



United Way
of Greater Mercer County:
Making an Impact
in the Community

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Resource Investment: Creating Impact in the Community



Today's United Way focuses on identifying and responding to community needs, investing resources wisely, and taking a proactive leadership role in convening and engaging the community to act together to solve problems.

- ◆ focus on underlying causes of most pressing social issues
- ◆ partner with local organizations to leverage resources
- ◆ plan long-term solutions that produce results, i.e. create lasting changes that improve lives

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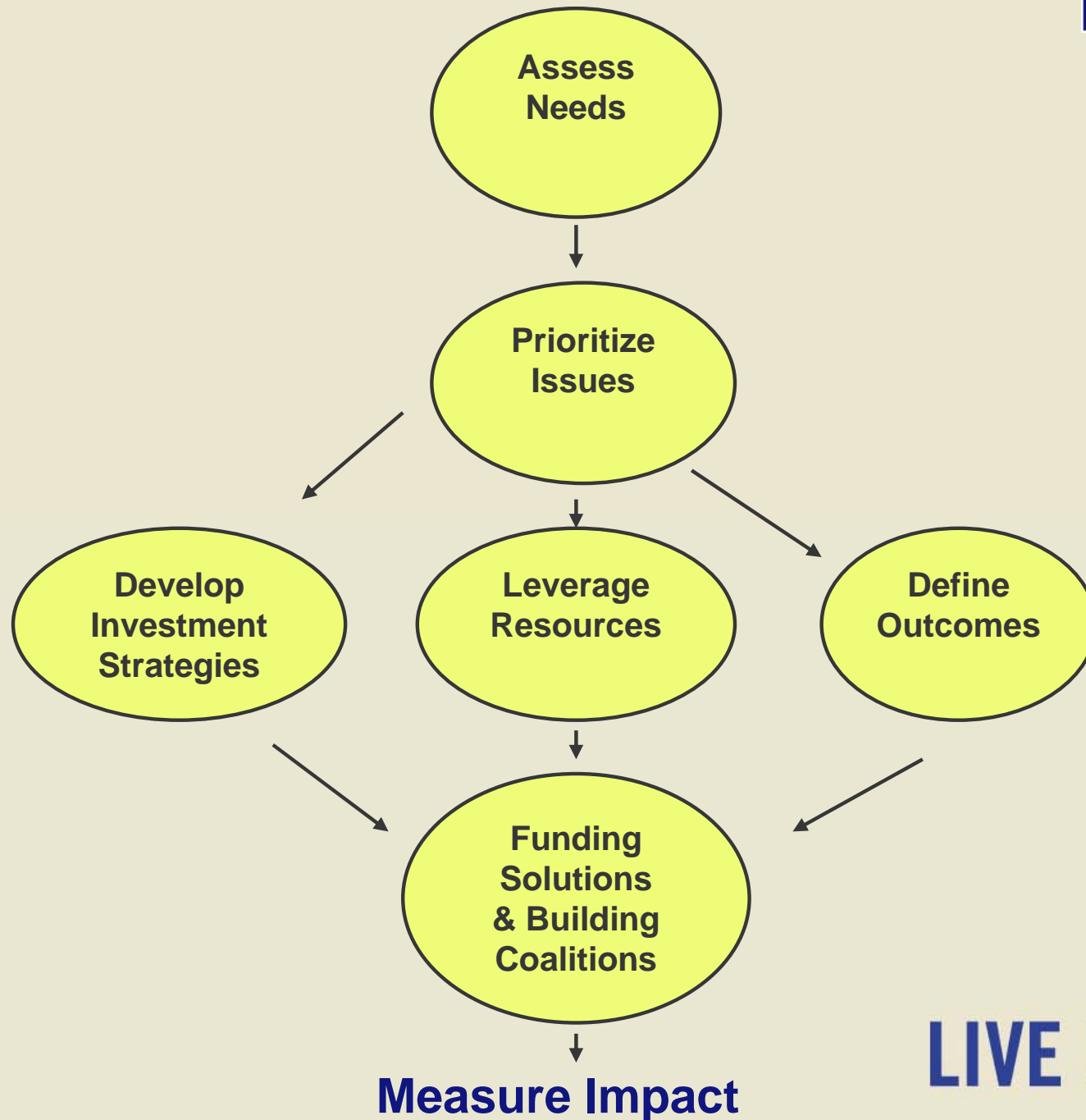
Local examples of Community Impact



- ◆ **UWGMC funded projects: child care and parent training for homeless families, mentoring for at-risk youth, domestic violence prevention, asset-building for low-income families, and case management services for seniors and people with disabilities**
- ◆ **Grant funding and advocacy for the Housing First Initiative Demonstration Project to house 50 homeless individuals and families in permanent supportive housing**
- ◆ **Partnership with the county to provide over 170 free air conditioners each year to frail elderly and persons with disabilities**
- ◆ **Partnership with Mercer County, TRADE, NJ Transit and local municipalities and agencies to improve the coordination of transportation services across the county**

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Today's Vision of Resource Investment



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Fostering Self-Sufficiency



Vision:

Increased economic opportunity, stability and self-sufficiency for all Mercer County residents, especially indigent and low-income families and individuals and non-English speaking populations

Goal:

- **Increase the availability of adequate shelter, food, and emergency assistance**
- **Increase the capacity of families and individuals to care for themselves**
- **Increase availability of affordable and permanent housing**

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Nutrition Alliance



Lead Agency: Mercer Street Friends

Partners:

Community Action Service Center of Hightstown

The Crisis Ministry

HomeFront

Mt. Carmel Guild

Services:

- Increases access to nutritious food for low-income families
- Upgrades nutritional quality of food packages and meals for clients
- Addresses cultural preferences and dietary restrictions
- Educates about healthy eating, budgeting and best nutritional practices
- Combines and coordinates the social service expertise of several agencies
- Strengthens families' financial stability and economic self-sufficiency
- Helps combat rising health care costs by improving families' nutrition

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Community of Services Collaboration



Lead Agency: Family Guidance Center

Partners:

CONTACT of Mercer County

PEIKids

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)

Womanspace

HomeFront

Services:

- Coordinated case management and counseling for families and individuals
- Mental health and substance abuse treatment
- Treatment for sexually abused children
- Consumer credit counseling
- Transitional housing and supportive services
- Domestic violence shelter, intervention and prevention services
- Unified assessment, service planning, and care coordination
- Combines and coordinates expertise of six leading community agencies

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Latino Domestic Violence Prevention Initiative



Lead Agency: Catholic Charities

Partners:

Womanspace

Community Action Service Center

Services:

- Coordinated intervention for both perpetrators and victims of domestic violence
- Helps families to access services in time of crisis
- Provides a county-wide “safety net” for Latino communities
- Aggressive outreach to families at risk
- Shelter, hotline, emergency response and counseling
- Anger management training and groups for perpetrators
- Women’s support groups
- Substance abuse counseling
- Training in healthy relationships and healthy marriages
- Legal assistance and advocacy

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Mercer Housing First Initiative (HFI)



This unique coalition of federal, state, county and city government, UWGMC, private funders, and local nonprofits, led by the Mercer Alliance to End Homelessness, will house 50 chronically homeless individuals and families in permanent, supportive housing in scattered apartments throughout Mercer County. A privately funded evaluator will monitor the project's outcomes.

Funding partners include UWGMC, NJ Department of Human Services and Department of Community Affairs, Mercer County, City of Trenton, and HUD. Supporting partners include Monarch Housing, Corporation for Supported Housing, and Housing Mortgage and Finance Agency.

Greater Trenton Behavioral Healthcare will provide the wrap-around service team that will engage clients and families and deliver the needed supports to prevent further homelessness. UWGMC will provide about 20% of these service dollars each year for three years.

This demonstration project is the first in New Jersey. By leveraging various funding sources for both vouchers for housing and supportive services, Mercer County will become a leader in the fight against chronic homelessness and a model for other communities.

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Helping Children Succeed



Vision:

All children and youth reach their fullest potential in a safe and nurturing environment

Goal:

Increase the capacity of children to enter school healthy and ready to learn

- **Improve opportunities for youth to stay in school, become work-ready, and to develop into mature adults with a future**
- **Increase parents' involvement in their children's lives**

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Family Education Collaborative



Lead Agency: HomeFront

Partners:

The Cherry Tree Club

Mercer County Library

Educational Testing Service (ETS)

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

Services:

- Early childhood program for homeless children, ages 2.5 to 5
- Parent engagement program, including home visits to families
- Parent reading literacy program, leading to GED program
- ETS' computer based literacy and life skills program for adult learners
- Trains children and parents to reach their fullest potential
- Parents become more involved in their children's lives
- Families become more stable and self-sufficient

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Trenton Leadership and Mentoring Project



Lead Agency: Big Brothers Big Sisters of Mercer County

Partners:

Princeton Center for Leadership Training

Leadership Trenton

Princeton- Blairstown Center

Services:

- One-on-one weekly mentoring of targeted high school freshmen by juniors
- In-depth training in how to mentor for juniors
- Two day retreat for junior mentors with community professionals
- Links high school students with trained peers and professional adults
- Provides ongoing network of peer and adult mentors to sustain program
- Focuses on developing social and emotional skills to make better decisions
- Goal is to increase graduation rate from current 50% to 86%

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TRIO (Teaming Resources for Innovative Opportunities)



Lead Agency: Better Beginnings Child Development Center

Partners:

Community Action Service Center of Hightstown

Jewish Family & Children's Service

Services:

- Affordable, high-quality childcare in an accredited center for preschoolers
- Assessment and counseling for at-risk children
- Parent training workshops and psycho-education groups
- Job readiness seminars and support for parents
- Academic enrichment summer camp for children
- Integrated, coordinated mental health and substance abuse services
- Support for teachers on classroom management and curriculum planning
- Emergency food and financial assistance
- “One stop shopping” for services

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Caring for Seniors and People with Disabilities



Vision:

All seniors and people with disabilities able to live and to age in place with dignity

Goal:

- **Increase mobility, access to services and socialization for seniors and people with disabilities**
- **Reduce isolation, depression, anxiety, substance abuse, and suicide**

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Project Connect

Lead Agency: Mercer Street Friends



Partners:

Catholic Charities

Mobile Meals of Trenton/Ewing

Enable

Mt. Carmel Guild

Interfaith Caregivers of Trenton

The ARC/ Mercer

Jewish Family & Children's Service

Services:

- Centralized, coordinated care management system of eight agencies in the “southern” part of the county, combining their expertise and experience
- Case management, home health care, mental health and substance abuse, transportation, socialization and recreation, respite care, home modifications, and home-delivered meals
- Individualized volunteer support and home visiting
- Utilizes “no wrong door” approach for easy access to services
- Standardized common screening, assessment and service planning
- Utilizes naturally occurring retirement communities (NORC) to maintain people in their own homes

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Partners in Caring



Lead Agency: Jewish Family & Children's Service

Partners:

American Red Cross

Greater Mercer Ride Provide

CONTACT

Princeton Senior Resource Center

Enable

Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)

Services:

- Centralized, coordinated care management system for “northern” part of county, combining expertise and experience of seven community agencies
- Case management, mental health/substance abuse, home-delivered meals, caregiver support, accessibility services, transportation, nursing, and volunteer support
- “No wrong door” approach facilitates access to services
- Utilizes naturally occurring retirement communities (NORC) to maintain people in their own homes
- Common, interdisciplinary screening, assessment and service planning tools, as well as common, shared release form and data-sharing mechanisms
- Special Care Coordinators at three partner agencies

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Advocacy Issues



- ◆ **Make the public and policy-makers aware of the economic impact of early care and education, so they create laws, policies and services that support it**
- ◆ **Explore how to address the lack of affordable housing by convening government, developers, realtors and the Mercer Alliance to End Homelessness**
- ◆ **Advocate for increased access to affordable medical and dental care for children, families, seniors and people with disabilities**
- ◆ **Work to expand affordable public transportation throughout the county**
- ◆ **Advocate to increase availability of legal services for children, families, seniors and people with disabilities**

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A Call to Action



United Way of Greater Mercer County has been given a mandate by our community to become more active, visible and vocal in bringing various community stakeholders together to improve our neighborhoods.

People gave us clear feedback that they want to see more collaboration and coordination of services, and more accountability for funds.

We all want a safer, healthier and stronger community, but individuals, agencies and businesses cannot do it alone. By contributing to our *Community Impact Fund*, you can make an investment in your future.

Together, we will get results that no one can accomplish alone.

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THANK YOU!

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