



United Way  
of Washtenaw County

## United Way of Washtenaw County Opportunity Fund Investments FY18

**About:** These grants provide support for organizations whose work benefits priority populations in Washtenaw County: lower-income populations, communities of color and groups deemed to be marginalized. In addition to the above, the work of an application organization must align with one or more of the following criteria:

- Meet an emergent, unmet community or organizational capacity need
- Pilot a promising or evidence-based practice
- Prioritize systematic racial equity. Read more about our [commitment to equity here](#).
- Increase the financial stability of individuals and families
- Leverage United Way support as match for additional grant funding

### Opportunity Fund Investments • \$97,989

Organization	Program Name	Priority Area	Investment Amount
CivCity Initiative	Strengthening Ann Arbor's Civic Health	Community Building	\$5,000
Corner Health Center	Corner Ambassador Program	Safety Net Health	\$15,000
Growing Hope	The Growing Hope Center Farm: A Place for Good Health & Equity to Grow	Safety Net Health	\$15,000
Washtenaw County Public Health	Community Health Improvement Plan	Safety Net Health	\$5,000
Children's Literacy Network	Summer Book Program Phase II	School-Aged Youth	\$10,000
Community Action Network	CANchise-Bridging the Framework Gap	School-Aged Youth	\$10,000
Michigan Organization on Adolescent Sexual Health	Washtenaw County Power Sex Education Advisory Boards	School-Aged Youth	\$22,000
Neutral Zone	Youth-led Evaluation for Creating Community Change for Black Youth	School-Aged Youth	\$10,249
Michigan Works!	Summer '17 Program	School-Aged Youth	\$740
Ypsilanti District Library	Research Readiness Benchmarks in Ypsilanti Community Schools	School-Aged Youth	\$5,000

### Program Descriptions

#### **CivCity Initiative** *Strengthening Ann Arbor's Civic Health*

**Program Description:** CivCity strengthens Ann Arbor's civic health, especially among residents who are marginalized by income, race, and age. This organization is working to achieve a dramatic cultural shift, expanding the number and diversity of people who are knowledgeable about their government and who are inspired to participate in local civic life.

#### **Corner Health Center** *Ambassador Program*

**Program Description:** A pilot program designed to address current local health epidemics (startling increases in suicide, opioid overdoses, and STI's) by incorporating near-peer mentoring. Youth identified as members of the community will be trained as Ambassadors to address the above issues by increasing their knowledge of information and resources so they can share this essential information with their peers and increase access to essential local services.

#### **Growing Hope** *The Growing Hope Center Farm: A Place for Good Health and Equity to Grow*

**Program Description:** A pilot program to provide seasonal produce distribution to neighboring affordable housing apartments for families with lower incomes. Produce boxes will sent home with youth attending local after school programming or families may pick-up their produce directly from the farm.

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### **Washtenaw County Public Health** *Community Health Improvement Plan*

**Program Description:** Engaging Washtenaw County communities that experience the greatest health inequities through Community Conversations to generate and elevate those communities' health priorities.

### **Children's Literacy Network** *Summer Book Program Phase II*

**Program Description:** Enhancement of a pilot program funded last year through our Opportunity Fund. In addition to being provided books for their homes, this year 243 students enrolled at Holmes Elementary School in Ypsilanti will also be provided access to an innovative, online learning platform to accelerate reading proficiency.

### **Community Action Network** *CANchise- Bridging the Framework Gap*

**Program Description:** An innovative, experimental approach to diversifying agency revenue while expanding the capacity of other organizations operating in the same service areas: "franchising" CAN's bundle of proven services and systems for other organization's to utilize.

### **Michigan Organization on Adolescent Sexual Health** *Washtenaw County Power Sex Education Advisory Boards*

**Program Description:** This is a capacity building grant that allows MOASH to work alongside the Lincoln Consolidated Schools and Ypsilanti Community Schools to strengthen the governance and oversight capacity of the (legally required) sex ed advisory boards (SEABs). SEABs in these districts will become high-functioning, ensuring that best practice sexual health education is provided to their students and, in turn, student health and wellbeing is improved.

### **Michigan Works!** *Summer17*

**Program Description:** A nine-week summer employment and mentorship program, Summer17 pairs local businesses with Washtenaw County youth (16-24) to provide on-the-job training that sets the stage for life-long careers, opens doors to new industries, and provides mentorship critical to building professional networks.

### **Neutral Zone** *Youth-led Evaluation for Creating Community Change for Black Youth*

**Program Description:** Responsive grant that allows for the creation of a four-month task force of 10-12 African Americans teens who have been deeply affected by the recent incident at Ann Arbor's Blake Transit Center. Students will research, analyze their data and develop key strategic recommendations for change to present to Ann Arbor City Council, the Board of AATA, the local police, the Downtown Development Authority and other community leaders from key spaces for teens such as the Ann Arbor District Library and the YMCA.

### **Ypsilanti District Library** *Research Readiness Benchmarks in Ypsilanti Community Schools*

**Program Description:** Funding cuts forced YCS to lay off librarians and reduce most of their school library services in the last decade and the district does not have a standardized curriculum for information literacy or library use. The Ypsilanti District Library will provide bus transportation for YCS students to visit the library and develop activities to build students' information literacy skills concurrent with grade-level benchmarks, and gain increased access to the library's resources.

## Other Investments

We utilize our Community Impact Fund to invest in [nearly 100 programs that support our priority areas at 60 community organizations](#). In FY17, 91% of our Community Impact Fund dollars were invested through [Coordinated Funding](#), while 9% were invested through our own grant programs: Opportunity Fund, Financial Stability Fund, and Basic Needs Fund.

For additional information about our other grant investments or United Way funding opportunities, please visit [www.uwgive.org](http://www.uwgive.org) or contact Bridget Healy, [bhealy@uwwashtenaw.org](mailto:bhealy@uwwashtenaw.org).