

United Way Initiatives & Partnerships

2-1-1

2-1-1 is a nationwide initiative organized through United Way. Call centers provide local information on human service programs in a quick and easy-to-use manner. Centers are equipped to handle a variety of language requests, are accessible 24/7 from a cell, pay phone, or landline. To date, 68 percent of the American population has access to 2-1-1.

BORN LEARNING

A national public engagement campaign developed by United Way of America, Civitas, and the Ad Council designed to help parents and caregivers create quality early learning opportunities for children.

COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTERS

The Lincoln Community Learning Center Initiative promotes partnerships and fosters collaboration to create a seamless system of services for children, youth, families, and neighborhood residents. The initiative focuses on achieving three major outcomes: improved student learning and development, strong and supportive families, and engaged neighborhoods.

COMMUNITY SERVICES INITIATIVE (CSI)

A collaborative planning process for human services in Lincoln and Lancaster County. CSI is coordinated by the Human Service Federation and jointly funded by the Joint Budget Committee and United Way of Lincoln and Lancaster County.

EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT

EITC (enacted in 1975 by the federal government) is a refundable tax credit that reduces or eliminates the taxes that low-income married or single working people pay, and frequently operates as a wage subsidy for low-income workers. EITC is one of the largest anti-poverty tools in the United States. United Way of Lincoln and Lancaster County provides funding for the Human Service Federation program called C.A.S.H. (Creating Assets, Savings and Hope Campaign) that encompasses the EITC initiative.

GIFTS IN-KIND

United Way is an affiliate of this product philanthropy designed to distribute donated product to nonprofits. United Way of Lincoln and Lancaster County, Lancaster County Joint Budget Committee, and the Human Service Federation funds the membership cost of this program. The Center for People in Need has leveraged this membership to bring more than \$29 million worth of product to our community.

SUMMER FOOD PROGRAM

A collaboration between United Way and the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department to increase the number of children accessing the USDA summer food program. In 2006, 25 sites serving children from 2-18 years of age served 42,000 meals.

FUNDERS GROUP

The Funders' Group exists as a neutral coalition of independent Funders who support health, human service and/or education organizations and initiatives in Lincoln and Lancaster County.

The Group has open dialogue on shared issues, including organizational matters, procedures for grant-making and fund distribution, and policies that impact local philanthropy. Persons and/or agencies that reflect specific areas of interest or current/emerging issues in the community may be invited to present information to the Funders' Group.

In 1996, United Way invited area funders to a meeting to discuss coordination and collaboration around human services. What began as a twelve member group now has 19 funders representing \$331,848,148 of funds distributed to our community.