

United Way of Dane County Announces New Strategies to Support More Equitable Health Outcomes

Madison, WI (May 19, 2021) – In a press conference on Wednesday, United Way of Dane County announced a new mobilization plan, outlining strategies to meet evolving healthcare needs in our community.

As a result of a year of planning and work, United Way’s Health Community Solutions Team (CST) of volunteers found that, while our community remains a top place to live, raise a family and retire, that is not typically the case for Black, Indigenous, Latinx, Southeast Asian and people of color (BIPOC) in Dane County. In fact, after reviewing data from the County Health Rankings Report, the Dane County Community Needs Assessment and other sources, they found significant gaps in quality of and access to care between the white and BIPOC populations in Dane County.

“The evidence is clear, and the need is urgent,” says Jesi Wang, Chair of the Health CST and CEO of MetaStar, Inc. “Our BIPOC neighbors are not receiving the health care and support they deserve – and that is not because we have a lack of quality care or programs here in Dane County, but rather a lack of equitable access and culturally safe experiences. That is why my colleagues and I on the Health CST have recommended strategies for United Way that focus more specifically on families and individuals who are experiencing poor health outcomes due to long-standing racial disparities.”

Based on this recommendation, the United Way Board of Directors has approved two new Health Agenda for Change priorities:

- Reduce Racial Health Disparities in Dane County
- Expand Resiliency and Trauma Supports to Focus on the Needs of BIPOC Dane County Residents

“United Way exists to bring the community together to address our toughest human issues. For over 30 years, we have taken an intentional approach to naming racial disparity in our community and working to measurably reduce inequity through education, financial stability and health,” says Renee Moe, President & CEO of United Way of Dane County. “Through data, convening and engagement, we frame issues and mobilize the community’s caring power to make positive change. By centering input from users of services and building on clinical and academic research, we intend to improve health outcomes and reduce disparities across the county – this benefits our entire community.”

At United Way, we are viewing each program and investment opportunity – no matter the area of focus – with a racial equity lens to ensure that we strengthen and deepen our impact in Dane County. With the 2022-2023 funding cycle, volunteers will consider diversity of agency boards and staff, and how organizations are prioritizing equity and the needs of BIPOC community members in their programs. United Way also tracks this data for our own organization. Additionally, those who receive funding this cycle will be required to report on the program’s outcomes not only for their total participants, but specifically by race and ethnicity.

EMBARGOED UNTIL MAY 19, 2021

Ashley Reynolds, United Way of Dane County
(608) 416-0401
ashley.reynolds@uwdc.org



To learn more or schedule an interview, please reach out to Ashley Reynolds, Director of Communications, United Way of Dane County at Ashley.reynolds@uwdc.org or 608-416-0401.

###

About United Way of Dane County:

United Way of Dane County has been tackling Dane County’s toughest challenges for 99 years. With a mission to unite the community to achieve measurable results and change lives, we are committed to build a Dane County where everyone can succeed in school, work and life. Through strategic partnerships and collaborative work, United Way brings the many voices of Dane County together to find common ground and develop a strategic architecture for change, while engaging businesses and individuals to give, advocate and volunteer in Dane County. Together, we are The Power of Many. Working for All.