



United Way
of Greater Milwaukee

In addition to safety net services, United Way is committed to lasting, communitywide change by focusing on the underlying causes of our community’s most serious problems – poverty. That’s why United Way is tackling the root causes of poverty by investing in early childhood education, asset-building, job training and preventing teen pregnancy.

Breaking the Cycle of Poverty

Breaking the Cycle of Poverty Initiative

According to the latest census, one in four people in Milwaukee-area, live in poverty.

Why early childhood education?

The local high school graduation rate hovers around 60%, but children who are a part of a quality early childhood education are 30% more likely to graduate from high school.

Why teen pregnancy prevention?

Our community has the 7th highest percent of births to teens in the 50 largest US cities. With less than 30% of teen mothers graduating from high school and 85% of teen births in the state paid for by taxpayers, teen pregnancy has both social and financial ramifications.

Why job training?





Nearly one-third of children in our state are living in families where no parent has full-time, year-round employment and one in three people living in poverty is unemployed.

Why asset-building?

45% of the average US family’s net worth is in the form of home equity and individuals with an associates or bachelor’s degree earn more than double of those who do not.

How is United Way Working to Break the Cycle of Poverty?

Our experience tells us the best way to help the most people is to get to the heart of the problem. In Milwaukee, that problem is poverty, with over 186,000 people in the metro area living in poverty. United Way of Greater Milwaukee is investing another nearly \$2 million this year in its *breaking the cycle of poverty* initiative, by focusing on early childhood education, teen pregnancy prevention, job training and asset building.

Breaking the Cycle of Poverty	Objective	Examples of Services
 early childhood	Increase literacy and school-readiness skills for young children	Pre-reading classes, parent/child socialization, after-school assistance, teacher development, community programs, head start initiatives
 healthy girls	Reducing teen pregnancy and sexual violence against girls	Peer-to-peer discussion groups, self-esteem development, classes on social interaction, education and prevention programs aimed at boys, teen dating violence awareness programs
 job training	Increase employability leading to family supporting jobs	Resume-building and employment services, GED certification, continued education/training for specific industries
 asset building	Link low-income families to matched savings accounts to help them accumulate money toward education or purchase of a home	Post-secondary education including technical school, 2-year degrees or bachelor degrees or home-ownership opportunities