United Way of Washtenaw County (UWWC) is proud to work alongside United Way for Southeastern Michigan through their Southeast Michigan Out-Of-School Time (OST) Community Learning Relief Fund. As a recipient of this grant award, UWWC has recognized Ann Arbor YMCA (AAYMCA), Community Action Network, and Educate Youth, as OST providers who are best positioned to advance this work.

As children and families navigate the return to school and work throughout the COVID-19 pandemic it continues to be crucial that students and families have access to safe places with academic supports for children who are experiencing distance learning and who need additional supports outside the home. Funding from the OST grant addresses and supports challenges which have arisen amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

**QUICK FACTS**

- $110,000: Total of grants awarded
- 3: # of grants awarded to sub-recipients
- 50%: Funding explicitly prioritizing Ypsilanti/Eastern Washtenaw County
- 98%: Students who qualify for free-reduced lunch program
- 308: # of youth positively impacted through funded programs
- 8: # of Out-of-School Time learning sites

Please see below for additional context and final report narrative.
Ann Arbor YMCA

AAYMCA was able to secure PPE and supplies to keep their students and staff safe and healthy.

"Parents reported that reading levels of students improved throughout the year. Parents were also grateful for the service because without the program, they would have lost their employment or delay going to school to care for their children. Students developed meaningful relationships with one another during a time where social interactions with their peers were extremely limited. Two girls that attended different schools (and likely would not have met without the program) ended up becoming very close after learning they had very similar home life. They formed a strong bond and ended up spending time together outside of the program."

Community Action Network (CAN)

"2021 Strive to Thrive Summer Camp was a huge success to complete in-person summer camp without any cases of COVID, and students tended to remain engaged with the curriculum and activities. The Director of Bryant Community Center, CAN's largest enrollment site, described the summer best: 'This was my 11th Summer Camp with Bryant! Ours was a painstakingly safe, in-person, all-outdoor, social-emotional, artistically-centered, fully-feeling Summer Camp...The light of my life and the highlight of my summer, every summer!' "

Educate Youth

"The students laughed and created positive memories with peers... Reading, writing, and math were practiced daily. We read books as a group. Dr. Richard Thomas led conversations in African American history. Curtis Wallace led art classes and engaged students in creating community murals. In order to achieve an academic endeavor the students needed to emotionally be ready to learn something new."
Thank you to United Way of Southeastern Michigan for this opportunity to be part of the Southeast Michigan Out-of-School Time Learning Relief Fund.

To learn more about the impact of UWWC grant investments, please visit uwwashtenaw.org/your-dollars-work.

For additional information about United Way funding opportunities, please visit uwgive.org or contact Bridget Herrmann, bherrmann@uwwashtenaw.org.