who live independently continue to meet their basic needs. Dial-A-Driver transports individuals to medical appointments to ensure they maintain medical compliance, and they help with shopping for groceries to ensure nutrition needs are met.

Volunteers of America - Ruth's Place - \$35,000

Established in 2003, Ruth's Place provides safe, short-term emergency shelter and case management services for women experiencing homelessness in Luzerne County. Funding will be used to support personnel for intake and assessment, case management, and referrals to other community service providers.

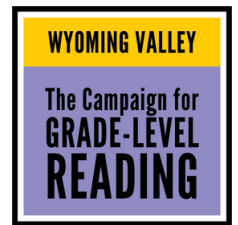
Volunteers in Medicine - Patient-Centered Comprehensive Care- \$45,000

The Volunteers in Medicine (VIM) Clinic serves the working uninsured of Wyoming Valley. Funding will be used to support personnel costs associated with the program and to increase the inventory of pharmaceuticals, and medical and diagnostic testing supplies for un/underinsured children and their families facing immediate threats to their well-being.



United Way
of Wyoming Valley

GRADE LEVEL READING & SCHOOL-BASED PROGRAMS



Currently in Wyoming Valley, only 36% of our third graders are reading on grade level. United Way of Wyoming Valley has taken a big step toward improving student success in our area by joining the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading (GLR), a nationwide movement to increase early reading proficiency.

Reading proficiency by the end of third grade is a critical milestone toward high school graduation and success later in life because it marks the transition from “learning to read” to “reading to learn.” National tests show that two-thirds of U.S. fourth graders (four-fifths of whom are from low-income families) are not reading proficiently. Students who have not mastered reading by that time are more likely to drop out of high school and struggle throughout their lives.

MAKING AN IMPACT IN OUR COMMUNITY

The United Way’s plan focuses on addressing underlying challenges that can keep young children, especially those in low-income families, from learning to read proficiently.

SCHOOL READINESS:

Too many children are entering kindergarten already behind. These United Way initiatives were started to help children start their education on the right track:

- Annual Literacy Kits
- Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library

Once in school, United Way of Wyoming Valley wants to help foster early literacy and ensure children are not falling behind. Our volunteer-driven literacy initiatives include:

- Annual Children’s Book Drive
- Million Minute Challenge
- Reading Buddies Virtual Edition

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE:

An alarming number of young children are missing too many days of school. Our below initiatives focus on addressing the underlying challenges that can keep children, especially those in low-income families, from attending school:

- Attendance Awareness Poster Contest
- Loads of Love
- School-Based Community Navigator
- See to Succeed
- The Nurse’s Pantry

SUMMER LEARNING

At-risk children are losing ground academically over the summer. At the United Way of Wyoming Valley, we’re working hard to address the challenge of the “summer slide” through unique and innovative programs and initiatives like:

- “Tag In” For Summer Learning Program

Additional Funded Partner Agency Programming:

- Power Scholars Academy
- Schools and Homes in Education (SHINE)