COMMUNITY CONDITIONS

ALICE % from United Way
45% of households in Manatee County fall within or below the ALICE (Asset-Limited, Income-Constrained, Employed) Threshold. These hard-working families reside above the poverty line but stand one unexpected expense away from dire circumstances. In Manatee County, our partners served 18,722 individuals, and 99% of those residents identify as ALICE totaling

$ Invested
$1,332,671 invested into Strategic Community Partner programs, other community support initiatives, and United Way Suncoast programs and administration in Manatee County

# of Strategic Community Partners
34, including 14 investment partners

Focus Areas
Early Learning (United We Learn), Financial Stability

Volunteers
Over 1,100 volunteer hours served in Manatee County last year

State of Early Learning
• Florida Kindergarten Readiness (FLKRS): In 2021-22, approximately 47% of kindergartners were “Ready for Kindergarten” in Manatee
• Florida Standards Assessment (FSA): In 2021-22 46% of Manatee 3rd grade students were reading at or above grade level. Within UWS schools of focus, which are 10 title I schools, only 27% of students read on grade level

EL Reading Rates by demographics
• Homeless Status – In 2021-2022, 23% of 3rd grade students who are homeless are reading at or above grade level
• Economic status – In 2021-22, only 34% of students who are identified as economically disadvantaged* are reading at or above grade level.

Eviction and Housing
• Average 2 Bedroom Rent in Manatee: $1,759 As of June 2022, households earning the annual median household income of ~$57,000 are “Rent-Cost Burdened” meaning more than 30% of their income is dedicated to rent.
• As part of our RISE Eviction Investment, we have formed partnerships with the following agencies in the region: All Faiths Food Bank, Women’s Resource Center, Glasser Schoenbaum, Catholic Charities of Venice, Gulf Coast Legal, and Suncoast Community Mediation

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.

COMMUNITY CONDITIONS

Eviction and Housing
You are not alone. Every day, hundreds of people across our Tri County Region of Desoto, Manatee and Sarasota Counties turn to 2-1-1 for information and support—for financial assistance, health programs, crisis support and more.

You can access 2-1-1 by phone, email, chat or text (just text your zip code to 898-211). Reaching out will get you connected to a multilingual 2-1-1 specialist in your area who can put you in touch with local organizations providing critical services to improve and save lives.

2-1-1
Get Connected.
Get Help.
Get Answers.

Early Learning Initiative

United Way Suncoast programs successfully distributed 3,040 books and literacy kits to the community within the last year.

The Reading Room nearly doubled the number of program hours offered to more than 550 hours, which provides necessary reading and learning materials for children and their families.

The RISE Eviction Cohort raised and leveraged over $410,000 to provide direct support to families in the Manatee, Sarasota, and DeSoto regions. In total, 915 people were supported, and 889 of them were kept in their home or achieved new or stable housing, which is a 97% success rate.

Women’s Resource Center also helped families receive an additional $227,880 in other public or private dollars. $61,280 of these were explicitly Emergency Rental Assistance dollars.

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Early Learning Initiative

In FY 22 our partners reported serving more than 17,300 residents of Manatee County

In FY22, 235 students who worked with our partner programs are now reading on grade level or demonstrating progress.

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Contact Chrystal Mijares at cmijares@uwsuncoast.org or 941.328.6987.