



2023-2024

# United Way of Southern Maine INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO



United Way  
of Southern Maine

# UNITED FOR SOLUTIONS

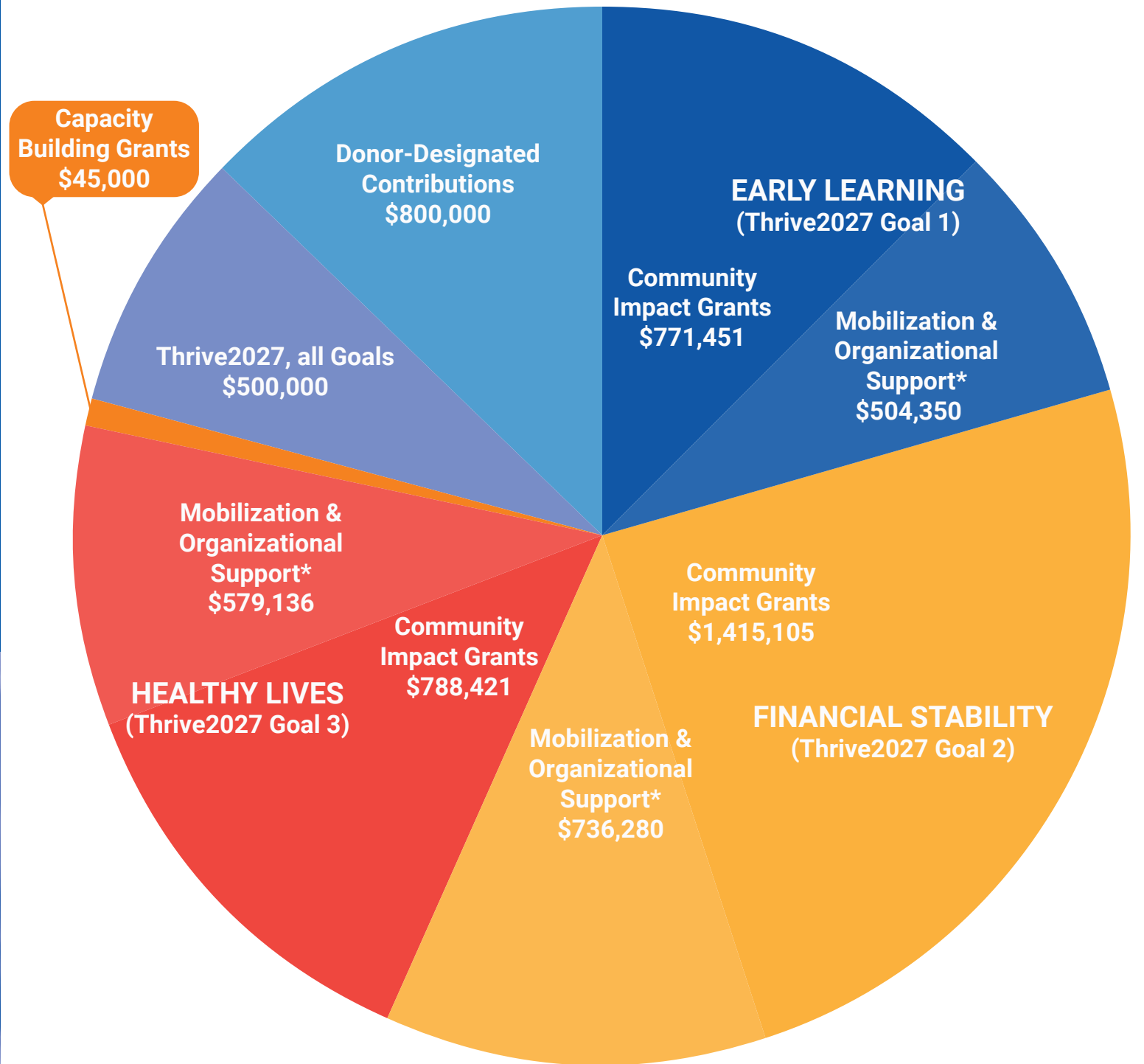
From Kittery to Freeport, from Sanford to Bridgton, Southern Maine is a great place to live and work for many. Still, we don't need to look far to see many are not doing well. Food insecurity. Access to health care. Lack of affordable housing. Child care shortages. Children from communities with historical inequities fall behind in school. Community problems are all around us. But thankfully, so are the solutions.

United Way of Southern Maine brings together the people, ideas, and resources to respond to emerging needs and tackle the persistent issues preventing individuals and families from achieving economic stability and leading healthy lives.

Thanks to the support of thousands of local individuals and companies, United Way was able to mobilize the resources to invest in United Way-led work and 73 innovative programs and collaborations at 52 community partners. These investments will close gaps in early childhood development, create pathways to educational and employment opportunities, and increase access to mental health care and addiction prevention and intervention services. Thank you for making that work possible. Thank you for investing in community solutions.



# UNITED WAY OF SOUTHERN MAINE COMMUNITY INVESTMENTS IN FISCAL YEAR 2024



\*In addition to Community Impact Grants, United Way staff mobilize and coordinate the people, ideas, and resources needed to quickly respond to emerging needs and tackle persistent community issues. This includes public policy, community and volunteer engagement, evaluation and measurement, and programmatic leadership for Thrive2027.



**“OUR TEACHERS ARE DOING THE MOST IMPORTANT JOB IN THE WORLD.”**

**United for Child Care**

Child care is essential to families, especially when a parent has a health crisis. Luckily, Molly and Sam could count on Youth and Family Outreach (YFO) when they needed care for their daughter, Violet.

All Maine families should have access to high-quality, reliable child care. United Way of Southern Maine invests in early education centers and programs like YFO so that Maine children have the foundation for success and parents can work or pursue their education.

Watch their story at [www.uwsme.org/community-report](http://www.uwsme.org/community-report).



**EARLY LEARNING INVESTMENTS**

**Supports Thrive2027 Goal 1** ▶ By 2027, reduce the reading proficiency gap to no more than 10 percentage points between all third-grade students and students from populations with historical inequities.

**WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?**

80% of brain development occurs in the first five years of a child’s life. What happens in these early years has a lasting impact - from kindergarten readiness to third-grade reading scores to high school graduation and beyond.

Reading is the most crucial academic skill because it is the foundation for learning. Through third grade children are learning to read; after third grade students read to learn. Without a strong foundation in reading, children are left behind at the beginning of their education and are 4 times more likely not to graduate from high school than children who read at grade level at the end of third grade.

That’s why United Way of Southern Maine mobilizes the ideas, expertise, and resources of more than 300 partners and thousands of individuals to close gaps in early childhood development so that more children have the foundation they need to thrive today and in the future.

**UNITED WAY OF SOUTHERN MAINE’S COMMUNITY INVESTMENTS IN THRIVE2027 GOAL 1**

Organization	Investment	Amount
Adopt a School Initiative	School and Local Employer Partnerships Partners Southern Maine employers with local schools to ensure kids have a strong start and thrive.	\$10,000
Biddeford Ready!	School Readiness Community Partnership Prepares Biddeford children to enter kindergarten prepared to thrive in school and beyond.	\$59,904
Boys & Girls Clubs of Southern Maine	Bridge to Success* Supports Club members with mentoring for academic support, engaging literacy and STEM activities, and college/career planning.	\$75,000
Brick & Beam Society	Various Investments* Brick & Beam Society (a United Way of Southern Maine giving circle) invests member contributions in science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics (STEAM) and literacy enrichment opportunities for children in Southern Maine.	\$146,000
Catherine Morrill Day Nursery	Quality Learning Program Provides high-quality, safe, and nurturing child care with wrap-around services prioritizing families who are low to moderate income.	\$54,000
Catholic Charities Maine	Child Development Centers Provides high-quality child care, including special education, to children 6 weeks to 12 years, facilitating development of foundational skills necessary to fully succeed in school and in life.	\$27,650
Count ME In	Improving School Attendance Reduces chronic absenteeism by improving student and family school engagement, school attendance, and ultimately, academic achievement.	\$10,000

Investments with an \* symbol are listed in the multiple goal areas that their program addresses. The amounts shown reflect the total funding to the program.





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### UNITED WAY OF SOUTHERN MAINE'S COMMUNITY INVESTMENTS IN THRIVE2027 GOAL 1 (CONTINUED)

Organization	Investment	Amount
Freeport Community Services	<b>Youth and Family Food Programs</b> Provides access to food for those at risk of experiencing hunger and ensures that families have ample food resources for their holiday meals.	\$9,265
Girl Scouts of Maine Inc.	<b>A Place For Girls*</b> Reduces barriers to participating in Girl Scouts by bringing troops to girls in their communities in Biddeford, at the Intercultural Community Center in Westbrook, and Riverton Park in Portland.	\$18,750
Kids First Center	<b>Helping Children Thrive: Building Resiliency in Divorce &amp; Separation</b> Provides educational programming for parents, children, and allies that support families during difficult transitions and teach resilience skills that last a lifetime.	\$7,350
Kids Free to Grow	<b>Healthy Relationship Program and Parenting</b> Provides abuse prevention programs for children in grades Pre-K through grade 8. The program offers age-appropriate sexuality education and child abuse prevention curriculum.	\$5,250
LearningWorks	<b>Afterschool Program</b> Partners with Southern Maine schools to provide free, high-quality afterschool and summer programs for students in grades 2-5 who are below grade level and come from families who cannot afford a paid afterschool enrichment or tutoring program.	\$12,320
Locker Project	<b>Healthy food for families with preschool and elementary school children at risk of hunger</b> Partners with schools, preschools and other local agencies in Greater Portland to provide families with children at risk of hunger with reliable access to healthy fresh food and staples.	\$15,503
Northeast Hearing and Speech	<b>Speech and Hearing Services</b> Evaluates and treats those with speech-language impairments, provides speech and hearing screenings throughout Southern Maine, and professional development to teachers/parents.	\$49,880
Palaver Strings	<b>Early Childhood Music &amp; Strings Continuum</b> Addresses the problem of unequal, sustained access to quality music development and education by offering students pre-K through grade 3 the opportunity to learn the fundamentals of playing a string instrument within a nurturing, culturally-sensitive environment.	\$10,000
Portland Public Schools	<b>Talbot Community School</b> Emphasizes and implements equitable learning structures in pre-K through grade 5 and reduces barriers to education through partnerships with local organizations as well as engaging community and family with student learning.	\$68,124

### UNITED WAY OF SOUTHERN MAINE'S COMMUNITY INVESTMENTS IN THRIVE2027 GOAL 1 (CONTINUED)

Organization	Investment	Amount
Sanford-Springvale YMCA	<b>Early Learning Center</b> Provides high-quality, safe, and nurturing child care with wrap-around services prioritizing families who are low to moderate income.	\$5,208
Sexual Assault Response Services of Southern Maine	<b>Client Advocacy Services</b> Offers support through their free and confidential 24-hour helpline as well as in-person support with navigating legal and medical systems for anyone impacted by sexual violence.	\$18,480
Spurwink Services Incorporated	<b>Therapeutic Preschool</b> Serves children with Autism Spectrum Disorders and other developmental disabilities, providing a highly structured classroom environment as well as clinical treatment.	\$21,840
The Opportunity Alliance	<b>Child Development Associate (CDA) Development Center</b> Prepares individuals in the core competencies of quality early care and learning.	\$20,250
The Opportunity Alliance	<b>Early Childhood Initiative</b> Provides quality early education experiences, health services, and social-emotional learning to children while bolstering parent education and coaching.	\$84,455
Women United	<b>Various Investments*</b> Invests Women United (a United Way of Southern Maine giving circle) member contributions in programs that advance opportunities for single mothers and their children in Southern Maine.	\$268,000
Woodfords Family Services	<b>Westbrook Early Childhood Services Program</b> Provides clinical and educational programming to young students with autism and intellectual and developmental disabilities throughout the state, and operates both as a pre-K and K-5 special purpose private school.	\$10,000
York County Community Action Corp	<b>Mental Health Services for Head Start Children</b> Interrupts the cycle of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), which can severely affect children from economically disadvantaged families, by working in partnership with parents and mental health providers to address the needs of children who display signs of stress and children with instability within their household.	\$20,000
Youth and Family Outreach	<b>Quality Early Childhood Education</b> Provides high-quality, safe, and nurturing child care with wrap-around services prioritizing families who are low to moderate income.	\$40,000



## FINANCIAL STABILITY + MOBILITY INVESTMENTS

Supports Thrive2027 Goal 2 ▶ By 2027, 70% of households pay less than 30% of their income on housing



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### WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

The financial stability of every individual and family from Southern Maine is essential to the vibrancy and equity of our community. Our whole community benefits when people earn enough income to pay for basic needs like healthy food, housing, and heat; increase savings; and build assets like buying a home.

That's why we mobilize the ideas, expertise, and resources of more than 300 partners and thousands of individuals **to create pathways to educational and employment opportunities and the resources to protect themselves against a crisis, while gaining long-term assets like a home.**

### UNITED WAY OF SOUTHERN MAINE'S COMMUNITY INVESTMENTS IN THRIVE2027 GOAL 2

Organization	Investment	Amount
211 Maine	<b>24/7 Maine Helpline*</b> Offers free, confidential information and referral service that connects people of all ages across Maine to local services.	\$208,000
A Company of Girls	<b>Creative Expanded Learning: Arts-Based Social-Emotional, Resiliency, Mentorship, and Empowerment Supports for Youth</b> Offers art related programs free of charge, driving equity and inclusion, celebrating differences, fostering social-emotional learning and empowering young people in challenging circumstances.	\$12,009
Apex Youth Connection	<b>Job Readiness programs</b> Provides critical, community-based link for young people between school-based career learning and entering the workforce. Apex JR programs allow youth to learn and fail at workplace performance in a safe, supported, fun environment.	\$11,088
Avesta Housing	<b>Homeless to Housing Support Program</b> Provides consistent, experienced, direct support for the highest-risk residents across Southern Maine so they can succeed in affordable housing and gain stability; creating the foundation for a better and healthier life.	\$18,050
Boys & Girls Clubs of Southern Maine	<b>Bridge to Success*</b> Supports Club members with mentoring for academic support, engaging literacy and STEM activities, and college/career planning.	\$75,000
Brick & Beam Society	<b>Various Investments*</b> Brick & Beam Society (a United Way of Southern Maine giving circle) invests member contributions in science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics (STEAM) and literacy enrichment opportunities for children in Southern Maine.	\$146,000
Caring Unlimited Corp	<b>Outreach Services Program</b> Helps victims and survivors of domestic violence increase their safety and access resources that support both immediate and long-term safety and economic well-being.	\$9,863
Catholic Charities Maine	<b>Immigration Legal Services Program, Refugee and Immigration Services</b> Provides free client intakes and initial consultations, as well as free and low-cost legal representation for family reunification, work authorization, legal permanent residency, and various other immigration legal services.	\$24,000

Investments with an \* symbol are listed in the multiple goal areas that their program addresses. The amounts shown reflect the total funding to the program.

### UNITED WAY OF SOUTHERN MAINE'S COMMUNITY INVESTMENTS IN THRIVE2027 GOAL 2 (CONTINUED)

Organization	Investment	Amount
<b>Creating, Assets, Savings, and Hope (CA\$H) Greater Portland</b>	<b>Promoting Financial Stability</b> Empowers Maine individuals and families to achieve long-term financial stability by offering free tax preparation to qualified filers; providing financial education tools for employers; and educating hard-working families and individuals about community programs to help them build their savings and assets.	\$40,200
Community Dental	<b>Low-Income Oral Health Access (Biddeford and Portland Dental Centers)</b> Delivers oral health care services to individuals and families who might otherwise go without care due to their income.	\$12,320
Fair Tide Inc.	<b>Fair Tide Housing and Case Management</b> Creates affordable housing opportunities, coupled with ongoing supportive services, for individuals and families experiencing homelessness.	\$6,160
Girl Scouts of Maine Inc.	<b>A Place For Girls*</b> Reduces barriers to participating in Girl Scouts by bringing troops to girls in their communities in Biddeford, at the Intercultural Community Center in Westbrook, and Riverton Park in Portland.	\$18,750
Greater Portland Workforce Initiative	<b>Bridges to Address the Workforce Challenges</b> Addresses roadblocks to entry into employment sectors and the unique barriers of specific populations of job seekers.	\$99,600
Greater Portland Workforce Initiative	<b>Child Care Business Lab</b> Supports the business development training for the creation of in-home family child care programs in Greater Portland.	\$59,904
Goodwill Industries of Northern New England	<b>Southern Maine Wraparound Workforce Services</b> Delivers wrap-around workforce services to help participants remove barriers to employment and build a sustainable future.	\$27,900
Homeless Response System	<b>Service Hub coordination for Cumberland County and Midcoast Maine</b> Coordinates a standardized pathway to housing resources for individuals experiencing homelessness. Part of MaineHousing Build for Zero efforts.	\$105,637
Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project (ILAP)	<b>Strengthening Immigration Legal Services in Great Portland</b> Directs legal services and educational outreach to help immigrant families gain legal status and work authorization, so they can access and remain in the workforce, increase their earnings, secure rightful benefits, and ultimately, achieve financial stability.	\$26,075
In Her Presence	<b>Moving onto Career Pathways</b> Works to further a thriving immigrant community in Maine by lifting the language barrier, supporting the career trajectory, and enhancing financial stability for immigrant women and their families.	\$49,504





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### UNITED WAY OF SOUTHERN MAINE'S COMMUNITY INVESTMENTS IN THRIVE2027 GOAL 2 (CONTINUED)

Organization	Investment	Amount
Legal Services for the Elderly	<b>Elder Abuse Law Project</b> Restores financial stability and safe housing for older people who experience abuse.	\$6,000
Legal Services for the Elderly	<b>Southern Maine Legal Helpline for Older Mainers</b> Provides elder Mainers with free legal advice.	\$10,650
Portland ConnectED - Starting Strong	<b>Portland Works for Kids: Child care access for workforce participation</b> Increases access to high-quality affordable child care for families in Portland	\$11,000
Portland Housing Authority	<b>Family Self-Sufficiency</b> Coordinates self-sufficiency programs to provide a holistic approach to family stabilization and financial empowerment.	\$35,000
Portland Adult Education	<b>Enhancing Opportunities in Cumberland County for Students Seeking Their High School Credential and Support for Post-Secondary Matriculation</b> Provides enhanced high school credential programming to adults, as well as summer advising to college-intending high school graduates, through a collaboration of ten adult education programs in Cumberland County.	\$43,826
Portland Adult Education	<b>Street Academy</b> Delivers intensive educational, career, and wrap-around support services to youth and young adults in Portland with a history of homelessness.	\$20,058
Preble Street	<b>Preble Street Critical Needs Programs</b> Addresses a variety of urgent needs of people experiencing hunger, homelessness, and poverty.	\$151,428
Quality Housing Coalition	<b>Project HOME</b> Partners with landlords to remove application barriers and provides year-long culturally and linguistically appropriate housing stabilization, essential needs systems navigation, and eviction prevention support for families and individuals at-risk of or experiencing homelessness.	\$17,133
Sanford-Springvale YMCA	<b>Trafton Senior Center</b> Offers a safe and welcoming environment for older adults to gather for physical activity, social interaction, meals, and learning new skills.	\$3,472
The Opportunity Alliance	<b>Foster Grandparent Program</b> Promotes healthy living for older adults who volunteer with children with special and exceptional needs while supporting school readiness and academic achievement for students.	\$3,752
The Opportunity Alliance	<b>Maine Youth Action Network - Gateway To Opportunity</b> Gives young people paid opportunities to grow their career readiness skills, while connecting Maine businesses and organizations to local talent.	\$14,750

### UNITED WAY OF SOUTHERN MAINE'S COMMUNITY INVESTMENTS IN THRIVE2027 GOAL 2 (CONTINUED)

Organization	Investment	Amount
The Opportunity Alliance	<b>Senior Companion Program</b> Engages Mainers as Senior Companions to make home visits providing companionship, transportation, and respite care that enable elders to remain living independently.	\$7,000
The Salvation Army	<b>Case Management Services</b> Provides case management services to help break the cycle of crisis and enable a path out of intergenerational poverty for families with children under 18 and for filling the gaps of support to meet unmet need for veterans.	\$5,845
Through These Doors	<b>Emergency Shelter for Victims of Abuse</b> Offers emergency shelter services for victims/survivors of domestic abuse and their children in need of safe, stable housing.	\$13,316
Vet To Vet Maine	<b>Maine Peer Companion Program</b> Matches volunteer peer companions to call or visit veterans who need a friend, provide fellowship, and a link to services that can improve quality of life and help them remain at home.	\$9,100
Women United	<b>Various Investments*</b> Invests Women United (a United Way of Southern Maine giving circle) member contributions in programs that advance opportunities for single mothers and their children in Southern Maine.	\$268,000
York County Community Action Corp	<b>A Place for Us</b> Provides housing and supportive services to families with children who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.	\$29,610
York Hospital	<b>York Hospital Medical Assistant Apprenticeship Program</b> Collaborates with York County Community College to offer student positions in a Medical Assistant Apprentice program, earning certification at the end of each nine-month program.	\$10,000

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## HEALTHY LIVES INVESTMENTS

Supports Thrive2027 Goal 3 ▶ By 2027, reduce preventable, premature death by 10%

### WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Our entire community benefits when we connect those in need with mental health or substance use treatment, resources, and services that help them begin and stay on their recovery journey.

That’s why we mobilize the ideas, expertise, and resources of more than 300 partners and thousands of individuals to strengthen opportunities to promote mental health, prevent substance misuse, and provide access to treatments and supports to foster recovery.

### UNITED WAY OF SOUTHERN MAINE’S COMMUNITY INVESTMENTS IN THRIVE2027 GOAL 3

Organization	Investment	Amount
211 Maine	<b>24/7 Maine Helpline*</b> Offers free, confidential information and referral service that connects people of all ages across Maine to local services.	\$208,000
Apex Youth Connection	<b>Leadership &amp; Empowerment programs</b> Provides positive childhood experiences for youth, particularly those at-risk due to adverse childhood experiences.	\$7,392
Caring Unlimited Corp	<b>Parent Support Services</b> Nurtures the critical relationship between parents and children who have experienced domestic abuse and violence.	\$10,000
The Center for Grieving Children	<b>Bereavement Support</b> Serves grieving children and families through peer support groups, grief assistance and information, and community outreach and education.	\$50,000
Day One	<b>Adolescent and Family Community Treatment Services</b> Provides outpatient intervention and support to those whose lives have been impacted by substance use and mental health challenges.	\$50,000
Day One	<b>Adolescent Medication Management</b> Improves youth understanding of the drugs that they have been prescribed and the importance of adhering to their medication regimen.	\$37,399
Day One	<b>Adolescent Residential Treatment Services</b> Offers flexible stay program where teenagers receive counseling, attend school, participate in recreation, learn independent living skills, support each other and learn together.	\$25,000
Day One	<b>Street Program</b> Provides mental health and substance use counseling and low-barrier outreach to vulnerable street youth at the Preble Street Teen Center.	\$80,000
Frannie Peabody Center	<b>Client Services</b> Ensures that individuals living with HIV have access to quality healthcare, behavioral health counseling, transportation, and emergency financial and housing assistance.	\$35,000

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**“THAT ONE INTERACTION MEANS THEY’RE GOING TO FIND YOU AGAIN WHEN THEY NEED YOU BECAUSE THEY KNOW YOU’RE SAFE.”**

### United for Mental Health

At the Day One Street Program, Cheryl and Annie provide low-barrier mental health and substance counseling to unhoused teens, including many asylum seekers, LGBTQ+ youth, and teens who have experienced incarceration or been in foster care. Support from United Way of Southern Maine allows Cheryl and Annie to build relationships and trust with teens—so they can connect them with the resources they need to live longer, better lives. **Watch their story at [www.uwsme.org/community-report](http://www.uwsme.org/community-report).**





## HEALTHY LIVES INVESTMENTS

Supports Thrive2027 Goal 3 ▶ By 2027, reduce preventable, premature death by 10%



## CAPACITY BUILDING INVESTMENTS

Supports Thrive2027 Goals 1, 2, and 3

### UNITED WAY OF SOUTHERN MAINE'S COMMUNITY INVESTMENTS IN THRIVE2027 GOAL 3 (CONTINUED)

Organization	Investment	Amount
LearningWorks	<b>Service Works</b> Organizes community service projects for young people making amends for non-violent offenses, as a positive alternative to juvenile justice system involvement or school suspension or expulsion.	\$4,000
Maine Association For New Americans	<b>Community Wellness Program</b> Promotes well-being and empowerment of immigrants and refugees through peer support and raising awareness around mental health issues, including trauma and substance abuse.	\$40,000
MaineHealth	<b>Maine Behavioral Healthcare Outpatient Services</b> Provides behavioral health care services for a wide range of mental health issues.	\$121,196
Milestone Recovery	<b>Homeless Outreach and Mobile Engagement (HOME) Team</b> Runs a mobile outreach program serving individuals experiencing homelessness and substance use or mental health disorders in Portland and South Portland, providing basic health care, life safety needs like food and clothing, and transportation to community services.	\$80,000
Pine Tree Legal Assistance	<b>Safe and Stable Families Thrive</b> Provides free legal representation to victims in protection from abuse cases.	\$72,162
Greater Portland Health	<b>Behavioral and Mental Health Services in Greater Portland's School Based Health Centers</b> Offers 6 -12 grade students medical, behavioral, and dental health care conveniently during the school day, as well as confidential services such as contraception, substance use counseling, sexually transmitted infection testing and treatment, and outpatient behavioral and mental health care.	\$25,000
Preble Street	<b>Health Services</b> Provides integrated medical and social work services that connect patients to shelter, housing, clothing, and other critical resources in a healthcare setting.	\$35,000
Spurwink Services Incorporated	<b>Project NOW: Ending Youth Exploitation</b> Provides a safe, neutral, and child centered place for the coordinated evaluation of child sexual abuse, and identifies cases of trafficking, mitigates their impacts, and treats the physical and behavioral needs of youth who were sexually trafficked or exploited.	\$23,792
Spurwink Services Incorporated	<b>Youth Mental Health</b> Addresses urgent needs for individuals and families including basic needs or treatments not covered by insurance, opening services for those waiting for Maine Care approval, and preventing treatment delays or interruption of services for those who lose insurance coverage or are under insured.	\$14,560
Through These Doors	<b>Advocacy and Victim Services for Victims of Abuse in Cumberland County</b> Provides free and confidential direct services to survivors of domestic abuse, dating violence, and stalking.	\$28,000

Capacity Building Investments are designed to enable smaller organizations or coalitions to develop their internal capacity to advance Thrive2027 through two specific areas of work:

- advancing racial equity initiatives; and/or,
- developing program measurement and evaluation tools and plans.

Eligible organizations have an annual budget in the preceding year of under \$750,000.

### UNITED WAY OF SOUTHERN MAINE'S COMMUNITY INVESTMENTS CAPACITY BUILDING

Organization	Investment	Amount
Furniture Friends	<b>Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Capacity</b> Works with a consultant to develop a strategic Diversity Equity and Inclusion audit and plan to help advance racial justice within the organization.	\$7,500
Greater Portland Immigrant Welcome Center	<b>Women Lead</b> Leads a comprehensive entrepreneurial leadership training program for immigrant women and girls, offering participants access to the tools that they need for success in starting new businesses or advancing to desired employment.	\$10,000
Intercultural Community Center	<b>Family CARES Plus</b> Supports for immigrant children's social and emotional development, and ensuring New Mainers have access to critical needs programs and wraparound services.	\$10,000
Maine Association for the Education of Young Children	<b>Leadership in Early Childhood Education, Advocacy, and Policy Program</b> Provides leadership support and connection to local resources (including access to child care) for immigrant multilingual women of color.	\$10,000
Maine Foodscapes Inc.	<b>Garden Project Data Collection and Evaluation</b> Improves capacity to measure and evaluate data around the Foodscapes Garden Project, which provides expanded access to high quality, nutritious food in neighborhoods.	\$7,500





# United.



## United for Solutions.

FOOD | HOUSING | CHILD CARE | MENTAL HEALTH

Together, we can tackle persistent issues that hold people back from achieving economic stability and leading healthy lives.

Charity Navigator



+ FOUR-STAR +

Platinum Transparency 2023

Candid.



United Way of Southern Maine

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