

UNITED WAY OF SOUTHERN MAINE

INVESTING IN COMMUNITY

2025-2026 COMMUNITY INVESTMENT REPORT



UNITED WAY
Southern Maine

UNITED IS THE WAY

United Way of Southern Maine mobilizes the community to action so all can thrive. With deep local roots, we bring people and resources together to tackle our shared communities’ greatest challenges—food insecurity, housing instability, and lack of access to child care and health services.

That’s our purpose. We listen, respond to urgent needs, and build lasting solutions that strengthen local resilience and create opportunities for all.

Thanks to the support of thousands of local individuals and organizations, we will invest \$5,082,458 in Southern Maine through United Way-led work and 65 innovative programs and collaborations led by 43 community partners.

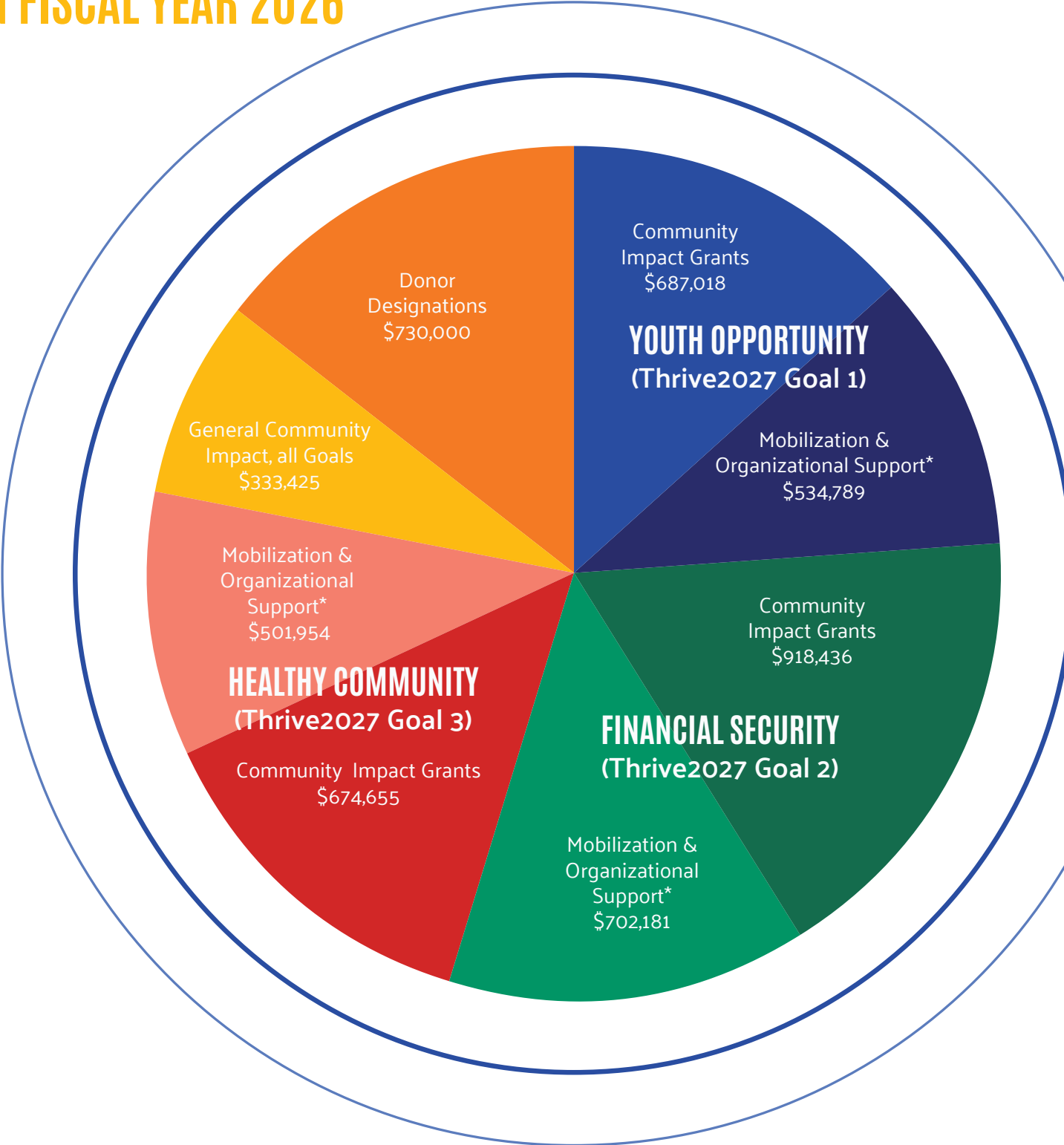
Together, we’re creating a future where kids get a stronger start, neighbors thrive—not just survive, and more people live longer, better lives.



CONTENTS

INVESTMENT OVERVIEW	3
YOUTH OPPORTUNITY	4
FINANCIAL SECURITY	6
HEALTHY COMMUNITY	8
CAPACITY BUILDING	10

UNITED WAY OF SOUTHERN MAINE'S
COMMUNITY INVESTMENTS
IN FISCAL YEAR 2026



*In addition to Community Impact Grants, United Way staff mobilize people, ideas, and resources to respond quickly to emerging needs and address long-standing community challenges. This work includes leading efforts in public policy, community and volunteer engagement, evaluation and measurement, and programmatic support for Thrive2027.

INVESTING IN SOUTHERN MAINE'S YOUTH OPPORTUNITY

Every young person should have the chance to thrive. United Way of Southern Maine helps children build strong foundations and empowers youth to reach their full potential by expanding access to early learning, removing barriers to success, and opening doors to opportunity.

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

Organization / Initiative	Investment	Amount
Boys and Girls Clubs of Southern Maine	Brain Gain Offers a summer literacy and learning loss prevention program for elementary students.	\$59,000
Catherine Morrill Day Nursery	Quality Early Learning Provides high-quality child care for children ages 6 weeks to 5 years.	\$60,000
Catholic Charities Maine	St. Elizabeth's Child Development Center Delivers high-quality child care for children ages 6 weeks to 12 years.	\$14,000
Catholic Charities Maine	St. Louis Child Development Center* Delivers high-quality child care for children ages 6 weeks to 12 years.	\$16,800
LearningWorks Emerging Leaders United	After-School Program* Offers free, high-quality after-school and summer programs for Pre-K through grade 5 students needing extra academic support.	\$19,040
Locker Project	Healthy Food for Families with Young Children at Risk of Hunger Delivers nutritious food and resources to families with young children facing food insecurity in Greater Portland.	\$19,314
Maine Access Immigrant Network	Babbling with Babies Engages immigrant families in early language development to strengthen parent-child bonds and prepare children for long-term success.	\$20,000
Northeast Hearing and Speech Center	Communicate to Thrive Delivers early speech and hearing services for children birth to age 8 to build communication skills, confidence, and readiness for learning.	\$31,500
The Opportunity Alliance Women United	Project WIN (Women in Neighborhoods)* Provides evidence-based coaching and support tailored to single mothers and their children.	\$77,000
Our Place Portland Inc. Emerging Leaders United	Youth Mentorship and Summer Camp Engages low-income, multilingual youth ages 5 to 9 in East Bayside through after-school groups, family advocacy, and community summer camps.	\$35,000
Palaver Strings Emerging Leaders United	Student Access Mentoring and Performance Initiative Expands early support pathways to increase access to music education.	\$10,000

Organization / Initiative	Investment	Amount
Portland ConnectED	First4ME Portland* Delivers comprehensive early care and education to support school readiness for Portland's youngest learners.	\$61,000
Portland ConnectED	Starting Strong Ensures all children in Portland enter kindergarten ready to learn and succeed.	\$7,537
Portland Public Schools	Talbot Community School Expands a whole-school model that integrates Pre-K through grade 5 learning with family and community engagement.	\$53,940
Spurwink	Therapeutic Preschool Offers individualized classroom programming for preschoolers with developmental disabilities and autism spectrum disorder.	\$17,500
United Way of Southern Maine	Adopt a School Connects Southern Maine employers with local schools to ensure kids have a strong start and thrive.	\$10,000
United Way of Southern Maine	Biddeford Ready! Works in partnership with community organizations to prepare Biddeford children to start kindergarten ready to thrive in school and beyond.	\$14,000
United Way of Southern Maine	Child Care Incubator Cohort Works in partnership with community organizations to train new entrepreneurs to launch and sustain child care businesses.	\$20,000
United Way of Southern Maine	Early Childhood Education (ECE) Workforce Initiatives Provides entry-level workforce training, career advancement, and entrepreneurship for those facing barriers to employment.	\$84,300
United Way of Southern Maine	Read Away* Supports literacy and fosters connection between incarcerated parents and their children.	\$20,000
United Way of Southern Maine	Volunteer Reader Program Connects local schools with dedicated volunteer readers to enhance literacy.	\$20,000
United Way of Southern Maine	United 4 Child Care Expands access to high-quality child care for ALICE families and supports growth of United 4 Child Care.	\$75,000
York County Community Action Corporation	Youth Mental Health Services Addresses the mental health needs of Head Start children to interrupt cycles of adverse childhood experiences.	\$20,474
Youth and Family Outreach	Early Care and Education Program Delivers high-quality, safe, and nurturing child care with wraparound services prioritizing low-to-moderate income families.	\$34,440
Youth and Family Outreach	Quality Care and Support Network* Provides high-quality, low-barrier child care and parent support to help families thrive and strengthen community stability.	\$15,000
Youth Full Maine	Nourishing Students, Families, and Community Provides nourishing food to children and families throughout York County.	\$10,000

*Programs marked with an asterisk appear in multiple impact areas. The funding amounts shown reflect the total investments in the program. Investments labeled Emerging Leaders United or Women United were directed by members of those Giving Circles.

INVESTING IN SOUTHERN MAINE'S FINANCIAL SECURITY

Building financial security shouldn't be out of reach. We support hard-working families by helping them stay afloat today and connecting them with education, job training, and financial tools that lead to lasting stability and a better future for them and their loved ones.

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

Organization / Initiative	Investment	Amount
211 Maine	24/7 Maine Helpline* Provides free, confidential information and referral services that connect people across Maine to local resources.	\$209,975
Avesta Housing Development Corporation	Homeless to Housing Supports residents who have experienced homelessness in maintaining stable housing.	\$30,585
Boys and Girls Clubs of Southern Maine Women United	Anchoring Youth to Succeed Provides after-school programs with wraparound services to support youth development.	\$48,125
Caring Unlimited	Audrey's House Emergency Shelter Delivers emergency shelter and support to individuals experiencing homelessness due to domestic violence.	\$11,816
Catholic Charities Maine	Immigration Legal Services (ILS) Supports individuals and families with low-cost immigration legal services.	\$20,000
Catholic Charities Maine	St. Louis Child Development Center* Delivers high-quality child care for children ages 6 weeks to 12 years.	\$16,800
Homeless Response System	Hub Coordination & Data Analysis Coordinates an efficient and equitable pathway to housing resources for individuals experiencing homelessness.	\$216,675
In Her Presence Women United	Immigrant Women Achieving Independence Supports single mothers as they exit shelter through case management, language lessons, job coaching, and mentorship.	\$25,000
Immigration Legal Advocacy Project	Work Authorization and Legal Status Provides legal services and education to help immigrants gain legal status and work authorization, reunite with family, and build financial security.	\$20,000
LearningWorks Emerging Leaders United	After-School Program* Offers free, high-quality after-school and summer programs for Pre-K through grade 5 students needing extra academic support.	\$19,040

Organization / Initiative	Investment	Amount
Legal Services for the Elderly	Southern Maine Legal Helpline for Older Mainers Provides free legal advice to disadvantaged older Mainers.	\$13,176
New Ventures Maine Women United	Career Success for Single Moms Facilitates class series, group support, and coaching to empower single mothers.	\$15,780
The Opportunity Alliance Women United	Project WIN (Women in Neighborhoods)* Provides evidence-based coaching and support tailored to single mothers and their children.	\$77,000
Portland Adult Education, Portland Public Schools	Developing Healthcare Professionals for Maine's Future Trains multilingual and low-income Mainers in clinical, digital, and workplace skills to secure healthcare jobs and strengthen Maine's workforce.	\$22,000
Preble Street	Stabilization, Shelter, and Housing Addresses housing needs for renters who have experienced homelessness by providing shelter and stabilization services.	\$40,000
Quality Housing Coalition	Project HOME Provides culturally and linguistically appropriate housing stabilization throughout the year.	\$37,500
Quality Housing Coalition Women United	Project HOME Trust Provides unrestricted cash assistance and personalized planning to help single mothers overcome the benefits cliff and build long-term financial security.	\$60,000
Through These Doors	Emergency Shelter Offers emergency shelter for adult survivors of domestic violence and their children.	\$11,816
United Recovery Fund	Employment and Life Supports* Supports individuals re-entering the workforce with employment and life skills resources.	\$15,000
United Way of Southern Maine	ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) Supports statewide awareness, education, and continued research.	\$106,000
United Way of Southern Maine	Creating, Assets, Savings, and Hope (CA\$H) Greater Portland Works in partnership with community organizations to empower individuals and families to build long-term financial security.	\$40,200
United Way of Southern Maine	Southern Maine Workforce Initiative Strengthens long-term workforce sustainability by aligning employer talent and retention needs with job seeker career development goals.	\$266,267
York County Community Action Corporation Women United	Housing Navigation and Financial Security Supports single mothers with housing navigation and coaching to build long-term stability for their families.	\$25,000
Youth and Family Outreach	Quality Care and Support Network* Provides high-quality, low-barrier child care and parent support to help families thrive and strengthen community stability.	\$15,000

*Programs marked with an asterisk appear in multiple impact areas. The funding amounts shown reflect the total investments in the program. Investments labeled Emerging Leaders United or Women United were directed by members of those Giving Circles.

INVESTING IN SOUTHERN MAINE'S HEALTHY COMMUNITY

Health is the foundation of a thriving life. That's why United Way of Southern Maine is working to expand access to nutritious food, mental health care, and health services so more people can live healthy, connected lives.

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

Organization / Initiative	Investment	Amount
211 Maine	24/7 Maine Helpline* Provides free, confidential information and referral services that connect people across Maine to local resources.	\$209,975
Caring Unlimited Women United	Legal Assistance for Victims Delivers civil legal assistance and promotes safety and stability for survivors of domestic violence.	\$15,000
Caring Unlimited	Outreach Services Program Provides support and safety planning for people experiencing domestic violence.	\$13,208
The Center for Grieving Children	Bereavement Peer Support Offers peer grief support for individuals and families.	\$25,000
The Center for Grieving Children Emerging Leaders United	Intercultural Peer Support Program: Cultural Ambassadors Supports youth who have recently moved to Maine from countries in crisis.	\$19,040
commonsplace	Homelessness Prevention Supports newly housed residents in maintaining stable housing.	\$50,000
Day One Women United	MaineMOM Offers wraparound care for perinatal women affected by substance use disorder.	\$11,354
Day One	Street Program Delivers low-barrier mental health and substance use counseling and outreach for youth.	\$35,096
Frannie Peabody Center	Client Services Delivers comprehensive, specialized support for individuals living with HIV.	\$20,000
Greater Portland Health	Behavioral and Mental Health Services Delivers behavioral and mental health care to students within Greater Portland's schools.	\$23,000
Maine Community Information Exchange	Community Information Exchange Builds a network that connects healthcare providers and community-based organizations allowing partners to combine data from multiple sources and make referrals in both directions..	\$20,000

Organization / Initiative	Investment	Amount
Maine Access Points	Overdose Prevention Fosters well-being and empowerment among immigrants and refugees through culturally responsive peer support.	\$45,500
Maine Association for New Americans	Community Wellness and Peer Support Provides support for immigrants facing mental health and substance challenges through peer support, education, and healing activities to promote recovery and resilience.	\$35,500
Milestone Recovery	HOME Team Offers outreach and support to individuals experiencing homelessness and substance use or mental health challenges.	\$50,000
Pine Tree Legal Assistance	Safe and Stable Families Thrive Provides coordinated community response to end domestic and sexual violence.	\$75,000
Portland ConnectED	First4ME Portland* Delivers comprehensive early care and education to support school readiness for Portland's youngest learners.	\$61,000
Portland ConnectED	PortlandYouth Network Increases access to safe, enriching after-school and summer programs for youth who face barriers to participation.	\$10,000
Preble Street	Health Services Bridges gaps in healthcare access for people experiencing homelessness.	\$50,000
Spurwink	Cumberland County Children's Advocacy Centers Coordinates agencies working to prevent and respond to child sexual abuse.	\$41,982
Spurwink	Spurwink Responds Expands outpatient psychiatry and case management services in Biddeford.	\$38,000
Through These Doors	Advocacy and Victim Services Provides comprehensive support for domestic violence survivors, including advocacy, safety planning, and resource connection.	\$13,208
United Recovery Fund	Employment and Life Supports* Supports individuals re-entering the workforce with employment and life skills resources.	\$15,000
United Way of Southern Maine	Overdose Prevention Delivers training and expands access to overdose prevention practices in underserved communities.	\$5,000
United Way of Southern Maine	Read Away* Supports literacy and fosters connection between incarcerated parents and their children.	\$20,000

*Programs marked with an asterisk appear in multiple impact areas. The funding amounts shown reflect the total investments in the program. Investments labeled Emerging Leaders United or Women United were directed by members of those Giving Circles.

INVESTING IN SOUTHERN MAINE'S CAPACITY BUILDING

United Way of Southern Maine's Capacity Building grants help smaller organizations grow from within, so they can more effectively drive progress on Thrive2027 goals.

UNITED WAY OF SOUTHERN MAINE'S CAPACITY BUILDING INVESTMENTS

Organization / Initiative	Investment	Amount
Intercultural Community Center	Educating Immigrant Children Expands after-school programs for immigrant children by combining social-emotional learning with ELA and STEAM classes to ease school transitions and support well-being and academic success.	\$10,000
Maine Chapter, American Association of Pediatrics	Health Equity and Diversity Advances varied perspectives and addresses health disparities through equity-focused strategies.	\$10,000
Organization TBD*	Liz Cotter Schlax Capacity Building Award Supports capacity building, helping organizations strengthen their infrastructure, innovate, and sustain the critical services our community depends on.	\$10,000

*The inaugural recipient of this award will be announced in FY26.





On June 20, 2025, over 700 volunteers spent 2,800 hours completing projects at dozens of local organizations through United Way of Southern Maine's annual Day of Action. Those efforts delivered an estimated \$90,000 in value to our community.



550 Forest Avenue, Suite 100
Portland, ME 04101

WWW.UWSME.ORG