



PROMOTING FINANCIAL STABILITY AND INDEPENDENCE

One out of every three families use credit cards for basic needs like rent, utilities or food. These individuals are walking a financial tightrope—barely able to get by, with little ability to save for college, a home, or retirement. Wages have not kept up with the rising cost of living, and an unforeseen emergency like an illness or job loss, can lead to a financial crisis.

United Way provides tools that help families increase and maximize their income to meet daily expenses, and begin the longer-term process of saving and building assets.

UNITED WAY INCOME OBJECTIVES

Increase the Number of Adults & Families Who:	What United Way is Doing	Why
Earn enough income to meet daily expenses and basic needs.	<p>Help adults who did not graduate high school obtain their G.E.D.</p> <p>Help families develop budget plans for daily expenses and emergencies.</p> <p>Help older adult homeowners in managing their finances and maintaining financial stability in order to remain in their own homes.</p>	<p>More than one in four people in Milwaukee are living in poverty. Our community is one of the most impoverished in America.</p> <p>The majority of poor are underemployed, or working poor. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, over 90% of individuals living below the poverty line work.</p> <p>Nearly 45% of unemployed individuals do not have a high school diploma.</p>
Have skills to gain and sustain employment.	<p>Offer matched savings accounts for postsecondary education.</p> <p>Cultivate specialty skills training in areas like nursing, hospitality or manufacturing.</p> <p>Assist the unemployed and underemployed with soft skills like resume development and interviewing practice, while helping them with job placement.</p>	<p>Studies show that individuals who have received additional skills training make more money per hour than their counterparts. Equally important, 78% of them receive health insurance.</p> <p>In one study, job hunters who worked on soft skills development earned an average of \$5,000 more over five years.</p>
Save for and build assets like a home ownership or postsecondary education.	<p>Finance education for low-income families.</p> <p>Offer matched savings accounts, called Individual Development Accounts (IDAs), which help adults save for post secondary education or a home. IDAs offer individuals the chance to save up to \$4 for every \$1 saved toward the purchase of a home or postsecondary education.</p> <p>As part of the pre-purchase program, individuals attend a series of budgeting and credit classes.</p>	<p>Research indicates that as little as 10 hours of personal financial education positively affects spending and savings habits.</p> <p>22% of low-income families do not have a checking or savings account.</p> <p>Our nation's personal savings rate in 2006 was -1%, the lowest in 73 years. Over 40% of the average U.S. family's net worth is in the form of home equity.</p> <p>A local IDA partner reports that the average Milwaukee homeowner was seven times more likely to foreclose compared to individuals who attended United Way home pre-purchase classes.</p>