

United Way's Community Priorities

There's an issue

Every day, people across the country struggle to build better lives for themselves and their families. These challenges are fueled by serious social and economic barriers including poverty, youth unemployment and community decline, among others, making it remarkably difficult to get ahead.

1 in 10 Canadians live in poverty.

13%: The national unemployment rate for youth aged 15-24—almost twice the rate of working-age adults.

1 in 5 Canadians live with a mental illness.

There's a way forward

United Way is committed to helping people and families across Canada build better lives—both today and tomorrow. We do this by moving people from poverty to possibility, helping kids be all they can be, and building strong and healthy communities.

\$5 provides one meal to someone who is homeless, giving them refuge in a safe environment.

\$260 provides 10 people with 10 weeks of programming on how to support a family member or friend struggling with mental illness.

\$400 covers one week of work experience wages for a young person in an employment program.

\$800 helps bring together 100 neighbours to identify common challenges and solutions, making their community stronger and safer.

\$1,200 provides important household items to six families, helping them make a life-changing move to secure housing.

But, there are barriers

Social and economic challenges like poverty, youth unemployment and isolation are issues that affect all of us. They widen gaps between those who are doing well financially and those who are not, and threaten the strong social fabric that is vital to healthy, connected communities.

Nearly 1/5 of Canadian seniors report that they feel lonely.

\$7 billion: the cost of homelessness to the Canadian economy each year.

Less than 1 in 4 Canadian children and youth in need of mental health support actually receive it.

That's why your help matters

When you support United Way, you're helping to build a strong social safety net for Canadians in communities across the country. This means that people have access to all the supports they need the most, when and where they need them.

\$364M is invested across Canada, empowering individuals and entire communities through important programs and services.

6,100+ programs and services help move people from poverty to possibility, help kids be all they can be, and build strong and healthy communities.

5.7M+ individuals and families are served across Canada.