



**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**United Way of Cumberland County Announces \$380,000 in
2026-2027 Community Program Funding**

Fayetteville, N.C. (July 23, 2025) – United Way of Cumberland County (UWCC) is proud to announce the allocation of **\$380,000** in community investments to support **23 local programs** during the **2026–2027 funding cycle**. These investments will positively impact the lives of **83,734 Cumberland County residents** through programs that address the community's most pressing needs.

Funding was awarded to nonprofit programs aligned with UWCC's three Community Impact pillars: **Education, Health, and Basic Critical Needs & Financial Stability**. These focus areas are guided by findings from United Way of Cumberland County's comprehensive Community Needs Assessment, which identifies the most significant challenges and opportunities facing local residents.

The Community Needs Assessment serves as a strategic roadmap for investing donor dollars where they can make the greatest impact. By combining local data with community input, UWCC empowers volunteers, staff, and nonprofit partners to support evidence-based programs that improve quality of life and create lasting change throughout Cumberland County.

Each year, United Way of Cumberland County recruits and trains local volunteers to serve on Community Impact Review Panels. These volunteers carefully evaluate funding proposals, assess program outcomes, and make funding recommendations to the UWCC Board of Directors. The Board reviews and approves the final funding allocations, ensuring a transparent, accountable, and community-driven investment process.

"Our Community Impact Review Panel volunteers play a vital role in ensuring donor investments are directed to programs that deliver measurable results," said Scott Embry, Executive Director of United Way of Cumberland County. "Their dedication, combined with the generosity of our donors and the commitment of our community partners, allows us to invest in solutions that strengthen families, improve lives, and build a healthier, more resilient Cumberland County."



Together with volunteers, donors, and community partners, United Way of Cumberland County continues to create meaningful, lasting change by investing in programs that address today's challenges while building opportunities for future generations.

For more information about United Way of Cumberland County's Community Impact initiatives or how to become involved, visit www.unitedway-cc.org.

2026/2027 Funded Programs and Services

Education

Programs that strengthen children's ability to succeed in school from kindergarten to college and programs that build successful youth, families and Cumberland County adults. Impacting the lives of 5,852 Cumberland County residents.

- Adult Literacy & Education Center – *Fayetteville Urban Ministry*
- Community Engagement Program – *Girl Scouts, NC Coastal Pines Council*
- Find A Friend Mentoring Program – *Fayetteville Urban Ministry*
- Garden Field Trip & Classroom Education Programs – *Cape Fear Botanical Garden*
- Intervention & Prevention After School Programs – *Greater Life of Fayetteville*
- Level-Up Youth Enrichment Program – *LIAM Outreach & Community Center*
- Two-Six Labs – *The Two-Six Project*

Health

Programs that provide access to health care and wellness education programs to help people manage and prevent chronic physical and mental illnesses. Impacting the lives of 319 Cumberland County residents.

- Community Care Giving Circle – *Cumberland County Council on Older Adults*
- Diabetes Management Program – *Better Health of Cumberland County*
- Emergency Medical Direct Aid Program – *Better Health of Cumberland County*
- Mental Health & Substance Use Services – *Cumberland County CommuniCare*
- Preparedness, Health & Safety Programs – *American Red Cross, Sandhills Chapter*
- VRC on the Move Programs for the Visually Impaired – *Vision Resource Center*

Basic Critical Needs & Financial Stability

Programs that provide access to emergency food, safe shelter, rental, utility, and medical assistance, as well as programs that provide employment preparation and financial self-sufficiency. Impacting the lives of 65,239 Cumberland County residents.

- Critical Home Repair Program–*Habitat for Humanity, Fayetteville Area*
- Day Resource Center for Women– *Connections of Cumberland County*
- Disaster Services – *American Red Cross, Sandhills Chapter*



- Emergency Assistance Program – *Fayetteville Urban Ministry*
- Food Pantry Services – *Catholic Charities of the Raleigh Diocese*
- Home Improvement Program – *Cumberland County Council on Older Adults*
- Nehemiah Emergency Home Repair Program – *Fayetteville Urban Ministry*
- Senior Nutrition Services (Meals on Wheels) – *Cumberland County Council on Older Adults*
- Services to the Armed Forces – *American Red Cross, Sandhills Chapter*
- Warrior Bridge Program-*Employment Source*

United Way of Cumberland County

United Way of Cumberland County mobilizes the caring power of our community to improve lives and create lasting change. We bring people and resources together to address the most pressing health and human service needs in our area. By investing strategically in local programs and building strong partnerships with direct service providers, we work to ensure every person in Cumberland County has the opportunity to thrive. To learn more, visit www.unitedway-cc.org.

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