

# WHAT'S IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD?



## Program and Initiative Descriptions

**United Way of Roanoke Valley invests in the education, health and financial stability of every family in every community. Our vision is to elevate 10,000 families to self-sufficiency by 2030. Learn more about the programs and initiatives existing in your locality supporting this goal:**

United Way of Roanoke Valley directly funds partner-led collaborative efforts through our annual Community Investment Process through gifts to United Way's Impact Fund.

- **The Early Learners Collaborative** led by **CHIP of Roanoke Valley** is a cross-generational, multi-agency approach supporting low-income children and their families. Several nonprofits and public agencies work together to provide healthcare, dental, and mental health services for children beginning prenatally through third grade, and incorporates basic needs and employment supports to strengthen the family, and engage parents and caregivers as active partners in supporting their child's development. Implementation partners include New Horizons Healthcare, Boys and Girls Club, Kids Square, Small Steps, LEAP for Local Foods, West End Center, Legal Aid Society, among others
- **Strengthening Youth Opportunities for Success (SYOS)**, a collaborative of afterschool programs, led by **Family Service of Roanoke Valley**. SYOS partners work together to address interrelated needs of youth and their families. SYOS provides integrated programs that address academic, behavioral, emotional, health needs, and job skills for youth through after school centers, Boys and Girls Club of Southwest Virginia, CAFÉ Arts, Community Youth Program at St. John's, Presbyterian Community Center, Teen Outreach Program, Total Action for Progress (TAP) and West End Center.
- **OnRamp - Adult Employment Project** is a collaborative effort led by **Total Action for Progress (TAP)** in partnership with Blue Ridge Career Works and City of Roanoke to improve workforce development and employment outcomes through shared screening and referrals that address barriers and increase likelihood of training completion and employment. OnRamp enhances the performance of the workforce system to increase employment opportunities for families in poverty by cultivating better practices for working with the target population, better referral partnerships with employers, and strengthening the integration of training and employment programs available to residents.

**Gifts to UWRV also make it possible to engage in the following national partnerships** that bring these valuable services to individuals and families anywhere in the country:

- **MyFreeTaxes (MFT)** helps people file their taxes for free while getting the assistance they need. United Way provides MyFreeTaxes in partnership with the IRS's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program to help filers prepare their tax returns on their own or have their return prepared for them for free. The MFT Helpline is staffed by dedicated call specialists who have completed IRS VITA program training and certification. Helpline call specialists are available to answer questions about MyFreeTaxes, help troubleshoot issues users may face while using the tax filing software, and answer certain tax questions that users have while completing their return through MyFreeTaxes.



- **Singlecare** (formerly *FamilyWise Prescription Discount Card*) is a free and easy way to save on prescriptions. Singlecare works directly with pharmacies to negotiate up to 80% off prescription prices and the savings are passed on to members, free of charge. Interested users look up prescriptions on the Singlecare website to find the lowest available price in their area. Then they download, text or email a free SingleCare coupon card, and show it to the pharmacist at any participating pharmacy location to automatically apply the savings.



- **2-1-1** is the most comprehensive source of information about local resources and services in the country. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) designated 211 as the 3-digit number for information and referrals to social services and other assistance in 2000. The 211 service is provided by more than 200 local organizations that are committed to serving their communities. Many different kinds of organizations operate the 211 service, including United Ways, Goodwill, Community Action Partnerships, and local crisis centers.



United Way leverages its resources to serve as the backbone organization leading the planning, partner coordination and program implementation for the following community collaborations:

- **Healthy Roanoke Valley (HRV)** is a partnership of more than 50 organizations committed to transforming the way our community thinks about and values health. HRV mobilizes partners and resources in shared problem-solving to address the vital conditions of well-being of residents in key medically underserved areas, and create pathways to improved community health outcomes.



**Partners include:**

- Blue Ridge Behavioral Healthcare
- Bradley Free Clinic
- Carilion Clinic
- Council of Community Services
- Feeding Southwest Virginia
- LEAP for Local Food
- New Horizons Healthcare
- Radford University Carilion
- Roanoke City Public Schools
- Roanoke College
- Roanoke Redevelopment and Housing Authority
- Roanoke Rescue Mission
- Roanoke Valley Alleghany Regional Commission
- Virginia Department of Health - Roanoke City and Alleghany Health Districts and others

- **Healthy Franklin County (HFC)** is the Franklin County counterpart of HRV, connecting residents with health and human services, as well as education and quality nutrition from Community Gardens and area food banks. With access to healthy food, information and partner support, Franklin County residents in traditionally medically-underserved areas are able to address barriers to health and well-being for themselves and their families.



**Members of the HFC Steering Committee include:**

- Carilion Franklin Memorial Hospital
- Feeding Southwest Virginia
- Franklin County Parks and Recreation
- Franklin County Public Schools
- Franklin County Sheriff's Office
- Free Clinic of Franklin County
- Master Gardeners Association
- Piedmont Community Services
- Town of Rocky Mount
- Virginia Cooperative Extension
- Virginia Department of Health - West Piedmont Health District and others

- **HRV Community Resource Hub** was developed to help our neighbors at greatest risk receive coordinated healthcare and direct services with the help of neighborhood-based Community Health Workers. CHWs housed at key partner sites guide residents needing assistance - helping them to set goals, connect to available resources, and create a customized pathway of services leading to improved health for the entire family.



**Implementation partners include:**

- Bradley Free Clinic
- Carilion Clinic
- Lake Christian Ministries
- New Horizons Healthcare
- Roanoke Rescue Mission
- STEP Inc.
- Virginia Department of Health - West Piedmont Health District

- **Bank On Roanoke Valley (BORV)** and **Roanoke Financial Empowerment Center (FEC)**

BORV is a partnership of UWRV, the City of Roanoke, local financial institutions, and community organizations working together to connect individuals to safe, affordable banking products. Free financial education and one-on-one financial coaching is provided by the City of Roanoke Financial Empowerment Center, helping residents take further steps to be financially healthy and stable adults.



- **Ready Regions West** (RRW, formerly *Smart Beginnings Greater Roanoke*) is one of nine Ready Regions Hubs established in Virginia in 2022. RRW is a collaborative effort of community organizations and leaders working together to ensure that every child in our 16-county region enters kindergarten with the skills needed to succeed in school and in life by providing young children between birth and kindergarten with special support and programming. Ready Regions bring unprecedented levels of coordination, accountability, and family engagement to early education programs in every community in the Commonwealth. This new structure builds on the strengths of Smart Beginnings programs, which served Virginia well for the past fifteen years. RRW operates the following grant-funded programs with support from the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation and the Virginia the Department of Education.



- ✓ **Smart2Start (S2S)** provides a one-stop-shop resource for parents and caregivers to search for, and apply to early care and education programs for their children. Smart2Start utilizes a single application filled by the parent to check for eligibility and help connect families to available local early childhood resources that best fit their unique needs and preferences.



- ✓ The **Ready Regions West Mixed Delivery Program** expands and strengthens access to publicly funded quality care through partnerships with private and public childcare partners across sixteen localities. It includes intensive professional development services for participating private centers; incentives for participating in quality improvement activities; and, robust two-generation supports for families enrolled at these programs.

**In addition, UWRV serves as the regional office for the following state-funded initiatives that complement the work of RRW in serving early childhood programs, children, parents and caregivers.**

- **Ages and Stages questionnaire (ASQ)** is available for free to parents and caregivers online and on paper through the Developmental Screening Initiative (DSI) of the Virginia Department of Health. The vision of DSI is to promote the healthy development of children, encourage early detection and provide linkages to services so that children are physically, socially, and emotionally healthy and prepared to enter school.



- **Infant and Toddler Specialist Network (ITSN)** provides assistance to strengthen the capacity of early care and education programs serving birth – 3 years old so they can deliver high quality services to their families. ITSN offers on-site mentoring and support, training and technical assistance for caregivers, teachers and administrators, as well as professional development opportunities.

