

# our COMMUNITIES CAN'T WAIT



The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have been devastating to vulnerable individuals and families. Since our beginning, United Way has been at the forefront of responding to the most pressing local needs and regional issues such as homelessness, early education and fostering opportunity for all. COVID-19 was a new challenge for us, but we were undaunted.

Since the onset of the crisis, our Covid-19 relief funds have supported over 317,000 people and 189 organizations across eastern Massachusetts and the Greater Seacoast region of New Hampshire. Over 52% of those served were receiving assistance for the first time.

It's going to take much more than emergency financial assistance to help families and communities recover from this crisis and rebuild. The economic and health impacts of COVID-19 have hit communities of color, immigrants and vulnerable populations harder than the rest of our region. For hospitality workers, retail workers, and other hourly employees who were already living paycheck to paycheck and have no clear options for recouping lost wages, the impact of this crisis has been disastrous.

United Way has the scale and reach to help. With hundreds of nonprofit organizations, state and municipal leaders, and corporate partners, we can best address urgent needs and activate comprehensive, long-term solutions.

## WE CAN'T DO IT ALONE

The Covid-19 crisis has illuminated and widened existing cracks in our human services safety net and education system like no other point in time in our history. But it is also a once-in-a-generation opportunity to reimagine how we meet the needs of our most vulnerable residents and empower our communities to emerge stronger, equitable and more prepared for the future.

## COMMUNITIES IN CRISIS

- ▶ More than 1 in 5 children in New Hampshire is food insecure.
- ▶ Nearly 26,000 residents in New Hampshire are at risk of eviction or foreclosure.
- ▶ Over 291,000 adults in New Hampshire report it has been somewhat or very difficult to pay for usual household expenses during the pandemic.
- ▶ The depopulation of homeless shelters because of public health requirements has meant the loss of beds for a system that had already seen an increase in length of shelter stays by 20% over the past five years.
- ▶ In New Hampshire, more than 200 childcare centers have been closed, forcing working parents to reduce their hours or quit their jobs due to a lack of childcare.



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## Advancing Thriving, Equitable Communities

Together, we will overcome this public health and economic crisis and empower our communities in Massachusetts and New Hampshire to rebuild, more equitable and resilient than ever.

### Our Plan:

#### Preventing Homelessness and Fostering Financial Wellbeing

- ▶ Help an additional 740 families avoid homelessness by providing case management, eviction prevention, legal services and financial assistance. We're also thinking big and developing a statewide plan to close the gap of 160,000 units needed to provide housing and end homelessness.
- ▶ Develop 25 new career pathways programs aligned with industry growth to provide 1,250 households with more resilient employment.
- ▶ Provide financial and job training coaching to empower an additional 12,300 households in their journey toward financial stability.

#### Ensuring access to high-quality early education

- ▶ Through our network of 53 early education partners, provide an additional 8,000 young children with high-quality childcare and services, and business training to 100 family childcare providers to prevent closures.
- ▶ Expand early childhood developmental screening program to 2,500 children to help ensure they enter school prepared to learn

#### Supporting students in the era of remote learning

- ▶ Work with our network of 87 out-of-school time partners to expand hours in support of hybrid and remote school day instruction for more than 65,000 youth.
- ▶ Support 2,000 youth with technology assistance, such as obtaining reliable internet and appropriate technology.

#### Advancing Justice, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

- ▶ Establish a Justice, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion fund for nonprofits that want to engage in this work with their staff and communities yet lack the financial resources to do so.

**UNITED WAY WAS BUILT FOR THIS. JOIN OUR COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO THE ONGOING CRISIS. OUR COMMUNITIES CAN'T WAIT.**