

UNITED WAY OF LARAMIE COUNTY COMMUNITY INVESTMENT TEAM MEMBER VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

“Our Vision is no one in need.
Our Mission is a better Laramie County”

Community Investment Team volunteers set the vision, identify the issues and develop long-term community level strategies and outcomes that address the issues identified by the specified team in Laramie County. United Way of Laramie County has three investment teams that focus on Youth issues; Family issues (crisis and self-sufficiency) and Health. Each team has an identified chair and co-chair that guides the teams work. Community Investment Team volunteers are responsible for:

1. **Setting a Shared Vision** - planning begins with a shared vision and each step of the planning process relates to that vision, narrows the focus of the plan and builds on work from prior steps. Team volunteers review the team vision annually and make changes, as necessary, to address target issues they are working on in our community.
2. **Selecting/Prioritizing Target Issues** - The result of this step is a list of priority target issues that are creating obstacles to resolving Human Services issues in Laramie County. These issues are evaluated by team volunteers according to specific criteria established by each team and used to define the long-term community level outcomes the team is trying to achieve for specific target populations.
3. **Establishing of Long-Term Community Level Outcome(s)** - Establishment of long-term community level outcome(s) are used by the teams to communicate the intended result, whose lives the team is committed to improving and how, to the community.
4. **Identifying Obstacles** - Data driven, the team members work to define key issues that determine “What hinders or blocks people/community systems from supporting the achievement of the community level outcome(s)?” and “What can people/community systems do to help?” It also helps to identify “What community conditions stand in the way of the outcome(s) being true?” and “Who or what can help address barriers and how?” Finally using the answers to these questions, team members work to develop strategies, form coalitions and develop initiatives that will implement these strategies to address particular community issues not being tackled by existing programs.

5. **Review Concepts/Invitation for Proposal** - Team volunteers after setting objectives, establishing long-term outcome(s) and prioritizing target issues look for partners to help provide effective sustainable programming to make Laramie County a livable community that helps its children and youth achieve their full potential while giving Families, Individuals and Seniors the ability to achieve greater financial stability, adequate mobility options and timely access to health care services. This is accomplished through the Call for Concepts and Invitation for Proposal process.

Each team meets as needed throughout the year to continue work pertaining to their particular areas of concern. As the team approaches the time for the next two year funding cycle, volunteer meetings may need to take place more frequently at the direction of the team chair. A projected timeline outlining a team member's time commitment for a given funding cycle may look something like this:

1. Beginning of Two Year Funding Cycle

- a) October Investment Teams meet to review/revalidate team vision, community level outcome(s), target issues and identify obstacles.
- b) November Information developed by teams is used to develop Call for Partners (CFP) document that is sent interested programs that believe they can address target issues identified by the teams. Public Notice of CFP availability published in newspaper. CFP Training Sessions conducted by United Way staff for programs applying.
- c) January Deadline for CFD submission to United Way. Community Investment Team orientation held to cover evaluation process for CFPs and Invitation for Proposals (IFPs) Community Investment Teams review CFPs.
- d) February IFPs issued to successful CFP applicants. Teams review end of year reports from current funding cycle and determine success to meet established outcomes. Information is used during IFP process to help make funding recommendations.
- e) March Deadline for IFP submissions Community Investment Teams review IFPs.

- f) Early April Funding recommendations made by teams and presented to United Way executive committee, board and Human Services Advisor Council for approval.
- g) Late Fall Investment teams visit funded programs to determine how things are going and what support the program may require.

2. Second Year of Two Year Funding Cycle

- a) January Investment teams review end of year reports and make determinations on continued funding.
- b) March Investment teams visit funded programs to determine how things are going and what support the program may require.
- c) October Investment Teams meet to review/revalidate team vision, community level outcome(s), target issues and identify obstacles.

There are three Community Investment teams to choose from:

1. **Helping Children and Youth Achieve Their Full Potential**
2. **Helping Neighbors in Crisis and Strengthening Families**
3. **Improving Community Health**

This information below outlines each team's objectives, long-term outcomes and target issues including the teams intended results.

1. **HELPING CHILDREN AND YOUTH ACHIEVE THEIR FULL POTENTIAL**

- a) **Team Objectives**- Enable community organizations the ability to provide programs for:
 - Educating Laramie County parents/businesses on benefits to the child, family and community of licensed, legally exempt childcare and the importance of investing in high quality learning environments
 - Providing all children in Laramie County with high quality early learning experiences that prepare them to succeed in school and life
 - Supporting children and youth in Laramie County ages 0 - 21, with positive, involved family and community structures and access to a variety of activities to

develop life skills, provide quality education and positive learning environments

- Increasing awareness and access to educational programs focusing on parenting skills
- Increasing access and availability to mentors/positive role models for Laramie County youth
- Increasing Laramie County youth access and availability to structured activities that nurture skills/interests, enrich academic performance, contribute to their environment, and develop self-esteem and social skills
- Providing childcare facilities access to professional development resources to improve quality

b) **Desired Long-Term Outcomes:**

- Children in Laramie County enter Kindergarten ready to succeed
- Laramie County youth achieve their full potential

1) **Target issue 1: Community education on the importance of Early Care and Education**

➤ ***Intended result(s):***

- ❖ Parents and businesses understand, support and expect quality early care and education in Laramie County.
- ❖ Laramie County residents have an increased awareness of early care and education as well as developmentally and individually appropriate child raising practices.

2) **Target issue 2: Parents have the opportunity to continually develop their parenting skills**

➤ ***Intended result(s):***

- ❖ Families and parents are involved and motivated at parenting.
- ❖ Increased opportunity and access to parenting programs, including those for specialized parenting (e.g. single parents, non-custodial parents, teen parents, grandparents, and parents who either have developmental disabilities or have children with developmental disabilities).

3) **Target issue 3: Access to quality, licensed, legally exempt and accredited child development facilities that nurture children's skills, interests and prepare them for academic success**

➤ **Intended result(s):**

- ❖ Increase capacity in Laramie County so parents of Laramie County children can access quality care and education for their children.

4) **Target issue 4: Readiness to achieve in school and academic achievement**

➤ **Intended result(s):**

- ❖ Children enter school developmentally on track in terms of literacy and social, emotional and intellectual skills.
- ❖ Elementary students are prepared to succeed in later grades.
- ❖ Young people graduate from high school.

5) **Target issue 5: Productive and engaged youth who avoid risky behaviors**

➤ **Intended result(s):**

- ❖ Youth in Laramie County demonstrate responsible behavior.
- ❖ Increased participation in after-school, extracurricular programs, and mentor programs.
- ❖ Young adults make a successful transition from high school to work life and/or post-secondary education.

2. HELPING NEIGHBORS IN CRISIS AND STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

a) **Team Objectives**- Enable community organizations to provide programs to:

- Invest in families, individuals and seniors so residents in poverty have the education/skill sets necessary to make a livable wage and manage daily activities in a livable environment
- Identify/provide solutions for current gaps in the human service system's capacity to improve access to basic life/safety services for vulnerable populations

- Provide single access point to help residents navigate the way to resources to meet basic life, safety and economic needs
- Educate and help the public understand the importance of breaking out of personal safety zones to help neighbors in crisis by overcoming issues of cultural diversity, gender disparity, economic inequity and religious bias
- Provide resources to help Laramie County residents prepare for crisis situations such as flood, fire, or natural disaster
- Support seniors in developing life skills that involve physical, social and emotionally satisfying activities
- Provide opportunities/services for seniors to acquire or maintain a level of independent living they choose or desire, such as, own home, community living center, nursing home, adult foster care home, etc.

b) **Desired Long-Term Outcome:**

- People and families in Laramie County live in a healthy and safe community and have adequate resources to pursue their full potential.

1) **Target issue 1: Laramie County is a livable community having adequate community resources to achieve greater financial stability and adequate mobility for families, individuals and seniors.**

- **Intended result:** Families, individuals and seniors in Laramie County have affordable/appropriate housing, supportive community programs and services that advance skills, personal financial management understanding and adequate mobility to facilitate independence and engagement of residents in civic and social life.

2) **Target issue 2: Families, individuals and seniors have adequate safety net services.**

- **Intended result:** Laramie County families, individuals and seniors have timely access to safety net services to maintain and enhance basic life/safety needs during time of crisis.

3) **Target issue 3: Individual awareness of human services resources.**

- **Intended result:** Laramie County residents have community-based, early access to expert information and referral services that improve their well-being.
- 4) **Target issue 4: Sustainable network of safety net organizations offering a variety of services, referrals, and case management resources.**
 - **Intended results:** Streamline existing resources, when feasible, to maximize efficiency and reduce duplicative services at multiple sites, serving overlapping populations.

Definition of Crisis: An event or series of events and/or the aftermath that impairs a person or family's ability to meet basic life and safety needs. Basic life and safety needs include: food, shelter, clothing, security, stability, survival, emergency physical and mental health needs.

3. IMPROVING COMMUNITY HEALTH

a) **Team Objective** - Enable community organizations the ability to provide programs for:

- Healthcare education
- Timely access to healthcare resources
- Sustainable healthcare services

b) **Desired Long-Term Outcome:**

- People living in Laramie County have access to quality, affordable, and timely health and preventative care.
 - 1) **Target issue 1. Timely access to healthcare services.**
 - **Intended result:** Laramie County residents have timely access to healthcare resources for urgent, chronic and preventative care.
 - 2) **Target issue 2. Basic health care coverage and prevention.**
 - **Intended result:** People in Laramie County receive timely, regular preventive health care.
 - 3) **Target issue 3. Sustainable healthcare services.**
 - **Intended result:** Streamline existing resources, when feasible, to maximize efficiency and reduce

duplicative services at multiple sites, serving overlapping populations.