

Your mom and dad work hard every day to provide for you and your sister, but there are many barriers, large and small, to overcome. Your sister is in high school and you're in 6th grade.

Follow your scenario to see what barriers and successes your family faces as you all become economically stable.

Fill out your report card, beginning with a C grade, under each United Way focus area: Education, Income and Health, which are the building blocks to a stable life.

Scenario one



EDUCATION

You aren't a very good reader. Your teacher asks you to read a passage aloud in class and you make a mistake. Everyone laughs at you. You are embarrassed.

Your education grade goes down one letter grade.

You skipped class the other day. Your parents sat you down this morning and talked about the long-term effects that skipping school has on your success.

Your education grade goes up one letter grade.

INCOME

You aren't interested in doing your reading homework, especially doing any reading. Your parents are too busy with their two jobs each, which include some second and third shifts, and they never check to make sure your homework is done.

Your income grade drops one letter grade.

With your parents working two jobs each, they left you with your older sister to help you with your reading tonight. She wants to hang out with her friends tonight, and leaves you home alone. You didn't get your homework done.

Your income grade goes down one letter grade.

HEALTH

You're struggling with depression because of a death in the family. A CBITS (Cognitive Behavioral Intervention for Trauma in Schools) counseling session, which addresses early signs of childhood trauma, is teaching you how to cope with this.

Your health grade improves one letter grade.

You got angry at a classmate today for pushing in the lunch line, but instead of yelling at him, you walked away and took a moment to calm down.

Your health grade goes up one letter grade.

-1

+1

-1

-1

+1

+1

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Scenario two



EDUCATION

Your dad lost his job and your family was evicted. You had to move to a smaller apartment on the opposite side of the city. This means you have to start a new school. Their math class is way ahead of where yours was. You're too embarrassed to ask for help.

Your education grade drops one letter grade.

Your mom and dad are always busy and never say anything when you skip school. So you decide that you aren't going today.

Your education grade goes down one letter grade.

INCOME

You might not get to school today because your family's car is broken. But the local neighborhood community center has a Car Pool service. They give you a ride to school.

Your income grade goes up one letter grade.

You have a really bad pain in your mouth, but your parents can't afford to take you to the dentist. You have to suffer through the pain for the next few days, making concentrating in school impossible.

Your income grade drops one letter grade.

HEALTH

Your parents told you that they don't have enough money to go to the laundromat until Friday. You have to wear dirty clothes to school and are worried that others will notice.

Your health grade drops one letter grade.

Your parents spent the majority of the money this month on rent. That means food is scarce at home. You get breakfast and lunch at school, but you're not sure if you'll get dinner when you get home.

Your health drops one letter grade.

-1

-1

+1

-1

-1

-1

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Scenario three



EDUCATION

Your sister was struggling with math but got an Achievement Connections tutor who is a ton of help. That inspires you to ask your teacher for extra reading help and she brings you into Schools of Hope, United Way's tutoring program.

+1

Your education grade goes up one letter grade.

You aced your vocabulary test because your parents helped you study by making flash cards with you.

+1

Your education grade goes up one letter grade.

INCOME

Your parents were able to help you study for that vocabulary test and now read with you for 20 minutes every night thanks to promotions at their jobs they received through United Way's HIRE Initiative. They are now working first shift hours and are home in the evenings with you.

+1

Your income grade goes up one letter grade.

You forgot your textbook at home and your dad's employer is understanding and flexible. He is able to bring it to school and you are able to complete your reading homework.

+1

Your income grade goes up one letter grade.

HEALTH

You complain of dental pain and your parents call United Way 2-1-1. You are able to get assistance at a clinic.

+1

Your health grade goes up one letter grade.

You have joined a local recreational soccer team. Being more active has made you feel happier and healthier.

+1

Your health grade goes up one letter grade.

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Scenario four



EDUCATION

Thanks to your mom's flexible hours at her new job through United Way's HIRE Initiative, she is able to pick you up after an extra math tutoring session after the school day.

+1

Your education grade goes up one letter grade.

You did your homework last night and volunteer to show how to complete a math problem in front of the class.

+1

Your education grade goes up one letter grade.

Final Education grade: A

INCOME

You've had family dinner every night, ever since moving into stable housing. You used to stay in emergency shelter, but your family was brought into United Way's Housing First program and settled into a new apartment.

+2

Your income grade goes up TWO letter grades.

Your family's car is broken which means you have to take a two-hour bus ride to and from school. You try to catch up on your reading homework on the ride home but a screaming baby keeps you from concentrating.

-1

Your income grade goes down one letter grade.

Final Income grade: B

HEALTH

You had a healthy breakfast before school and feel ready to learn!

+1

Your health grade goes up one letter grade.

You are being bullied by a fellow 6th grader. The thought of going to school gives you a tummy ache, until you remember the skills they taught you in a CBITS (Cognitive Behavioral Intervention for Trauma in Schools) counseling session, which addresses early signs of childhood trauma.

+1

Your health grade goes up one letter grade.

Final Health grade: A

REPORT CARD

Report prepared for _____

Subject

Grade

Education

A B C D F

Income

A B C D F

Health

A B C D F

REPORT CARD

Report prepared for _____

Subject

Grade

Education

A B C D F

Income

A B C D F

Health

A B C D F

REPORT CARD

Report prepared for _____

Subject

Grade

Education

A B C D F

Income

A B C D F

Health

A B C D F

REPORT CARD

Report prepared for _____

Subject

Grade

Education

A B C D F

Income

A B C D F

Health

A B C D F

Report card game moderator instructions

Before Your Rally:

- Based on the size of your rally, determine how many scenario and report cards you will need.
- Determine if the audience can play individually, in pairs or in small groups. (Game can be played the same way.)

Game Instructions:

- Audience member/group takes one report card and one scenario.
- Begin with a C grade and move up or down a grade in each category (Education, Income, Health) depending on each scenario (For example: +1 on your scenario card means you move from a C to a B grade.)
- Write down the final grade for each category on report card.
- When the group is finished filling out their report cards, ask participants to compare grades with the people around them and compare scenarios. After a minute or two, conduct a group discussion using the Discussion Questions and the Talking Points.
- Wrap up your discussion by reiterating how United Way can support families and stable homes through education, income, and health programs.

Discussion Questions:

- How did these scenarios make you feel?
- Were you able to relate?
- Was it surprising how even little things like not enough money for the laundromat can have such a significant effect on a child?
- What else surprised you?

For moderator only:

Scenarios	Final grade			Talking points
	Education	Income	Health	
1	C	F	A	<p>Your Education grade leveled out at a C. You suffered embarrassment at school, but you have loving adults at home who are supporting your studies.</p> <p>Your Income grade is an F. You are coming across all sorts of barriers at home, preventing you from studying and concentrating in school.</p> <p>Your Health grade is an A. With the skills you learned in CBITS, a program United Way is involved in, you learned how to handle your anger in other situations. CBITS stands for "Cognitive Behavioral Intervention for Trauma in Schools."</p> <p>TAKEAWAY: There are programs at United Way to help you with these issues.</p> <p>United Way's tutoring program Schools of Hope is available in your school to help you with your reading. CBITS is facilitated by United Way and provides behavioral and mental health services. CBITS screens 6th graders who are experiencing anger, depression, anxiety from violence or other trauma and teaches students skills on how to work through their trauma and its effects.</p> <p>Last year, CBITS served more than 3,200 students in Dane County.</p>
2	F	D	F	<p>Your Education grade is an F. Your parents are preoccupied with juggling two jobs or scrambling to find new employment, so your studies aren't on their radar.</p> <p>Your Income grade is a D. There are a few services able to help your family, but since your parents can't afford dental insurance, your tooth pain is making it too hard to concentrate in school.</p> <p>Your Health grade is an F. It might seem small, but not having enough change can have a big impact on your life. No change or spending money for the laundromat means living in dirty clothes, leading to your embarrassment in school. With most of your parents' money going toward rent, you're also hungry, which is another reason you aren't doing well in school.</p> <p>TAKEAWAY: There are many services in Dane County that can alleviate your family's issues.</p> <p>Just remember to call 211! You can dial it 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. A call taker will speak with you and connect you with resources like eviction prevention services, tutoring programs, dental clinics, transportation services and food pantries.</p>

Report card game moderator instructions

For moderator only:

Scenarios	Final grade			Talking points
	Education	Income	Health	
3	A	A	A	<p>Your Education grade is an A. Your sister is a part of our Achievement Connections tutoring program, which is helping her math grade. Since that inspires you, now you work with a Schools of Hope tutor every week, which is improving your literacy skills.</p> <p>Your Income grade is an A. Thanks to United Way's HIRE Initiative, your parents' jobs turned into careers and promotions, allowing them to be home with you in the evenings.</p> <p>Your Health grade is an A. Your parents remembered what services 211 can help with, taking care of your dental pain. Your parents were able to afford that soccer league for you, after they received that promotion.</p> <p>TAKEAWAY: The HIRE Initiative improved your family's income, which had positive effects on the other areas of your life.</p> <p>The HIRE Initiative focuses on job skills training, cultivating jobs that have a family-sustaining wage of at least \$15 an hour and connecting local employers to prospective employees. In 2015, HIRE helped 469 individuals find employment with 246 receiving promotions.</p> <p>With the HIRE Employer Council, United Way brings together businesses with partner agencies so they can gain understanding of each other. Business leaders learn the barriers potential employees may face as they work to become economically stable. Partner agencies learn what businesses are hiring for and work together on job training programs, so HIRE participants will get a new job and career!</p>
4	A	B	A	<p>Your Education grade is an A. With your mom's new hours, she is able to support your academic success. This is improving your academic performance and giving you confidence in your other classes.</p> <p>Your Income grade is a B. Housing is a big factor in a family's ability to become economically stable. That is why it is worth TWO grades. A stable home means a child knows where he will eat dinner that night, where he will go to sleep and where he will wake up. This alleviates the trauma a child goes through when he is in emergency shelter.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing First is a rapid re-housing model that places families with children in stable housing, then provides support in other services the family may need. Since 2009, Housing First has ended homelessness for more than 900 families in Dane County. <p>Your Health grade is an A. A healthy diet does wonders for your concentration in school and it helps you remember the skills you learned from CBITS, which helps you face that bully.</p> <p>TAKEAWAY: Utilizing several United Way programs can give a young family a significant boost in becoming economically stable.</p> <p>From the HIRE Initiative to Housing First to CBITS, United Way can touch so many parts of your life and give you the support to become economically stable. United Way understands that it takes support across many areas to move out of poverty. United Way is connected to thousands of services that can support your family as you move steadily out of poverty.</p>