

Barry County United Way 2020 MEAP Grant

Grant Award: \$150,000

Service Area: Barry County

Anticipated Reach: 120 Households

Barry County United Way's (BCUW) program combines energy assistance and self-sufficiency services with our team of case managers and the Family Economic Support Office (FESO). Wrap-around services are provided by performing an in-depth needs assessment, referrals, vendor advocacy and energy education as well as short and long-term budgeting to ensure all household needs are met. The premise of the program is to educate, motivate and empower low-income households to become financially successful while moving them towards becoming self-sufficient and providing the basic needs for their families.

Program Details

- Access, Referral and Navigation Partner with MDHHS.
- Enrollment onto Affordable Payment Plans.
- Case management, financial mentorship and coordination with employment services.
- Energy payment assistance for all types of household heating fuels up to the \$2,000 cap.
- Households responsible for 10% or more of bill depending on program enrollment and payment history.

Additional Services Offered

- Employment and education referrals
- Household Action Steps and Financial Work Plans
- Housing assessment and resource assistance
- Smoke and CO detectors
- Veterans Affairs Service Officers
- Volunteer Income Tax Assistance
- Weekly Fresh Food Initiative and food pantries

Partners

- Barry County Home Improvement Program
- Commission on Aging
- Community Action Agency (Weatherization)
- Consumers Energy (CARE, Helping Neighbors Program)
- MDHHS (Navigation Partners and housing grantee)
- MSHDA (HARA)
- West Michigan Works and Michigan Rehabilitation Services

Locations and Contact Information

Address: 231 S. Broadway, Hastings, MI 49058

Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Telephone: (269) 945-4010