

# UNITED WE HELP FAMILIES ACHIEVE FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE



United Way of Buffalo & Erie County

## FOCUS ON FINANCIAL STABILITY

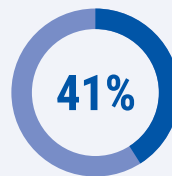
## UNITED WAY FIGHTS FOR THE FINANCIAL STABILITY OF EVERY PERSON IN BUFFALO AND ERIE COUNTY.

Every day, people in Buffalo & Erie County struggle with economic issues that may seem impossible to solve. Families who can't afford to put food on their tables. Community members who lack training needed for a good job that offers stability. These are tough problems that threaten the future of individuals and communities. That's why United Way of Buffalo & Erie County is fighting to improve financial stability for everyone. We support financial coaching for families. And we're working with people and educators to support training for in-demand jobs.

## YOU HELP PEOPLE BUILD SKILLS TO ACHIEVE LONG-TERM STABILITY.

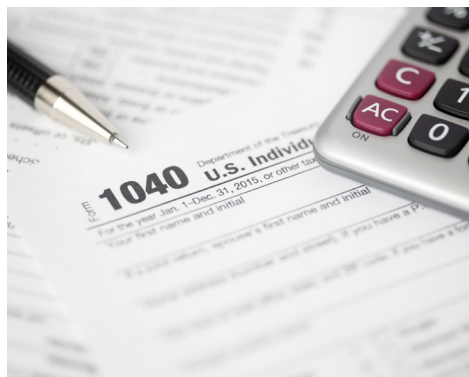
### Thanks to your support:

- Last year, more than **24,112** people received training on tools to improve their finances and become more self-sufficient.
- **6,769** individuals developed a plan to address a financial crisis.



### IT'S A FACT

*In Erie County, 41% of residents struggle to make ends meet.*



# WHAT DOES THE UNITED WAY OF BUFFALO & ERIE COUNTY DO

## FOR FINANCIAL STABILITY?

### WE DO OUR RESEARCH.



We invest in the areas of most need in our community.

We conduct research and report our findings through the community report card series. Current topics include financial hardship, which introduces ALICE (Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed). ALICE is defined as households in Erie County that earn income above the federal poverty level, but still cannot afford a household survival budget.

### WE TACKLE THE ISSUES HEAD ON.

Based on our research, we surround our community's most critical problems and fight for the building blocks of financial stability:



#### Community Strength

Helping strengthen the economic vitality of our communities.



#### Workforce Development

Helping strengthen our workforce to improve our economy.



#### Financial Education

Providing resources to support struggling families.



#### AAI of WNY\*

The American Apprenticeship Initiative is an employer driven, workforce development grant that promotes apprenticeships in WNY.



#### Siemer Institute Family Stability Program

In partnership with Belmont Housing and Buffalo Public Schools, the Siemer program provides comprehensive services to stabilize families in their homes while keeping children in their schools.



#### ESPRI

The Empire State Poverty Reduction Initiative is committed to connecting individuals to better-paying jobs through education, training, and ensuring success at all stages of a job search.

### WE FUND PROGRAMS THAT CREATE CHANGE.

We find every dollar we can to address these problems. The United Way annually invests **\$1.4 million** into financial stability initiatives in Buffalo and Erie County.

- 7,551 individuals and families received free tax preparation services.
- 1,343 community members completed a training program to improve their likelihood of obtaining and maintaining employment.
- 7,318 individuals were provided with financial education and asset-building services.



#### CASH

Creating Assets, Savings, and Hope is comprised of 60+ nonprofits and businesses who collaborate closely with United Way to help improve the financial health of hardworking families.



#### Free Tax Prep

Helps low-to-moderate income families prepare their taxes free of charge.

\*The AAI of WNY is funded by a \$2.9 million grant awarded to the United Way of Buffalo and Erie County by the US Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration. The content of this publication does not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the US Department of Labor.

Visit [uwbec.org](http://uwbec.org) today.

United Way of Buffalo & Erie County  
716.887.2626 | [uwbec.org](http://uwbec.org)

Learn more about United Way of Buffalo & Erie County's impact on local financial stability at [uwbec.org/financial-stability](http://uwbec.org/financial-stability).

