



**United Way
of the Midlands**

Poverty in the Omaha Metro

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Common themes from agency roundtables on community needs *(Sept 2011)*



EDUCATION

- Start early. Engage whole family. More parental involvement. Better coordination between schools and agencies. Make stronger connections between families and programs. Leadership for youth. Advocate for policy changes. Better transportation to programs. Wrap-around services for whole family. More collaboration, less focus on "getting credit."

INCOME

- More employment assistance & opportunities. Skills training. More permanent, supportive housing. Food security – varied requirements at pantries. Need for coordination of available programs. Preparation for "cliff effect" (when benefits end).

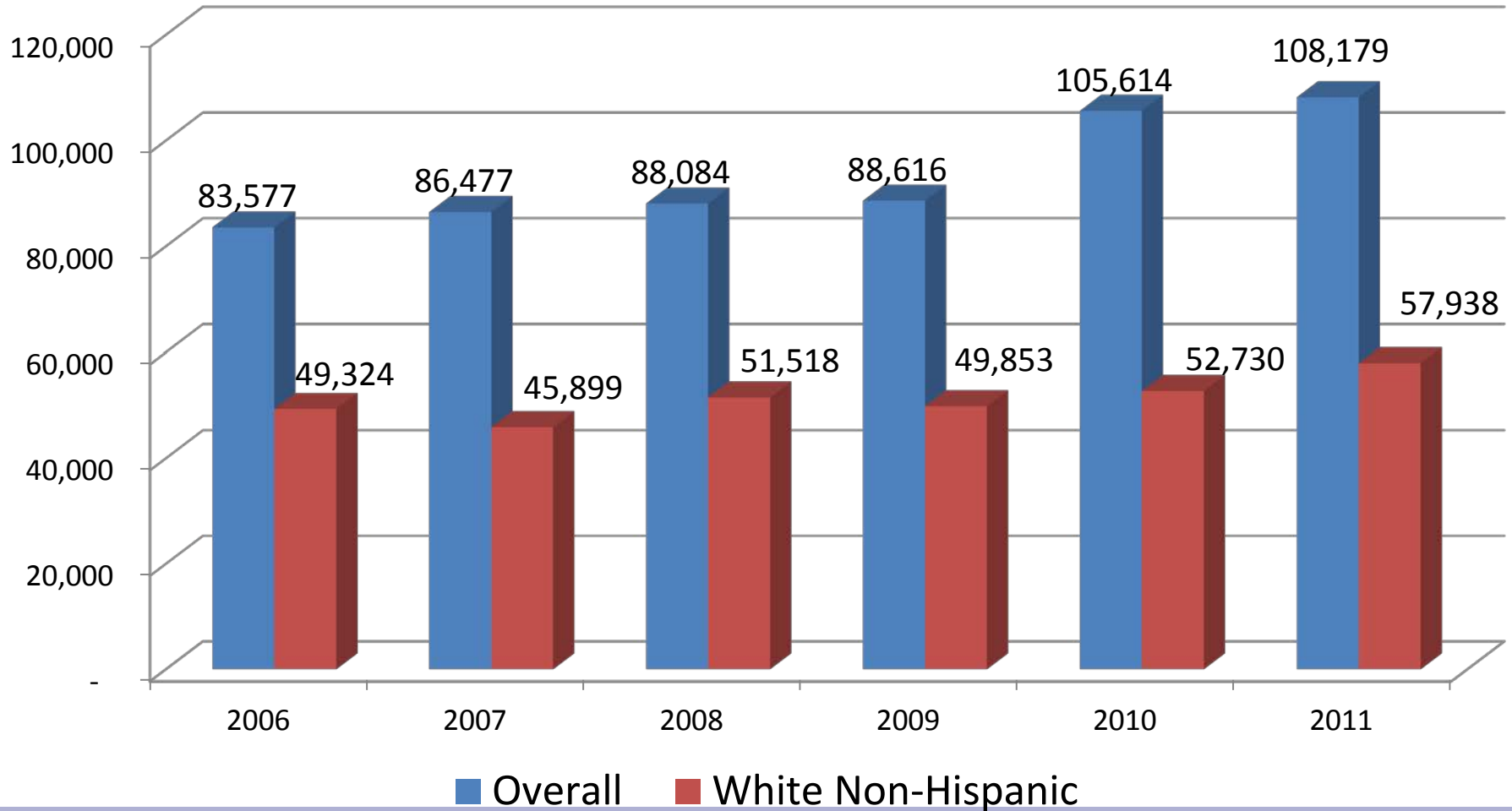
HEALTH

- Increase nutrition and food security. Address childhood obesity and teen pregnancy. Access to health care. Integration of physical and mental health. Translators needed. Eliminate repeating and negative cycles in families. Collaboration on service provision.

Omaha's Most Recent Poverty Snapshot

- Omaha's Black population has the highest rate of poverty at 29.6% in 2011
- Hispanics follow closely behind at 26.9%
- Omaha's White Non-Hispanic population represents the greatest number of persons in poverty at 57,938 (54% of the total)
- Since 2000, West Omaha is experiencing increased pockets of poverty

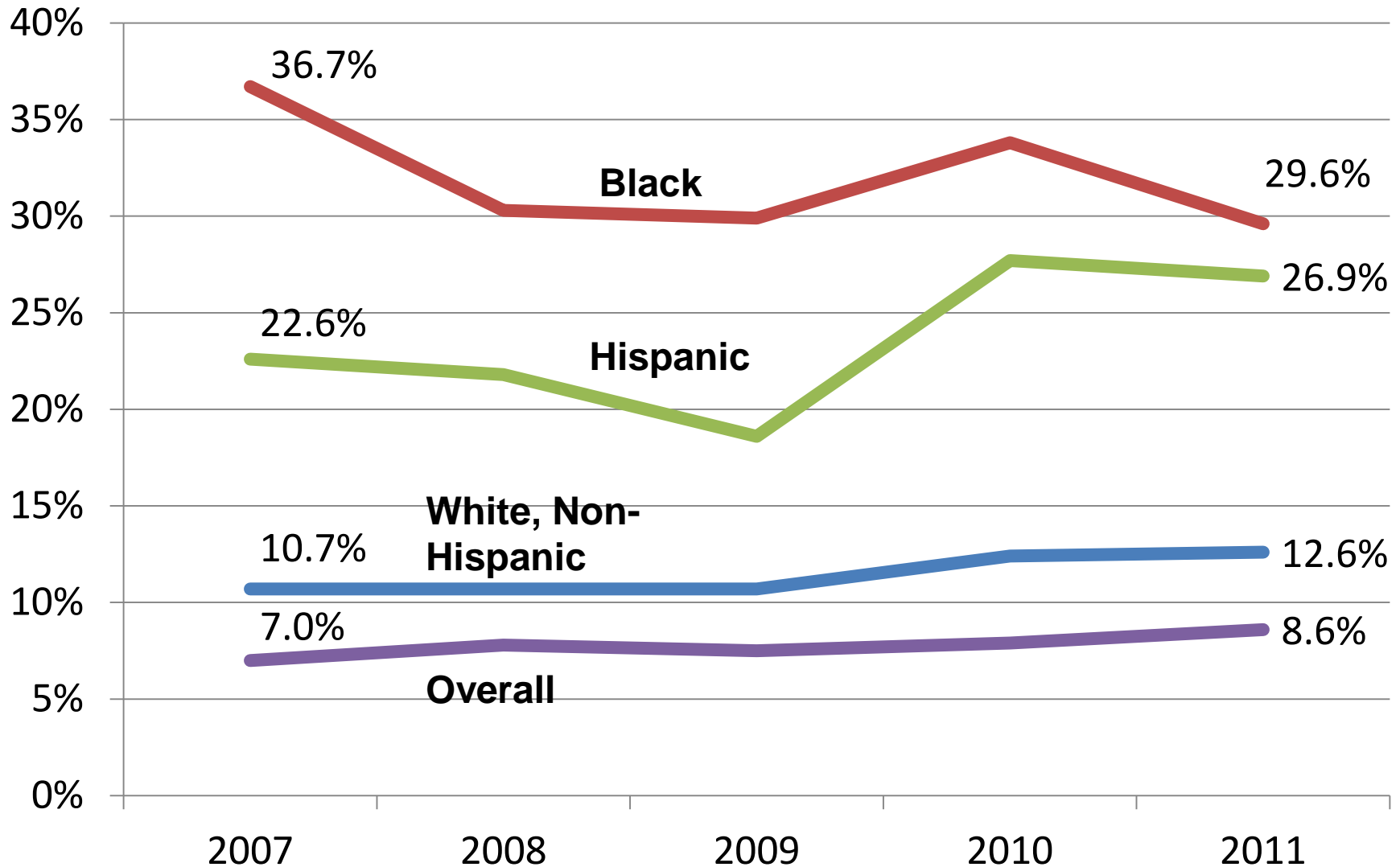
Omaha's White Non-Hispanic Population represents the greatest number of persons in poverty 57,938 individuals or 54% of the total



Interviews and data suggested several common needs

- Chronic/entrenched **poverty** is affecting specific pockets of the population
- Growing number of working poor resulting from **under- and unemployment** is increasing needs for food and housing across the tri-county area
- **Families and children** are especially vulnerable, facing higher rates of poverty and needing more public assistance
- **Disparities in educational achievement** exist across the community
- **Access to basic health services** appears to be a challenge, especially in South Omaha

Omaha's Black population has the highest rate of poverty at 29.6% - Hispanics follow closely behind at 26.9%



Persistent poverty is a challenge for families across the tri-county area



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Experts/ voices from the field

- Between 2000 and 2009, the percent of Nebraska children in poverty grew from 10% to 15%, a 50% increase compared to the 18% increase nationwide – *2011 Kids Count Data Book*
- “[Omaha’s] percentage of black children in poverty ranks No. 1 in the nation, with nearly six of 10 black kids living below the poverty line...Among America’s 100 largest metro areas, Omaha has the third-highest black poverty rate.” – *Omaha World-Herald, 2011*

A four-person household in the metropolitan Douglas County area is estimated to need a minimum income of \$40,597. Federal poverty level for a family of four is \$22,000. The Greater Omaha Cost of Living Index is 88.2 (vs. national of 100).

- Pottawattamie
- Sarpy
- All of Douglas
- South Omaha
- North Omaha
- United States

Pockets of Greater Omaha feel the burden of **poverty** more than others



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Facts

- There were over 24,000 WIC* recipients in Douglas County in 2010, an increase from 15,000 recipients in 2002
- In 2009, half of all Aid to Families with Dependent Children (ADC) recipients in Nebraska lived in Douglas county
- Omaha's black infant mortality rate of 14 deaths per 1,000 live births is three times the white infant mortality rate of 4.7 deaths

*WIC, or Women, Infants, and Children, provides federal grants for supplemental food and health care to low-income pregnant women and mothers, infants, and children up to age five.

Source: 2009 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates; Financial Services, Operations, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), as reported in Kids Count in Nebraska—data provided by UWM; *Omaha World-Herald*, 2011

People affected

Over half of children in some parts of the tri-county area are eligible for free or reduced meals, an indicator of poverty

Douglas

Sarpy

Pottawattamie

Source: Nebraska and Iowa Departments of Education—data provided by UWM

Families face challenges that make it more difficult to change trends in poverty



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Facts

- In 2009, births to unmarried (never married, widowed, or divorced) women totaled 3,036 in Douglas, 537 in Sarpy, and 784 in Pottawattamie county
- In North Omaha, almost 1,400 grandparents were legally responsible for their grandchildren in 2009
- "Over 75% of blacks in Douglas County who gave birth were not married." – *Omaha World Herald 2011*

Trends

Note: Federally mandated purge in 2008
Source: 2009 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates; Omaha police department—data provided by UWM

Education disparities appear between local school districts



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Experts/ voices from the field

- Over 10,000 children under 5 in low-income families in Douglas and Sarpy counties are not served by state or federally funded programs
- An estimated 15,000 youth are not proficient in reading and math
- Over 10,000 young adults in Douglas/Sarpy counties do not have a high school diploma; almost 20,000 high school graduates have no post-secondary education - *BBF 2009 Community Report*
- 2000-2009: Percent of Nebraska teens not in school/graduating decreased from 6% to 5% (compared to a national change from 11% to 6%) - *2011 Kids Count*

Facts

- Graduation rates of black and American Indian high school students in Nebraska fall below 70%, while rates are above 90% for white and Asian students
- Graduation rates have not improved dramatically since 2006
- 14% of Omaha, 7% of Council Bluffs, and 8% of Ralston public school students are English language learners, compared to 1-2% in neighboring districts
- Head Start enrollment in Douglas and Sarpy counties did not increase 2005-9

People affected

High school graduation rates in some districts fall below state avgs

Douglas

Sarpy

Pottawattamie

NE/IA
avg

Unemployment was a challenge before the recession...



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In 2006, the unemployment rate in North Omaha was more than double other areas; underemployment was around 30% for all areas of Omaha

In 2007, before the recession, 1 in 7 employed persons in Pottawattamie County was working more than one job

1 in 7 employed persons in Council Bluffs and Pottawattamie County felt overqualified for their job

Limited access to care results in health challenges across the tri-county area



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People affected

Below-average health insurance coverage in some areas is one factor limiting access to health care; coverage is most limited in South Omaha

<u>Region</u>	<u>Percent of population without health insurance</u>
United States	15%
North Omaha	18%
South Omaha	23%
All of Douglas	14%
Sarpy	9%
Pottawattamie	14%

Facts

- The 2010 rate of Chlamydia (an STD) in Douglas county was nearly double the rates in Sarpy and Nebraska overall, at 535 cases per 100,000 persons, compared to 281 cases in Sarpy and NE; Pottawattamie had a rate of 350
- However, since 2006 Chlamydia rates have gone down slightly in Douglas but increased in Sarpy

Trends

Although prenatal care has improved slightly, racial/ethnic gaps have widened

Note: Adequacy of care determined using the Kotelchuck Index. Racial and ethnic groups are reflective of those referenced by the data source
Source: Kids Can in Nebraska, Vital Statistics, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services—data provided by UWM

Impact of increasing poverty can be seen in the rise of homelessness and hunger

Experts/ voices from the field

"More than 88% of local Catholic Charities agencies report maintaining waiting lists or having to turn people away for at least one of their programs or services."
Catholic Charities USA, 2011

Trends

Facts

Total

- In Nebraska, 1 in 10 are either low or very low food secure. Nebraska ranks 39 nationally. The child food insecurity rate is 14% (17% for children under the age of five)
- The Food Bank distributed 37% more food in 2010 than 2009
- Approximately 20% of children in Nebraska and western Iowa are at-risk for hunger.
 - Douglas County has the most children at-risk for hunger (26,970) followed by Sarpy County (7,600) in Nebraska
 - Woodbury County has the most children at-risk for hunger (6,370) followed by Pottawattamie County (4,420) in Iowa
- 52% of clients served by Food Bank for the Heartland report having to choose between paying for food and utilities

...and, **unemployment** continues to be a major issue disproportionately affecting certain communities



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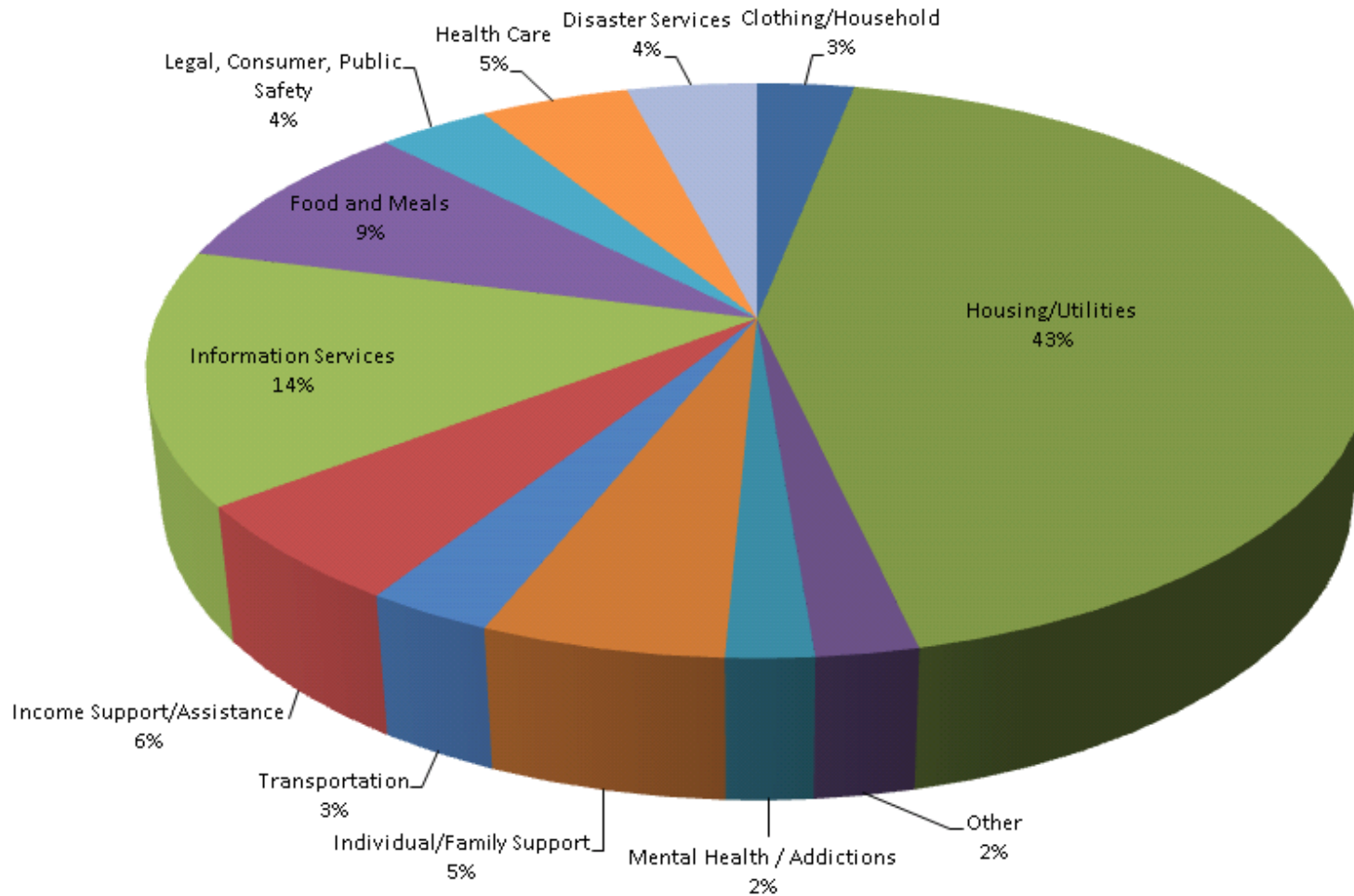
Trends

Experts/voices from the field

- “The poverty rate among underemployed persons is more than 6.5 times higher than the poverty rate among other employed persons.”
–*Greater Omaha Economic Development Partnership, 2006*
- “The occupations where the community is least represented are the highest paying...while the occupations it is most represented in are among the lower paying... the overall lower level of education and skill-sets of workers in the area is not enough to result in dramatically increased income growth.”
–*Pottawattamie County Community Needs Assessment, 2007*
- “Among the nation's 100 largest metro areas, Omaha has the eighth-highest black unemployment rate.”
–*Omaha World-Herald, 2011*

2-1-1 Caller Needs

2-1-1 Caller Needs 2011



Clear vision & value proposition:

What UWM will do in this new role

Serve those most vulnerable by supporting the **safety net**

- UWM serves as **responsible, effective, focused,** and **efficient** supporter of a defined safety net
- Actions clearly **connected to community needs and gaps**, with priority to underserved/underfunded
- Clear **criteria** and processes for decisions exist and are known
- Clear **metrics** and **accountability** for funds spent and funded agencies

Solve problems by working toward **bold goals**

- UWM becomes **proactive catalyst** and **leader** partnering with others for **long-term solutions**
- **Bold Goals** define desired **outcomes** and serve to **unite** others around solving a few **critical root causes** in addition to the **safety net**
- UWM raises **new funds toward the goals** and leverages the investments of others



UWM organizational capabilities and partnerships aligned to succeed in both dimensions

Thank you, and
LIVE UNITED![®]

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