

IMPACT AREA PROGRAM OUTCOMES FINANCIAL STABILITY



United Way Suncoast provides leadership that improves lives and creates lasting community change by mobilizing the caring people of our communities to give, advocate, and volunteer. United Way Suncoast provides pathways to education and financial stability that give everyone in our community the freedom to rise.

CURRENT COMMUNITY CONDITIONS

- Statewide in 2021, 3.3 million Florida residents utilized SNAP benefits; 60% of participants were families with children. However, only 86% of people who are eligible for this benefit utilize it.
- 50% of families in the Suncoast Region are ALICE: Asset-Limited, Income Constrained, but Employed. Half of our community members are hardworking, yet do not earn enough income to create a strong savings and sense of financial security and independence.

Housing Conditions:

What is the Average rent in your county? What is the hourly wage to meet that rent, without becoming rent-cost burdened?

County	Average Rent	Hourly Wage Needed
Pinellas	\$1,745	\$32.71 / hour
Hillsborough	\$1,745	\$32.71 / hour
Manatee	\$1,759	\$32.98 / hour
Sarasota	\$1,903	\$35.68 / hour

Rent average as of June 2022

WHAT UWS AND PARTNERS ARE DOING TO FILL THE GAPS:

- \$3,955,417 invested in Financial Stability programs through the annual investment, Eviction Mitigation, and Neighborhood Centers workforce development programs.
- 27 strategic community partner programs served 45,582 individuals with 96% of those individuals identifying as ALICE. Collectively, UWS and our partners created the following outcomes:
 - 2,100 individuals earned job seeking skills or workforce training, and over 1,800 were placed in a job
 - 759 families completed applications for and received new access to financial benefits for which they had been previously eligible

Through our Financial Coaching Services:

- 88 volunteer financial coaches worked with 215 participants
- 13 participants reduced debt or created an improved debt management plan
- 25 improved their credit awareness or credit score

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA):

- 6,322 tax returns processed through the UWS-led VITA program in Hillsborough Pinellas.
- Partners in Sarasota and Desoto processed an additional 1,224 tax returns.
- Partners in Manatee processed 1,024 returns

Bank On

- 24 financial institutions have Bank On Certified Accounts, which are safe checking accounts with no overdraft fees. These institutions work with the 64 local coalition partner organizations to encourage safe and sustainable banking practices. The Bank On Coalition directly supported 244 clients becoming banked from previously unbanked or underbanked.
- Over 1,000 people were referred to or opened a Bank On Certified checking account
- [Click here](#) to see the Bank On Mapping tool for the Suncoast region.

Eviction Work

- UWS invested \$3 million to address housing and evictions across the five-county region by supporting ERA navigators at nonprofits throughout the community
- Eviction mitigation service supported 2,153 individuals with housing services, which kept 1,925 individuals in their home or achieving new, stable housing
- \$407,121 of RISE funds were distributed in direct assistance to residents
- The Community Navigators helped to leverage an additional \$616,484 in other public or private funds, including a quarter of a million dollars in Emergency Rental Assistance dollars which had a deadline to be spent
- Housing navigation will continue with partners throughout our region to ensure continued stability beyond the availability of rental assistance funding

United Way Suncoast Programs and Initiatives:

- Bank On
- Financial Coaching
- Volunteer Tax Assistance
- Eviction Mitigation

United Way Suncoast is one of many supporters of Financial Stability programs throughout the Suncoast region. Our Strategic Community Partners identified the following organizations as the top supporters of their work:

- Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County
- United Way Suncoast
- Office of Family Assistance, US Dept. HHS
- Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA), US Dept. Labor
- Allegany Franciscan Ministries