



COMMUNITY INVESTMENT STRATEGY

UNITED WAY OF SOUTHEASTERN IDAHO

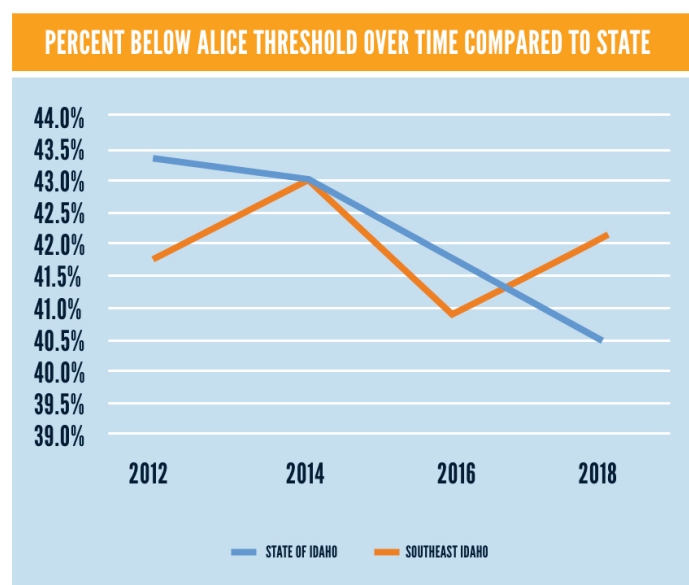
UNITED WAY OF SOUTHEASTERN IDAHO (UWSEI) FIGHTS TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF ALICE FAMILIES. ALICE stands for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed. In 2018 40 % of Idaho’s households struggled to make ends meet. And while 12% of these households were living below the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), another 28% — more than twice as many — were ALICE households. These households earned above the FPL but not enough to afford basic household necessities.

The most recent ALICE Report for Idaho provides new data and tools that explain the persistent level of hardship faced by ALICE households, revealing aspects of the Idaho economy not tracked by traditional economic measures. The Report highlights three critical trends:

- The cost of living is increasing for ALICE households.
- Worker vulnerability is increasing while wages stagnate in ALICE jobs.
- The number of ALICE households are increasing in Idaho.

With ALICE as our north star, our mission is to build

powerful partnerships that improve the outcomes for children, families, and individuals in need. One way United Way of Southeastern Idaho accomplishes this mission is through investing in promising programs in our local community that meet health, education and financial stability needs. Additionally, UWSEI drives change in population outcomes through collective impact coalitions.



Our **Community Investment Process** unites donations from the community into a Community Fund. All donations to the Community Fund are locally invested in our 7 southeastern counties through annual grants to human services nonprofits and UWSEI led programs and initiatives. Local nonprofits secure these grants through an application process. Our donors trust us to invest in programs that deliver results, meet a need in our community and are fiscally responsible. To ensure that funds are invested in quality programs UWSEI relies on volunteers that are vested in strengthening our community to review grant applications.

Our funded programs identify a community need they are addressing, how they will address the need, and the anticipated results. These partners report both qualitative and quantitative results mid-year and at the end of each grant cycle.

UWSEI serves as the backbone organization for our funded partners in the nonprofit sector. Through technical support, trainings, relationship facilitation and other

supports, we strive to strengthen our nonprofit partners.

Our **Aligned Investments** are focused on partnerships that move collective impact goals and strategies forward in all of our impact areas. These partnerships often include cross sector partnerships working towards a common goal.

Aligned Investments are predominantly funded through corporate and foundation grants and supplemented by UWSEI's Community Fund. These partnerships are contract based or formed around a Collective Impact MoU.

The Community Investment Process and the Aligned Investments focus on four Impact Areas: Cradle to Career Opportunity Gaps, Reducing Food Insecurity, Increasing Housing Stability, and Increasing Access to Mental Health/Primary Healthcare for the Uninsured/Underinsured.



Mental Health & Access to Healthcare



Housing Stability



Food Insecurity



Cradle-to-Career Educational Opportunity Gap

IMPACT AREAS

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT STRATEGY

Through our initiative, imPACT East Idaho, UWSEI works to close **EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY GAPS**. We recognize that the economic competitiveness and social well-being of Southeastern Idaho is heavily dependent upon the educational attainment and workforce readiness of our citizens. Our efforts aim for a significant gain in educational attainment and a region-wide culture shift that moves community members out of the cycle of generational poverty. This initiative has two high level goals:

1. All children in Eastern Idaho will enter school ready for kindergarten.
2. Every person in Eastern Idaho will obtain a post-secondary credential or degree leading to economic empowerment.

FOOD INSECURITY refers to USDA's measure of lack of access, at times, to enough food for an active, healthy life for all household members and limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate foods. Food-insecure households are not necessarily food insecure all the time. Food insecurity may reflect a household's need to make trade-offs between important basic needs, such as housing or medical bills, and purchasing nutritionally adequate foods.

In Idaho, one in eight individuals are food insecure. More than half (51%) of the people that are food insecure make too much to receive most government assistance. UWSEI is committed to reducing food insecurity through focusing on the following goals:

1. All individuals, especially vulnerable populations in rural communities, will have access to healthy food.
2. All individuals will have access to programs that support good nutrition.

Idaho rents have grown three times faster than renters' household incomes, making it hard for many families to keep up. A number of factors make affordable homes very scarce, making it hard for our neighbors to afford a home and other household needs such as medications, food, and gasoline. Unstable housing has wide reaching implications for individuals, families, and communities.

UWSEI prioritizes increasing **HOUSING STABILITY** in our region through the following goals:

1. All ALICE families will have access to permanent, supportive and affordable housing in our region.
2. All ALICE families will have access to resources to avoid evictions that result in homelessness.
3. All individuals and families, including survivors of domestic violence, experiencing homelessness will have access to safe, reliable shelter and case management services in our region.



Only 47.5% of adults with **MENTAL ILLNESS** in Idaho receive any form of treatment from either the public system or private providers. Idaho has one of the highest suicide rates in the country. According to Mental Health America, Idaho is ranked 48 out of the 50 states and Washington D.C. for providing access to mental health services. It is important that individuals have access to mental health services and basic healthcare. UWSEI is committed to improving access to healthcare for the underinsured or uninsured by supporting the following goals:

1. All Southeastern Idahoans will have access to affordable mental and behavioral healthcare.
2. All SE Idahoans will have access to health insurance and basic healthcare.
3. All individuals, especially survivors of abuse, will have access to a safe living environment.

UWSEI EMERGENCY FUNDING

UWSEI'S EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND is designed to address emergent community needs such as natural disasters. While we have identified specific needs in our community, the advent of Covid-19 has exacerbated current needs and new needs have emerged. We are actively listening to our community and looking at emerging data to more readily address gaps in services during this unprecedented time.

To this end, the **Emergency Relief Fund** needs to be able to pivot based on community needs. The Emergency Relief Fund is funded through special fundraising efforts or UWSEI reserve dollars.

The **Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP)** is governed by a National Board chaired by FEMA. UWSEI administers the EFSP process by leading the Local Board for Bannock County.

EFSP funds are intended to respond to the changing hunger/homeless needs; not to maintain the status quo. The intent of EFSP funding is to address hunger/homeless needs to make a difference – not to simply spread dollars among all eligible applicants. Additionally, The National Board encourages Local Boards, the decision-making local bodies, to place special emphasis on identification of and assistance to the elderly, families with children, Native Americans and Veterans.

EFSP funds are typically available yearly. UWSEI publishes a press release once the National Board notifies UWSEI regarding the availability of funds. The press release will explain how to apply for funding.

**TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT PROGRAMS THAT ARE ELIGIBLE FOR
EFSP FUNDING CONTACT MOLLY OLSON AT
MOLLY@UNITEDWAYSEI.ORG.**

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT STRATEGY SUMMARY

It is important to be mindful of how our donors' and investors' dollars are invested. Investments should be targeted where they will have the most impact. To that end, United Way of Southeastern Idaho's investments in our community must match our Impact Areas:

- Cradle to Career Opportunity Gaps
- Reducing Food Insecurity

- Increasing Housing Stability
- Increasing Access to Mental Health/Primary Healthcare for the Uninsured/Underinsured

**WE EXPECT OUR FUNDED PARTNERS TO BE ABLE TO
SPEAK TO HOW THEIR PROGRAM IS ADDRESSING ONE
OF OUR STATED COMMUNITY IMPACT GOALS.**

CRADLE TO CAREER OPPORTUNITY GAP

Goal: All children in Eastern Idaho will enter school ready for kindergarten.

Goal: Every person in Eastern Idaho will obtain a postsecondary credential or degree leading to economic empowerment.

DECREASING FOOD INSECURITY

Goal: All individuals, especially vulnerable populations and rural communities, will have access to healthy food and nutrition.

Goal: All individuals will have access to programs that support good nutrition.

INCREASING HOUSING STABILITY AND SHELTER

Goal: All ALICE families will have access to permanent, supportive, and affordable housing in our region.

Goal: All ALICE families will have access to resources to avoid evictions that result in homelessness.

Goal: All individuals & families (including survivors of domestic violence) experiencing homelessness will have access to safe, reliable shelter and case management services in our region.

ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH/PRIMARY HEALTHCARE FOR THE UNINSURED/UNDERINSURED

Goal: All SE Idahoans will have affordable access to mental and behavioral healthcare.

Goal: All SE Idahoans will have access to health insurance and basic healthcare.

Goal: All individuals, especially survivors of abuse, will have access to a safe living environment.



Our funded partners should be working to show, using data, how their individual programs and services are improving a population level outcome. For example, a program that is distributing food to children could readily tie their program outcomes to population level outcomes in the following way:

OUR PROGRAM SERVED 300 CHILDREN THIS YEAR. WE KNOW THAT 16.7% OF CHILDREN IN IDAHO ARE FOOD INSECURE. THEREFORE, OUR PROGRAM IS DIRECTLY CONTRIBUTING TO IMPROVING THIS POPULATION LEVEL OUTCOME.

United Way of Southeastern Idaho is working to move the needle on our communities' biggest needs through focusing on how program outcomes lead to population level outcomes. We can only do this through strong partnerships and volunteers that are committed to our vision and our mission.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT UWSEI'S COMMUNITY INVESTMENTS PLEASE CONTACT MOLLY OLSON AT
MOLLY@UNITEDWAYSEI.ORG OR 208-233-1389.**



United Way
of Southeastern Idaho