



Our New Community Impact Strategy: Moving Forward Together

At United Way Central Alberta, everything we do starts with community. Our new **Community Impact Strategy for 2026 - 2029** reflects what we've been hearing across Central Alberta - growing needs, evolving challenges, and the importance of working together to support people where they are.

This strategy helps guide how we invest donor dollars, partner with local organizations, and strengthen supports across the region over the next several years.

Community Impact Strategy 2026 - 2029

Shaped by Community Voices

This update was built through conversations with community agencies, partners, residents, and our volunteer-led Community Impact Council. These insights helped us better understand emerging needs, pressures on local services, and where collaboration can make the biggest difference.

It also continues our shift toward a more collaborative, equity-centred approach, keeping lived experience and community knowledge at the centre of how we work.

Where We're Focusing

Community feedback continues to highlight three areas where investment has the greatest impact:

Basic Needs - Supporting access to essentials like food, housing resources, income supports, and system navigation.

Mental Health - Increasing access to timely, culturally responsive mental health and addiction supports.

Brighter Futures - Helping children, youth, and families build skills, confidence, and opportunity for the future.

Together, these focus areas reflect a holistic approach to building stronger, healthier communities.

What's New

While our priorities remain consistent, this strategy includes some important updates:

Expanded opportunities for **multi-year funding** under Basic Needs

Updated granting language to support broader inclusion and culturally responsive programs

These refinements help ensure our investments stay responsive to changing community realities.

What Happens Next?

Implementation begins this spring:

Multi-year grant applications open **March 16, 2026** (funding begins July 1)

Project funding and small grants open **April 1, 2026** and remain available while funds last

Funding decisions will continue to be guided by our volunteer Community Impact Council to ensure transparency, accountability, and alignment with community priorities.

Stronger Communities, Together

We know lasting change happens through partnership. This strategy positions us to keep listening, adapting, and working alongside community to create meaningful, lasting impact across Central Alberta.

Together, we can build communities where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.