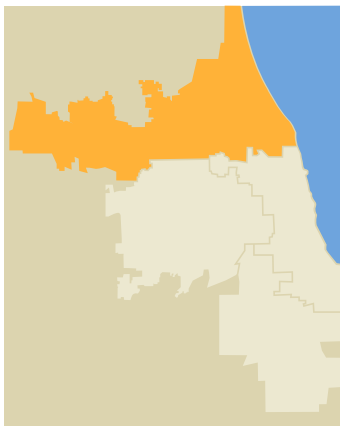
# NORTH-NORTHWEST SUBURBS REGIONAL PROFILE

United Way of Metro Chicago



## OUR REGION

Known for its prominent communities and clustered office parks with great school districts, the **North-Northwest Suburban Region (NNW)** of more than **1 million residents** living in **47 communities** throughout North-Northwest Cook, Kane, and Lake counties has hidden pockets of need that have far-reaching impacts on the economic progress of the region.

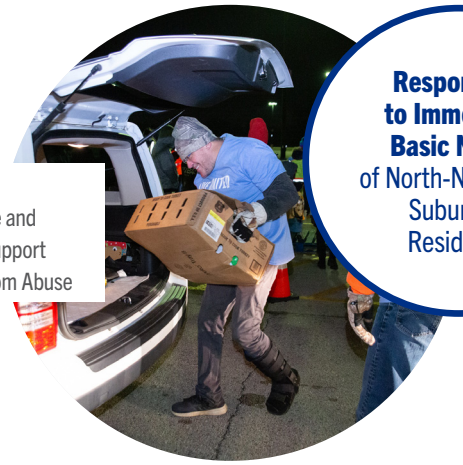





## CHALLENGES FACING THE REGION

- According to our 2025 ALICE report*, **1 in 3 households in Cook, Kane, and Lake Counties** are struggling to make ends meet
- Limited access to **mental and behavioral health services**
- With 40% of NNW public school students eligible for free- or reduced-cost lunch, **the number of households living in poverty is growing** (ISBE free- and reduced-cost meal eligibility data, Cook County)

## BUILDING STRONGER COMMUNITIES: A DUAL APPROACH IN THE NORTH-NORTHWEST SUBURBS



- Food
- Mortgage and Rental Support
- Safety from Abuse

**Responding to Immediate Basic Needs** of North-Northwest Suburban Residents

**Building Neighborhood Systems Stronger** in the North-Northwest Suburbs



- Access to Healthcare
- Affordable Housing
- Job Training and Employment Support

*United Way ALICE – Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed – research provides statewide insight into the financial struggles facing many households.

# INVESTMENT STRATEGY IN THE NORTH-NORTHWEST SUBURBS

United Way of Metro Chicago is committed to helping our neighbors meet their basic needs and working alongside community leaders to build stronger neighborhoods through our Neighborhood Network place-based approach.

### IMPACT GRANT FUNDING*

- **Total Investment.....$878,625**
- **Total Number of Funded Agencies.....33**

*Access to Healthcare ..... 12*
*Food Assistance..... 6*
*Housing..... 7*
*Safety from Abuse ..... 4*
*Early Learning..... 7*
*Workforce Development ..... 2*

*January–December 2026

## EVANSTON NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK

### LEAD AGENCY

Evanston Cradle to Career (EC2C)

### COMMUNITY VISION

By the age of 23, all Evanston young adults will be on the path to leading satisfying and productive lives

## ELGIN NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK

### LEAD AGENCY

Alignment Collaborative for Education

### COMMUNITY VISION

Investing in youth and families to ensure the future strength of the community and its workforce

# CONNECTING NORTH-NORTHWEST SUBURBAN FAMILIES TO DIRECT SUPPORT

### CARE PROJECTS

United Way partners with volunteer groups to **create essential item care package kits that are distributed to United Way nonprofit community partners** across the region. Kits include Hygiene Kits, Baby Kits, Snack Packs, Literacy Kits, New Home Kits, School Supply Kits, and Senior Kits.




### 2-1-1

This **free and confidential helpline is available 24/7/365** for all residents in Cook, Kane, and Lake counties. Individuals can call, text, or web chat to get connected to essential health and social service resources.



**Cook County:** 211MetroChicago.org
**Kane County:** FoxValleyUnitedWay.org/211
**Lake County:** 211LakeCounty.org

**JOIN US!** Together, we can build a stronger North-Northwest Suburban Region.
Learn more at **LIVEUNITEDchicago.org**

*Updated February 12, 2026*