

United Way for Southeastern Michigan 2019 MEAP Grant

Grant Award: \$6,750,000

Service Area: Wayne, Oakland, and Macomb Counties

Anticipated Reach: 10,015 Households

United Way for Southeastern Michigan is leveraging existing partnerships and internal resources to connect vulnerable community members with assistance best aligned to household circumstances in a streamlined, customer-friendly system. We have found that families want foreseeable, regular household expenses and that they need information and resources to improve energy use behavior. As part of our self-sufficiency strategy, we seek to enroll 10,015 households into an affordable payment plan (APP). We intend to leverage relationships with UWSEM-funded partner agencies to house MI Bridges Navigators who are trained in Information and Referral through 2-1-1 as required by the Alliance of Information and Referral System (AIRS), and budget coaching. These MI Bridges Navigators will assist customers in applying for MEAP and completing a self-sufficiency plan, while also performing other activities associated with carrying out the self-sufficiency plan, such as budget coaching, energy education, and information and referral services. Customers deemed eligible for MEAP will then be enrolled into an appropriate Affordable Payment Plan. Customers will have the opportunity to opt into an additional level of support via a virtual peer support model utilizing the resources of 2-1-1 and UWSEM network partners.

Program Details

- UWSEM MI Bridges Navigators will assist applicants with applying for State Emergency Relief.
- Applicants will receive assistance in completing a self-sufficiency plan.
- All applicants presenting to one of UWSEM's MI Bridges sites will participate in an energy education session at intake; other applicants will receive the information electronically.
- All applicants presenting to one of UWSEM's MI Bridges sites will be assisted with setting up a basic household budget or referral to financial education and/or debt reduction resources; other applicants may opt to receive this information electronically.
- Trained Information and Referral specialists will be on-site to assess other needs and provide resources to assist the household.
- When available, applicants will be screened and recruited for various UWSEM-supported job training programs in various skilled trades industries.
- Consenting applicants deemed eligible for MEAP will be enrolled into the appropriate Affordable Payment Plan offered by their utility company.
- Additional information and details can be found on <https://unitedwaysem.org/utility-assistance>.

Locations and Contact Information

United Way for Southeastern Michigan has partnered with the following sites to provide MEAP utility assistance services:

Franklin Wright Settlements 7375 Woodward Ave. Detroit, MI 48202 M - F 9:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.	Catholic Charities of Southeastern MI 76 Williams St. Pontiac, MI 48341 T & Th 9:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.	ACCESS 4301 E. 14 Mile Rd. Sterling Heights, MI 48310 M & W 9:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.
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Questions regarding assistance can be answered at 844-211-4994, Monday through Friday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.