

UNITED IS THE WAY

we help our neighbors thrive.

2026-2027
OPPORTUNITY ON THE PLAINS
GRANT RECIPIENTS



UNITED WAY
of the Plains

2026-2027 OPPORTUNITY ON THE PLAINS GRANT RECIPIENTS

United Way of the Plains endeavors to build a region where everyone can thrive, and in that effort is investing \$4.1 million to advance the work of 74 programs at 57 charitable organizations. These competitive grants are distributed through Opportunity on the Plains, United Way's largest annual investment program that's supported by generous individual and corporate donors. By supporting programs that advance **HEALTH, YOUTH OPPORTUNITY**, and **FINANCIAL SECURITY**, this funding will help individuals and families build stability and foster a stronger, more resilient region.



HEALTHY COMMUNITY

We improve access to nutritious food and quality health education and services, so our neighbors have the resources they need to lead healthy lives. Together, we can improve the health and well-being for all.

ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTHCARE - \$280,000

We invest in programs that provide supportive, culturally appropriate mental health resources, ensuring everyone has access to care that promotes emotional well-being.

Breakthrough's Therapy Program (Episcopal Social Services).....	\$37,500
CANA Counseling (Catholic Charities).....	\$28,500
Early Childhood Mental Health (Rainbows United).....	\$94,000
Kidzcope (Wichita Children's Home).....	\$20,000
Mental Health Access for Survivors of Sexual Violence (Wichita Area Sexual Assault Center).....	\$85,000
Recovery Hub (Wichita Recovery Hub).....	\$15,000

ACCESS TO PHYSICAL HEALTHCARE - \$430,000

We invest in programs that ensure everyone has access to quality care in ways that work for them and their families to help reduce the proportion of people who can't get medical care when they need it.

Bridge to Care (ICT Street Team).....	\$25,000
CACSC Medical Services (Child Advocacy Center of Sedgwick County).....	\$15,000
Charitable Pharmacy (Cairn Health).....	\$45,000
Dental Outreach Program (GraceMed Health Clinic).....	\$67,000
Diabetes Clinic Services & Community Programming (Great Plains Diabetes Research).....	\$35,000
Outreach Center (Angels in the Attic).....	\$3,000
Project Access (Central Plains Healthcare Partnership).....	\$125,000
Victim Medical Care (Hope Medical).....	\$10,000
Vision Care for All (Guadalupe Clinic).....	\$30,000
Wheelchair Clinic & Assistive Technology Funding (Cerebral Palsy Research Foundation of Kansas).....	\$75,000

EQUITABLE FOOD ACCESS - \$300,000

We invest in programs that ensure everyone has access to affordable, nutritious, and culturally appropriate food so that community members don't have to choose between paying their monthly bills and feeding their family.

Community Food Ministry (United Methodist Open Door).....	\$90,000
Community Food Pantry (Dear Neighbor Ministries).....	\$87,500
Food Assistance Programs (Joseph's Storehouse).....	\$4,000
Food Pantry (The Center).....	\$10,000
Food Pantry Program (FaithBuilders).....	\$5,000
Meals on Wheels (Senior Services of Wichita).....	\$78,500
Our Daily Bread Food Pantry (Catholic Charities).....	\$15,000
Plant A Row (ICT Food Rescue).....	\$10,000

HEALTHY COMMUNITY CONTINUED

HEALTHY LIFESTYLES - \$230,000

We invest in programs that help increase knowledge of how to be physically active at any ability level, provide accessible opportunities for community members to move their bodies, build knowledge of nutrition and how to prepare nutritious food.

Exercise and Wellness Program (Club Parkinson's).....	\$63,200
Exercise & Wellness Therapy for People with Disabilities (Cerebral Palsy Research Foundation of Kansas).....	\$13,000
Health + Wellness in the Hispanic Community (Salud Más Bienestar).....	\$14,950
Pedal Forward: Bicycle Education & Engagement for Youth & Families (Bike Walk Wichita).....	\$8,850
Sober Active Community (The Phoenix).....	\$90,000
Strengthening Girls from Start to Finish (Girls on the Run Heart of Kansas).....	\$40,000

SAFE FUTURES & SURVIVOR EMPOWERMENT - \$250,000

We invest in programs that ensure that community members who face violence and abuse receive services that can help them stabilize in the aftermath, recover from the trauma, and empower them to heal and grow.

Advocacy & Therapy Services (ICT SOS).....	\$50,000
Creating Safe Futures for Survivors of Sexual Violence (Wichita Area Sexual Assault Center).....	\$90,000
Domestic Violence & Sex Trafficking Shelter & Services (Wichita Family Crisis Center).....	\$60,000
Domestic Violence Survivors Services (StepStone).....	\$50,000



YOUTH OPPORTUNITY

We create pathways for young people to reach their goals, from early childhood education to college and career success. Together, we are helping young people reach their full potential.

ACADEMIC SUCCESS & YOUTH ENRICHMENT - \$500,000

We invest in programs that ensure children and youth are supported throughout their academic journey, especially those at risk, through literacy development, extended learning opportunities, and addressing non-academic barriers to learning.

Fresh Start to Learning (Simply Hygiene).....	\$56,250
Juniper Fine Arts Programming (Juniper Arts Academy).....	\$13,150
One-to-One Mentoring (Kansas Big Brothers Big Sisters serving Cowley County).....	\$3,404
One-to-One Youth Mentoring (Kansas Big Brothers Big Sisters serving Sedgwick County).....	\$41,250
PALS+: Partnership Assuring Learning Success+ (Prime Fit Youth Foundation).....	\$93,404
Rise Up For Youth (Destination Innovation).....	\$52,000
School Year and Summer Enrichment (Boys & Girls Clubs of South Central Kansas).....	\$67,138
Student Success The Pando Way (The Pando Initiative).....	\$173,404

CHILD & FAMILY WELL-BEING - \$220,000

We invest in programs that ensure children grow up in safe, supportive, and thriving environments. This includes promoting the physical, mental, emotional, and social health of children while strengthening the capacity of families to nurture, protect, and advocate for their children and their children's education.

Be Brave Be Safe (Child Advocacy Center of Sedgwick County).....	\$35,000
Change a Child's Story (CASA of Sedgwick County).....	\$18,000
Family Preservation and Prevention (FosterAdopt Connect).....	\$7,000
Not Alone: Prevention & Awareness Education (ICT SOS).....	\$30,000
Protection for Abused and Neglected Children (Tri-County CASA).....	\$5,000
Residential Child & Family Wellbeing Program (Youth Horizons).....	\$75,000
Residential Emergency Shelter (Wichita Children's Home).....	\$50,000

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT & SCHOOL READINESS - \$130,000

We invest in programs that lay a strong foundation for young children (0-5) to thrive through early learning, development supports, and successful kindergarten transitions.

Early Childhood Connections (Child Start).....	\$130,000
--	-----------

YOUTH OPPORTUNITY CONTINUED

COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS – \$200,000

We invest in programs that equip youth with the academic, technical, social-emotional, and real-world skills needed to navigate and succeed in post-secondary education, training, and employment. We support multiple pathways to post-secondary success, including college, trade school, military service, and direct-to-career routes.

Elevate Our Youth (International Rescue Committee - Wichita)	\$30,000
Futures Program (Kansas Hispanic Education and Development Foundation)	\$40,500
Root the Power (Destination Innovation)	\$37,000
Substitute Career Specialist & Student Transportation (Jobs for America's Graduates-Kansas)	\$47,500
Youth Employment Project (Workforce Alliance of South Central Kansas)	\$45,000



FINANCIAL SECURITY

We connect people to education, tools, and job training so they have financial freedom and peace of mind. Together, we can create a stronger financial future for every generation.

ECONOMIC MOBILITY – \$165,000

We invest in programs that help households improve their financial well-being by increasing income, reducing debt, and building assets. These services support individuals in moving from living paycheck-to-paycheck toward long-term financial stability and economic security.

Core Community (Youth Core Ministries)	\$50,000
Exodus Program: Post-Incarceration Equipping & Launching (Union Rescue Mission)	\$15,900
Getting Ahead & Staying Ahead (Youth Horizons)	\$7,100
Guided Independent Living Assessment (Cerebral Palsy Research Foundation of Kansas)	\$17,000
Home Preservation Program Expansion (Winfield Habitat for Humanity)	\$30,000
Homebuyer Education Program (Wichita Habitat for Humanity)	\$45,000

HOMELESS PREVENTION – \$650,000

We invest in programs that offer emergency financial assistance to help households maintain stable housing by preventing eviction or utility shutoff. These services aim to prevent homelessness by addressing short-term crises before they escalate.

Community Helping Hands Ministry (First United Methodist Church of Winfield)	\$10,000
Homelessness Prevention (Center of Hope)	\$268,500
Homelessness Prevention (Family Promise of Greater Wichita)	\$261,000
Homelessness Prevention Program (Dear Neighbor Ministries)	\$110,500

PATHWAYS TO HOUSING – \$600,000

We invest in programs that provide a safe and supportive space for individuals and families while guiding them toward permanent housing. These efforts center on personalized, trauma-informed care and work to break down the unique barriers each person faces to achieving long-term housing stability.

Homeless Resource Center (United Methodist Open Door)	\$230,000
Housing Navigator for Medically Vulnerable Adults (ICT Street Team)	\$50,000
Inn Pathway to Housing (HumanKind Ministries)	\$140,000
St. Anthony Family Shelter (Catholic Charities)	\$130,000
Youth Anti-Homeless Programs (Wichita Children's Home)	\$50,000

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT – \$145,000

We invest in programs that equip youth and adults for employment through job training, career navigation, and support services that lead to quality jobs and long-term economic mobility.

Bridging Today's Gaps, Shaping Tomorrow's Future (Goodwill Industries of Kansas)	\$70,000
Domestic Violence Employment Program (The Women's Initiative Network)	\$55,000
Seeds for Success Program (Catholic Charities)	\$10,000
Work Readiness & Experience (Cerebral Palsy Research Foundation of Kansas)	\$10,000