



United Way of Washtenaw County Financial Stability Investments FY17-18

United Way of Washtenaw County awards Financial Stability grants annually as part of its Financial Stability Initiative. These grants provide support for programs, projects or initiatives that prioritize: women, individuals and families with low incomes, communities of color, and historically and/or systematically marginalized groups.

Funded programs align with one or more of United Way's Financial Stability Initiative goals:

- Advance the economic wellbeing of individuals and families with low incomes.
- Reduce reliance on predatory financial practices in Washtenaw County neighborhoods.
- Improve the economic wellbeing of women who are Asset-Limited, Income Constrained and Employed ([ALICE](#)).

We're pleased to invest in the following agencies and programs:

Financial Stability Investments • \$100,000		
<i>This fund was augmented by \$25,000 in funds from <u>United Way's annual Power of the Purse event</u>, the proceeds of which support programs that build the financial stability of people who identify as women.</i>		
Grantee	Program Name	Award Amount
Catholic Social Services of Washtenaw County	Low-Income Senior Tax Assistance	\$8,000
Friends In Deed	Circles Washtenaw County	\$10,000
	Transportation Program	\$5,000
Michigan Advocacy Program	Legal Services for Stability and Autonomy	\$25,000
Ozone House	Financial Coaching for Youth	\$15,000
SOS Community Services	Work Start	\$25,000
Washtenaw Literacy	LIFT: Literacy Learning Labs	\$12,000

For additional information about our Financial Stability work or United Way funding opportunities, please visit uwgive.org or contact Bridget Healy, bhealy@uwwashtenaw.org. See our press release about this Fund, [online](#).

Find descriptions for each of these programs on the next page.

Financial Stability Fund Investments Program Descriptions

Catholic Social Services of Washtenaw County • *Low-Income Senior Tax Assistance*

Tax preparation volunteers are trained annually to help Washtenaw County limited-income seniors and adults with disabilities file simple income tax returns and credits.

Friends In Deed • *Circles Washtenaw County*

Circles is a relationship-based strategy that engages the entire community to move from a focus on the management of poverty to collaborative ownership of the solution to poverty. The Circles model works on both the individual and community level to: 1. empower highly motivated low-income participants to permanently move out of poverty and into economic and personal stability; and 2. increase the “poverty IQ” of leaders in business, education, health, philanthropy, volunteerism, public service, and other major sectors in order to motivate strategic collective action to resolve systemic barriers to self-sufficiency.

Friends In Deed • *Transportation Program*

Friends In Deed's Car Repair program provides funding for car repair, insurance, registration, tires and fuel for low-income individuals and families in Washtenaw County.

Michigan Advocacy Program • *Legal Services for Stability and Autonomy*

This program will expand the Family Law Project's (FLP) outreach and access to survivors of domestic violence in underserved communities on the east side of Washtenaw County, specifically communities of color and those regions with poor Washtenaw County Opportunity Index scores. FLP's legal advocacy helps DV survivors secure safety, independence, and financial security for themselves and their children.

Ozone House • *Financial Coaching for Youth*

Youth who come to Ozone House seek help for serious and often traumatic reasons. All of the programming at Ozone House is designed to be trauma-informed and rooted in principles of Positive Youth Development to help youth process emotions, build coping mechanisms, and receive tangible basic needs support. Additionally, during their time in Ozone House programs, youth also learn life skills to help them become flourishing adults. This program will introduce financial planning and skills training to meet the unique financial needs of homeless and housing-insecure youth in Washtenaw County, thereby expanding the agency's service offerings aimed at helping youth become independent.

SOS Community Services • *Work Start*

Work Start is a supported employment program for young women in SOS's housing program for families experiencing homelessness. Families who live in SOS's housing programs are often headed by young, single women who have multiple children, incomplete education, and limited experience in the workforce. This program will help women get and keep jobs, develop work history, and develop employment skills so they can get permanent jobs at program end.

Washtenaw Literacy • *LIFT (Learning Is a Family Thing) Literacy Learning Labs*

Learning labs are one of three components for LIFT programming that also includes personal literacy tutoring with the mother and reinforcement of early literacy activities for the mother and the child/children. Literacy learning labs are small, group sessions, six to eight weeks in length, that focus on topics such as digital skills, health, financial and workforce literacy while advancing and reinforcing the development of basic skills: reading, math, and English language.