



United Way of Henderson County

Neighbors helping neighbors; Your local United Way

LIVE UNITED





United Way of Henderson County has been fighting for the health, education, financial stability, and basic needs of everyone in Henderson County since 1953.

Together we make our community stronger and a better place for all.





ONE GIFT – BIG IMPACT

- With the power of one gift you are supporting 44 programs at 26 local nonprofits in Henderson County.
- Together, we are helping to provide over 40,000 local services to neighbors in need each year.



UWHC's Plan for Improving our Community over the Next Decade

We prioritize projects that are actively working against racial, ethnic and other disparities facing historically underserved populations, and projects that engage community members to co-create solutions.

	Target Issue	Objective	Key Data	Supported Strategies Include
Education	Kindergarten Readiness	Increase % of Henderson County children entering Kindergarten ready to learn	45% enter Kindergarten proficient or above in phonemic awareness. 47% enter Kindergarten proficient or above in print awareness.	Improving access to high quality early education; Literacy outreach for young children not in formal educational programs
		School Success	Provide community services to help improve the school performance of historically underserved student populations	Statewide, Black and Hispanic students are underperforming White students by 20-30 percentage points on reading and math proficiency assessments. Local data show similar gaps. Statewide, economically disadvantaged students are underperforming students who are not economically disadvantaged by 25 percentage points on reading and math proficiency assessments. Local data show similar gaps.
Financial Stability	Economic Self-Sufficiency	Improve financial stability for individuals and families experiencing economic hardship	31.1% of residents are considered low-income The median hourly wage is 80.4% of what's needed for 1 adult and 1 child to make ends meet	Transportation; Financial literacy; Improving employability; Assistance accessing benefits
		Affordable Housing	Increase number of families and individuals who have affordable, safe, decent housing	Rent is unaffordable for 48.4% of renters 18.7% of renters spend more than half their income on rent 381 homeless households on the waitlist for housing
Health	Physical Activity & Nutrition	Improve the level of physical activity & nutrition for children and adults	1 out of 5 households have run out of food or worried about running out of food in the past year 22.4% of surveyed report they get the recommended amount of physical activity 6.7% of surveyed report they consume 5 or more servings of fruits and vegetables per day	Access to healthy foods for food insecure; Education on healthy eating; Promotion of physical activity; Improving physical environment for exercise
		Healthy Youth Behaviors	Decrease risky/harmful behaviors including the misuse of substances among middle and high school youth	30% of ninth graders reported they have used electronic vaping products 21.4% of ninth graders reported they seriously considered attempting suicide in the last year 70 teen pregnancies
BN/CS	Basic Needs/Crisis Services	Temporarily provide essential services and resources to residents in crisis		

Community Driven
Community Vetted
Community Impact

FINANCIAL STABILITY

- Habitat for Humanity Affordable Homeownership
- Housing Assistance Corporation Home Repair Program
- Literacy Connection EmployED
- OnTrack Financial Education and Counseling Financial Stability Program
- Pisgah Legal Services Elder Law Program
- Pisgah Legal Services Health Care and Income Security
- Pisgah Legal Services Homelessness Prevention Program
- Pisgah Legal Services Justice for All Program
- Safelight Community Engagement/Job Training
- Thrive Housing Case Management Program
- WNC Source Workforce Rides Program

BASIC NEEDS/CRISIS SERVICES

- Calvary Episcopal Church Food Pantry Calvary Food Pantry
- Children & Family Resource Center Full Tum, Dry Bum Formula and Diaper Assistance
- Council on Aging Senior Support Services
- Henderson County Rescue Squad Mental Health Initiative
- Interfaith Assistance Ministry Addressing HC Cost of Living Crisis
- MANNA FoodBank Feeding Children Year Round
- Medical Loan Closet Durable Medical Equipment Loans
- MountainCare Henderson Adult Day Services
- Pisgah Legal Services Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention Program
- Safelight Emergency Shelter and Hotline
- Safelight Family Advocacy Center
- The Free Clinics HealthCare Safety net program
- The Mediation Center Community Mediation
- Thrive The Clubhouse Day Program

EDUCATION

- Big Brothers Big Sisters High School Bigs
- Boys & Girls Club Project Learn
- Children & Family Resource Center Preschoolers Reaching Educational Potential (PREP)
- Children & Family Resource Center Parents as Teachers
- Literacy Connection Family Literacy
- Literacy Connection Youth Program
- SmartStart of HC Dolly Parton's Imagination Library
- SmartStart of HC READY! Kindergarten Transition Initiative

HEALTH

- Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project Growing Minds Farm to School
- Aspire Kids at Work
- Big Brothers Big Sisters Healthy Youth Initiative
- Boys & Girls Club SMART Moves
- Boys & Girls Club Triple Play
- Children & Family Resource Center Community Based Prevention
- Crossnore Architects of Hope
- Hope Coalition Hope Rising
- MANNA FoodBank Food Distribution Program
- St. Gerard House Feed the Need & Grotto
- The Free Clinics Bridges to Health Diabetes Education



BASIC NEEDS

BASIC NEEDS & CRISIS SERVICES

Temporarily provide essential services and resources to residents in crisis.

United Way of Henderson County fights for the health, education, financial stability and basic needs of everyone in Henderson County. **With the power of one gift you are supporting 44 programs at 26 local nonprofits and helping to provide over 40,000 services to Henderson County neighbors each year.**

Neighbors like The Johnson's...

The Johnson's came into Medical Loan Closet last Fall to rent a Sit to Stand lift for their 37-year-old son, Adam, who suffered a severe stroke. They needed the lift to help transfer Adam from his bed to a wheelchair.

The Johnson's returned the lift to Medical Loan Closet when it was due, but ended up returning a few months later in need of the Sit to Stand again. They explained that they needed the lift for 6 months, which is longer than the typical 2 month rental policy. Understanding that the lift was vital in helping them assist their son, Medical Loan Closet gave them a long term rental.

Mr. & Mrs. Johnson were so appreciative of the compassion and assistance from the Medical Loan closet that allowed them to continue caring for Adam at home. When you make a gift to United Way of Henderson County, you are supporting organizations like the Medical Loan Closet and the people they serve in Henderson County.

For example

2,002

clients received low-cost medical equipment loans through the Medical Loan Closet last year.



EDUCATION

KINDERGARTEN READINESS

We are working to increase the percentage of children who are ready to learn upon entering kindergarten.

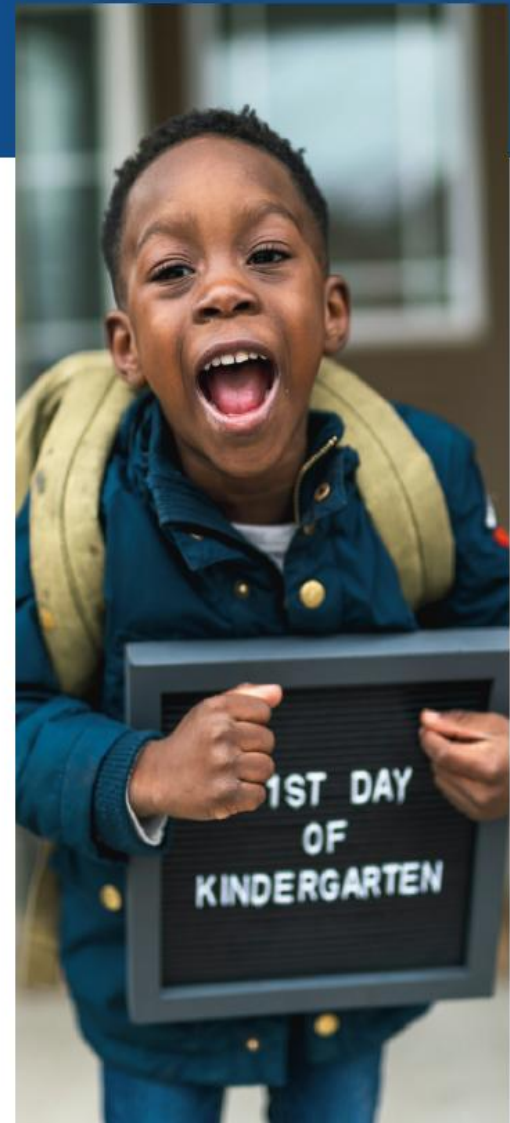
United Way supports parents, caregivers, and communities to create early learning opportunities for young children. **Last year, United Way helped support 6 Kindergarten Readiness Programs that served 6,386 children and their families in Henderson County.** Programs like Smart Start Partnership for Children's Kindergarten Transition Program.

SCHOOL SUCCESS

We are working to improve the school performance of historically underserved student populations.

*"I am so thankful our school offered this opportunity for families to connect before the school year kicks off. We recently just moved to town, and we've been nervous about this transition since we don't know much about the community here. Just coming here and seeing our son jump into playing with other children gives us relief about how he will do on the first day of school. **You can tell there is a great sense of school pride and community, and we are happy to be a part of it!**"*

- Parent, Smart Start Partnership for Children's Kindergarten Transition program



HEALTH

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY & NUTRITION

We are working to improve the level of physical activity and nutrition for children and adults.

United Way is focused on creating healthy environments and promoting programs that inspire children and help them thrive. The Boys & Girls Club SMART Moves and Aspire Youth and Family Kids at Work programs help create safe and supportive opportunities for children while educating them about the dangers of risky behaviors.

Xavier, a teenager facing challenges due to his parent's issues with addiction and mental health, struggled with self-esteem and disengagement from school. He turned to selling vapes for income until he was referred to **Aspire Youth and Family Kids at Work** program by a school administrator. This program teaches cooking and communication skills to youth ages 12-17. Initially confrontational, Xavier excelled in the program, gaining confidence and emotional growth. He obtained his ServSafe certification, found legal employment, and started attending school regularly, realizing he can create a bright future.

HEALTHY YOUTH BEHAVIORS

We are working to decrease risky and harmful behaviors including substance abuse among middle and high school youth.

With support from United Way, Boys & Girls Club's SMART Moves program helped

1,018

children avoid harmful behaviors such as drugs, tobacco, and alcohol abuse.



FINANCIAL STABILITY

ECONOMIC SELF-SUFFICIENCY

We are working to improve the financial stability of individuals and families experiencing economic hardship.

United Way is working to help our neighbors in Henderson County get on a path toward financial security. That starts with access to education and training opportunities to prepare people for good-paying jobs with the potential to grow into long-term, sustainable careers.

When you support United Way, you support programs like **Safelight's Job Training Program** which help survivors of interpersonal violence regain financial independence in a safe and nurturing environment.

*"One thing I would tell other people in my situation, is about the importance of resources to help with financial independence. During my time at Safelight, I had a beautiful experience with Safelight's Job Training Program. I had a tutor, got my GED, became a qualified CNA, and am now working on completing my college prerequisites. I encourage women to go for their college education to help break the cycles of abuse and violence. **My financial independence has helped me break the cycle and soar. I fell, and now I have risen.**"*

- Safelight Job Training Program graduate

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

We are working to increase the number of individuals and families who have affordable, safe, decent housing.



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2-1-1

North Carolina

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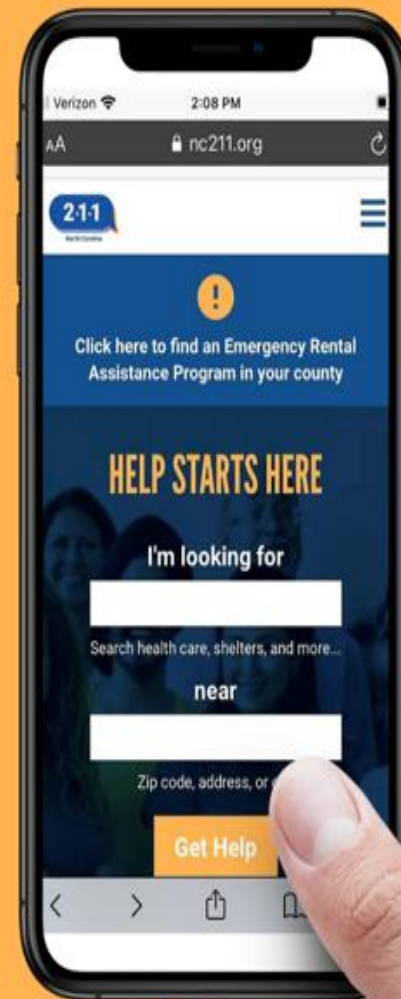
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North Carolina



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BROWSE SERVICES BY TOPIC

Basic Needs 	Health Care 
Consumer Services 	Income Support and Employment 
Criminal Justice and Legal Services 	Individual and Family Life 
Education 	Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Services 
Environment and Public Health/Safety 	Organizational/Community/International Services 

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Contact Us

 828-692-1636

 liveunitedhc.org

 **Mailing:**
PO Box 487
Hendersonville, NC 28793


 **Physical:**
722 Fifth Ave. West
Hendersonville, NC 28739

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