

United Way of Washtenaw County
Financial Stability Investments
FY19



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 well-being of people Asset-Limited, Income Constrained and Employed ([ALICE](#))
- Reduce reliance on predatory financial practices in Washtenaw County neighborhoods
- Increase opportunities for individuals and communities to increase their economic asset base through education, coaching and practice

Financial Stability Investments • \$145,200 <i>This fund was augmented by \$42,500 in funds from United Way’s annual Power of the Purse event, the proceeds of which support programs that build the financial stability of people who identify as women.</i>		
Grantee	Program Name	Award Amount
Ann Arbor Center for Independent Living	Empower You: A MicroEnterprise Works Initiative	\$20,000
EMU Foundation	Assets for Independence and Individual Development Account Program	\$15,000
Friends In Deed	Circles Washtenaw County: Building Community to End Poverty	\$20,000
Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan	Girl Scouts Get Ready!	\$6,780
Girls Group	Financial Readiness Capacity Building	\$25,000
GreenPath	Financial Coaching	\$2,880
Housing Bureau for Seniors	Free Tax Prep Assistance for Older Adults	\$10,000
Jewish Family Services of Wash. Co.	Refugee Employment Program	\$15,000
Michigan Advocacy Program	Washtenaw County Expungement Initiative	\$30,540

Investments outlined in red denote those awards that braided funding from both the Financial Stability Fund and funds from [United Way’s annual Power of the Purse event](#), the proceeds of which support programs that build the financial stability of people who identify as women.

For additional information about our Financial Stability work or United Way funding opportunities, please visit uwgive.org or contact Bridget Healy, bhealy@uwwashtenaw.org.

Find descriptions for these programs on the next page.

Financial Stability Fund Investments Program Descriptions



Ann Arbor Center for Independent Living • EmpowerYou: A MicroEnterprise Works Initiative

The EmpowerYou program teaches people how to start their own business and works specifically with women who fit the Asset Limited, Income Constrained and Employed profile (ALICE), and with women of color.

EMU Foundation • Assets For Independence and Individual Development Account Program

For participating households in Ypsilanti Housing Commission properties, Assets for Independence (AFI) program provides an 8 to 1 match on deposits into savings accounts, which can be drawn on after a minimum of three months. Match funds can be used for starting a small business, ongoing education, job training/certification expenses, or the purchase of a home.

Friends In Deed • Circles Washtenaw County: Building Community to End Poverty

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 local leaders.

Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan • Girl Scouts Get Ready!

The Girl Scouts Get Ready! (GSGR) initiative, provided in collaboration with Ypsilanti High School, focuses on increasing post-high school success academically and professionally for girls in grades 11 and 12. We seek to support girls in discovering what their career passions might be, and helping them to take the necessary practical steps to move toward a career/profession they are truly passionate about.

Girls Group • Financial Readiness Capacity Building

This project will support Girls Group staff training and financial readiness curriculum development. Increased staff capacity of financial literacy education and financial empowerment will allow Girls Group to further develop and deliver an effective and valuable financial readiness curriculum for all 500 Girls Group participants.

GreenPath • Financial Coaching

Greenpath will work with Washtenaw County people to establish a financial goal and craft an individualized plan to support their transition to financial stability.

Housing Bureau for Seniors • Free Tax Prep Assistance for Older Adults

In collaboration with United Way of Washtenaw County, Housing Bureau for Seniors (HBS) will provide free tax preparation to eligible older adults making below \$54,000 annually in Washtenaw County. Services will be concentrated at high-rise living complexes.

Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County • Refugee Employment Program

This program will provide direct assistance to newly-arrived refugees to cover the expenses associated with seeking and securing gainful employment such as transportation, education, interview and work-appropriate clothing, child care, computers and phones, as well as, housing, utility, and cash assistance during the transition period.

Michigan Advocacy Program (MAP) • Washtenaw County Expungement Initiative

In collaboration with MichiganWorks!, MAP will help people with low incomes and criminal records obtain expungements by directly covering the costs associated with the expungement process. An expungement is the process of sealing certain arrest and criminal conviction records for eligible individuals. Access to an expungement increases financial stability by increasing access to education opportunities, safe and affordable housing, and well-paid, consistent employment.