The Facts

New York City’s Challenges

- 2 in 5 working-age households—that’s more than 905,000—aren’t self-sufficiency, meaning they lack enough income to cover the basics—food, housing, transportation, childcare, healthcare, and taxes.
- 1.4 million New Yorkers don’t know where their next meal will come from, and nearly 3 million regularly have trouble affording healthy food.
- 6 out of 10 children in NYC can’t read on grade-level. Children not reading on grade-level by third grade are 74% more likely to drop out of high school—often falling into or remaining in poverty.

Who is United Way of New York City?

- United Way of New York City is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping low-income New Yorkers make ends meet and lead self-sufficient lives.

What Does United Way of New York City Do?

- We work in the poorest communities, and ensure that individuals and families are never one paycheck away from hunger and homelessness, that children have equal opportunities to succeed and build a future for themselves, and that cross-sector partners can collaborate to provide the resources and infrastructure necessary to support our community’s needs.
- We focus on the building blocks for an equal opportunity life—education, health and financial stability—providing our struggling neighbors with immediate resources for survival, while helping strengthen households for future success and stability.
- We work with our partners across all industries: corporate, government, foundation, nonprofit, and the community working toward our long-term goal: to help New Yorkers make meaningful and measurable progress toward self-sufficiency.

How Does United Way of New York City Do It?

- Achieving self-sufficiency is no easy task, and to break the cycle of poverty we know that we need to help families and communities as a whole—from the child who can’t read, the educators who are under resourced, to the parents who can’t make ends meet.
- We created a collective impact approach—called the 4 Ds—that works to diagnose the strengths and challenges a community faces, design actionable plans to address the challenges, deploy critical resources to execute the plan effectively, and drive policy change based on our findings.
- This process brings together the changemakers in our community to create and deliver proven strategies that work—because the more effective our collaborations, the more impactful initiatives we can create.
- Because there are so many moving pieces for this multi-strategy work to be successful, United Way serves as the connection between everyone and everything—turning a complex situation into a simple outcome.
We execute key programs when used individually help address families’ immediate crises, but when used in conjunction with one another work to solve the bigger picture of leading people along the path to self-sufficiency.

Our Programs

- **ReadNYC** is United Way of New York City’s signature collective impact program that is helping low-income families as a whole move from barely surviving to thriving.
  - The program is built on UWNYC’s belief that getting a solid, quality education as a child is key to becoming a self-sufficient adult and caregiver.
  - For a child to get this type of education, they need strong schools, teachers, principals, parents and neighborhoods.
  - To empower children and communities, ReadNYC brings together corporations, government, philanthropy, and individuals to set and implement a comprehensive strategy that’s improving literacy rates and stabilizing homes.

- **EducateNYC** is United Way of New York City’s community schools initiative, offering the supports and services needed to remove barriers and help students succeed.
  - In 2017, more than 20,000 students at 45 Attendance Improvement and Dropout Prevention (AIDP) initiative schools were served.
  - EducateNYC works with the New York City Department of Education (NYCDOE) and the NYCDOE Office of Community Schools to strengthen school and community-based organization (CBO) partnerships.
  - These partnerships allow EducateNYC to provide increased attention to attendance improvement and implement an array of student and family services.

- **FeedNYC** works to strengthen the capacity of emergency food providers to distribute healthy, fresh food to underserved neighborhoods across New York City.
  - FeedNYC addresses the nearly 3 million New Yorkers who regularly have trouble affording healthy food and the 1.4 million New Yorkers who don’t know where their next meal will come from.

- **BenefitsAccessNYC** connects families with critical assistance essential to becoming self-sufficient, including benefits such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), emergency food and shelter, healthcare assistance, transportation support, financial empowerment, and job readiness opportunities to help New Yorkers move from surviving to thriving.
  - The Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP), funded by Congress through FEMA since 1983, provides supplementary funds for food and equipment through UWNYC for existing emergency food providers, such as food pantries, soup kitchens, and shelters.
  - Food Support Connections (FSC) is just one of the many ways we are preserving the stability of struggling New Yorkers. This program provides screening, application, and enrollment assistance services for the hardest-to-reach low-income individuals and families across all five boroughs of New York City.

The Impact of an Investment with United Way of New York City
● Awarded 54 grants, totaling nearly $1 million to fill the food supply gap in 18 Priority neighborhoods—providing equipment, food storage, and technical assistance to build greater capacity for emergency food providers.

● Summer reading proficiency in our Once Upon a Summer Program grew from 24%-40%

● Administered rent, mortgage, and utility assistance to more than 2,700 households preventing eviction

● Distributed more than 3,700 literacy kits to ReadNYC students

● Served more than 9,300 healthy snack packs to low-income students and pantry clients

● Enrolled 4,992 households in SNAP benefits

● 3rd grade test results show that 43% of students are reading at or above grade-level compared to 10% when ReadNYC launched five years ago

● Engaged 3,577 volunteers in more than 160 projects across the City, contributing 8,525 hours

● Provided our City's homeless with more than 18,000 hygiene kits