



2026 Grant RFI Information Session



April 1, 2026





AGENDA



Welcome & Overview

Cariss T. Smith

Community Impact Overview

Jennifer Kons

- United Way Today
- What We've Learned
- Impact Tools

2024 - 2025 Grantmaking Cycle Overview

Cariss T. Smith

- Community Investment Priorities
- What We're Looking to Fund
- Impact Metrics
- Timeline & Next Steps

Q&A

MEET THE TEAM



Jennifer Kons
VP, Community Impact



Chiara Cameron-Wood
Senior Director, 211



Cariss Turner Smith
Director, Community Impact &
Economic Mobility



Mark Dorony
Program Manager,
Geauga County



Hamzah Najjar
Senior Data Analyst

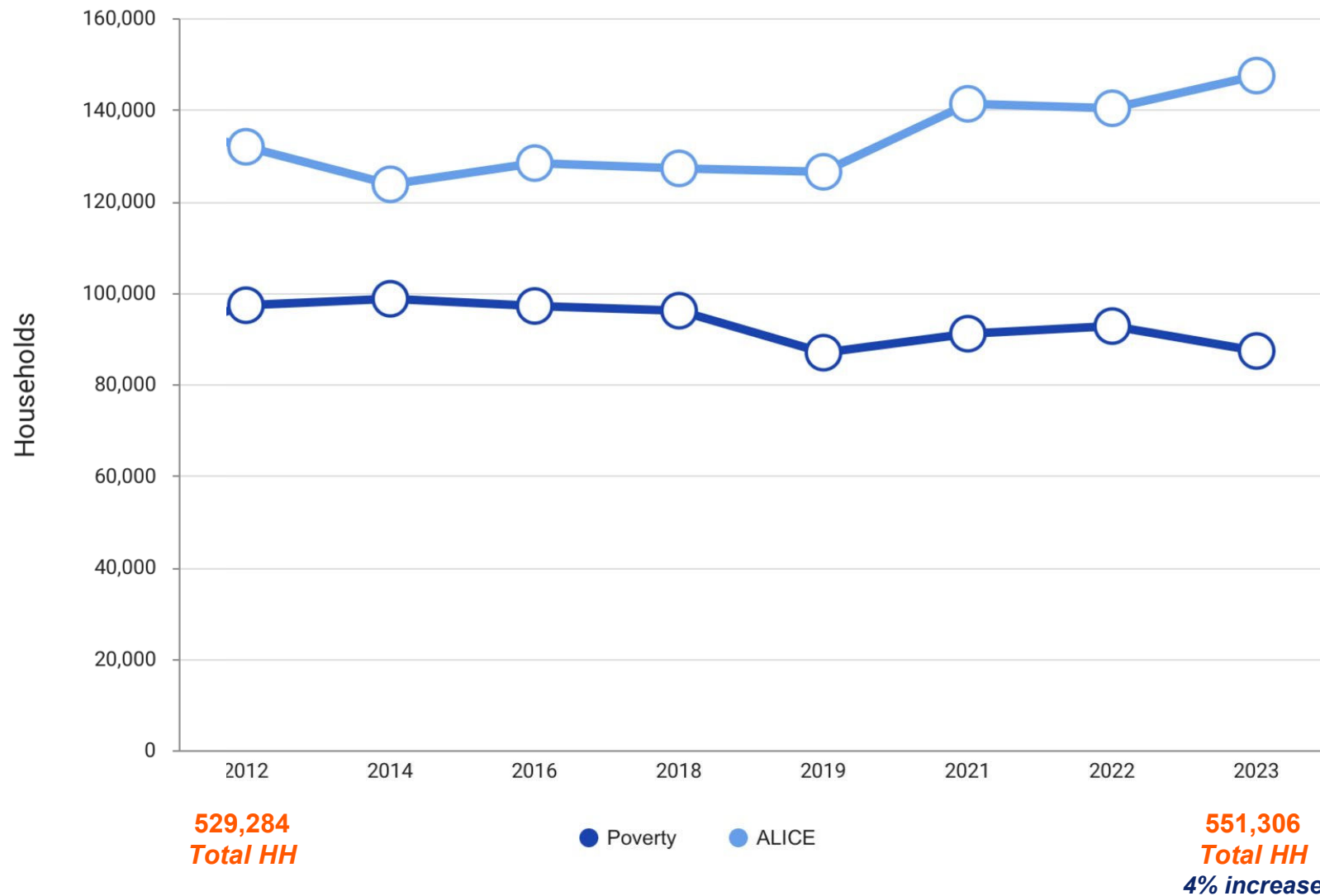


Maryam Kiefer
Senior Director, Public
Policy



Natalya Cohen
Community Impact Associate

10 years of Progress and the Work Still Ahead



In Cuyahoga County,

- **10k fewer households in poverty** down from 18.4% to 15.8%
- **16k more families working** but still struggling* – up from 24.9% to 26.7%
- **17k more families reaching financial stability**** – up from 56.7% to 57.4%

More people are working. More families are moving into financial stability. Yet, too many working households struggle – showing that change is possible.

*Below ALICE threshold

**Above ALICE threshold



HOW UWGC MAKES IMPACT



GREATER CLEVELAND
CUYAHOGA • GEAUGA

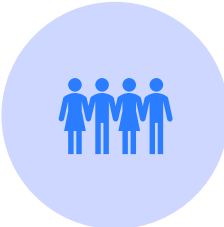


How Learning Drives Future Decisions





COMMUNITY HUB LEARNINGS & INSIGHTS



Crisis relief investments help stabilize people, but don't necessarily create conditions for economic mobility



Social Drivers of Work (SDOW) and Benefits Cliffs continue to challenge ALICE workers



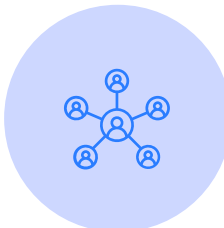
Metrics have been a challenge beyond high-level and/or generic data



Overarching goal is to give people tools to create their own safety nets (i.e. move beyond the ALICE threshold)



Some of our most successful investments leverage existing public investments in the safety net



Collaboration among partner agencies, public/private partnerships is necessary for sustained impact



Responsive Grantmaking Priorities



1. Elevate Durability as Core Metric
2. Integrate Asset-Building Across Pathways
3. Strengthen Childcare as Workforce Infrastructure
4. Implement Shared Performance Framework
5. Clarify Stabilization vs. Mobility Investments
6. Housing and Workforce Should be Integrated
7. Strengthen Alignment Between Mobility Pathways & Community Infrastructure

ECONOMIC MOBILITY INVESTMENT PRIORITIES



Childcare

Remove barriers to work: Job Entry, Retention, Advancement

Housing

Increase stable, affordable housing: Durable placements, Eviction prevention

Housing as a tool for mobility: Affordability, Opportunity Moves, Homeownership readiness

Workforce

Promote sustaining employment: Employment & Retention, Earnings & Income, Job Quality



What We Aim to Fund



UWGC seeks to invest in solutions aligned with three key impact areas that support economic mobility for ALICE households:

Childcare Access

- Expand access to childcare and improve care stability or affordability
- Reduce work disruptions related to childcare availability and/or cost

Housing Stability

- Reduce housing cost burden and prevent eviction
- Support stable housing that enables consistent employment and income growth

Workforce & Income Pathways

- Support job quality, wage growth, and employment retention
- Strengthen pathways to higher earnings through skill development and credentials



FY27 INVESTMENT SCOPE & SIZE

Overarching goal → Economic Mobility



Our approach to Impact Investment invites ideas that:

- Innovate or scale solutions
- Leverage public investments in more effective ways and/or increase access
- May collaborate for ALICE population
- Request \$50k-\$150k/year for up to 2 years



GRANTMAKING TIMELINE & NEXT STEPS



Phase	Dates
RFI Application Opens	March 24
RFI Information Session (Optional)	April 1
RFI Applicant Office Hours	April 15
RFI Application Closes	April 21
RFP Invitation to Apply & Applicant Updates	May 13
RFP Open Application	May 13–June 5
Funding Announcements	August 2026
Funding Begins	September 2026