

**Barry County United Way  
2016 MEAP Grant**

**Grant Award:** \$195,054

**Service Area:** Barry County

**Anticipated Reach:** 200 Households

Barry County United Way's (BCUW) program combines energy bill payment with enrollment in a budget/financial literacy workshop, case management, and referral to other wraparound services provided by BCUW and other community agencies. The goal of the program is to educate, encourage and empower low-income households to become financially independent, allowing them to provide the basic needs for their families.

**Program Details**

- Low-Income households may apply in person or by phone.
- Applicant responsible for 10% or more of bill depending on six month payment history.
- No cap on number of assists; up to a total of \$3,000 in assistance.
- Based on applicant's six month payment history – varying levels of case management including budgeting/financial workshops and monthly meetings with a financial mentor.

**Additional Services Offered**

- Housing assistance
- Tax preparation, back to school programs, smoke detectors, annual program to provide free vision and hearing exams
- Weekly fresh food initiative
- Incorporating a Client Action Plan

**Partners**

- Salvation Army
- Soldiers and Sailors Relief Fund
- Community Action Agency (weatherization referrals and energy education classes)
- Barry County Home Improvement Program
- Commission on Aging

**Location/Hours/Contact Information**

Address: 231 S. Broadway, Hastings, MI 49058  
Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
Telephone: (269) 945-4010