

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 (working families struggling to pay for the basics) 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
 - Capital Area College Access Network
 - ALICE @ Work
 - Kalamazoo Small Business Programs
- 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 distributed through an open grant application process led by skilled Community Impact staff working in partnership with local community volunteers. Our volunteers generously share their experiences and knowledge to select our grant recipients. Because of our commitment to centering community voices, we also review these grant recommendations with a group of volunteers that we call our Community Leadership Council. The Community Leadership Council, approves the final funding recommendations.

Donors can also designate their investment to one of UWSCMI's programs as well.

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. When a donor chooses to invest their dollars locally -those funds support the community the donor's company is based in (if a workplace donor) or the donor's home community (based on donor address). More than 83% of UWSCMI's revenue goes into local programs, collaborations, and services.

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 to strengthen our impact and identify the best solutions and services for our local community.

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