

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



Why should I give to United Way instead of directly to an agency?

United Way is uniquely positioned to support local ALICE households (Asset-Limited, Income Constrained, Employed). Through a multi-faced approach, UWSCMI:

- Provides direct services and programming to ALICE households. Programs include:
 - Calhoun & Kalamazoo Continuum of Care
 - Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)
 - Program Assistance Center (PAC)
 - JobSTAR
- Partners with dozens of nonprofit partners to build a network of supports and services.
- Collaborates with companies, policymakers and community leaders to improve systems.
- Brings people, ideas and resources together to do the complex work that no one organization can address alone.

What critical issues does my donation go toward?

Your donation fuels investments and programs that create opportunities for ALICE households to move into financial stability, and increase access to basic needs support like food, shelter, healthcare, childcare, etc.

How are contributions distributed to the community?

Funds are generally allocated through an open grant application process led by skilled Community Impact staff working in partnership with dedicated groups of local community volunteers whose experiences and knowledge inform our approaches and how resources are allocated. Ultimately, an additional group of local volunteers, the Community Leadership Council, approves funding allocations, which are one of our many strategies to support ALICE households.

Donors can also designate their investment to one of UWSCMI's programs:

- Capital Area College Access Network
- Calhoun & Kalamazoo Continuum of Care
- Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)
- Program Assistance Center (PAC)
- JobSTAR
- Disaster Relief Fund

Where does my contribution go? How much stays local?

Donors have the opportunity to give regionally (where dollars are needed most across our six counties), or direct their dollars locally. Otherwise, undesignated gifts will support the community the donor's company is based in (if a workplace donor) or the donor's community (based on donor address). More than 83% goes into local resources, collaborations, programs and agencies.

What is your relationship with United Way Worldwide and other local United Ways?

United Way of South Central Michigan is an independent organization governed by a board of local community volunteers. UWSCMI collaborates with other local United Ways such as United Way of Southwest Michigan, United Way of Southeast Michigan, and the Michigan Association of United Ways.

Is my United Way contribution tax-deductible?

Yes, your contribution is tax-deductible. We suggest consulting with your tax advisor for further information.

FOR OTHER QUESTIONS PLEASE ADVISE YOUR LOCAL UW CONTACT

Visit our webpage at unitedforscmi.org