



United Way  
Metro Chicago



***For Immediate Release***

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United Way of Metropolitan Chicago

**WEST SUBURBAN UNITED WAY, OAK PARK UNITED WAY AND COMMUNITY &  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION OF COOK COUNTY TO HOST  
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES SUMMIT**

*United Way and CEDA bring together not-for-profit, government and  
community partners to discuss the future of the sector*

**Chicago, Ill.** (March 31, 2010) – The United Way and the Community & Economic Development Association (CEDA) of Cook County will host a free and public summit beginning at 8:30 a.m. on Friday, April 16 at the LaGrange Village Hall. The summit will focus on the issues facing the health and human services sector this coming year. Along with a panel discussion featuring The Honorable Lisa Hernandez, Representative of Illinois' 24<sup>th</sup> District, and The Honorable Christine Radogno, Senator of Illinois' 41st District, roundtable discussions and breakout sessions allowing attendees to share insights into measures keeping community programs viable.

"At this point, we have two priorities," says Wendy DuBoe, Chief Community Investment Officer at United Way Metropolitan Chicago. "One is obviously to address the need for a responsible budget in Springfield; but we also have to prioritize creative ways of mitigating program cut backs. Collaborating with each other, we can do better for our clients, our organizations, and our communities."

Contributing attendants will include members of three local UW organizations, CEDA, Fox Television Network, Mission Plus Strategy Consulting, Alliance to End Homelessness in Suburban Cook County, Access To Care and others. The breadth of experience among panel contributors will allow an in depth exploration of state budget impact, partnerships and collaborative endeavors, and creative financing strategies. Jack Kaplan, the Director of Public Policy & Advocacy at The United Way of Metropolitan Chicago, will share the results of a

survey conducted by the UWMC which polls over 500 service agencies in Illinois.

"We found that 90 percent of our respondents rely on government support for their budget and 77 percent are still owed payments from the state for services already provided. To survive, our agencies have maxed out their lines of credit, borrowed from reserve funds and cut staff or salaries. This is potentially the worst funding crisis many of us have seen in our lifetime," said Kaplan.

The state of Illinois historically provides 97% of health and human services funding, and applications to the United Way for financial stability programs alone have doubled. For every ten dollars applied for, there is only one dollar of funding available.

"The UW is doing its part, CEDA is doing its part, the agencies are doing their part, but it's not enough to ensure a continuum of service in Cook County or in Illinois," says Sharon Alberts, CPO, West Suburban United Way. "We can't rely on the state infrastructure that should be supporting these services, and now it is time to innovate. Getting social services in Illinois through the budget crisis is going to be the result of advocacy, ingenuity and perseverance."

"Today, more than ever, the non-profit sector must work in partnership with the private sector and local communities to empower families and individuals to achieve self-sufficiency," says Robert L. Wharton President/CEO CEDA.

The summit will examine issues of cash flow in agencies by category, identifying priority issues and appraising strategies for the alleviation of chronic shortfalls. Breakout groups will include those geared toward large multi-faceted organizations, youth services organizations, housing agencies, mental health & disability organizations, and health care providers. Elected officials and representatives from universities, financial institutions and private businesses will be dispersed among the groups. The groups will conclude with an address to the general summit detailing action steps and timelines for implementation. The result will be improved sector wide communication and uniform insight into the challenges and objectives of social services in the region.

All agency executive directors, staff, board members and volunteers are welcome to attend, as are local community members and advocates.

The LaGrange Village Hall is located at 53 South LaGrange Rd. La Grange, IL 60525. For more information or to RSVP, please contact Sarah Frick at [sfrick@uwmc.org](mailto:sfrick@uwmc.org) or visit [www.uw-mc.org](http://www.uw-mc.org).

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***CEDA** is one of the nation's largest non-profit organizations, serving more than 375,000 individuals annually and operating over 40 programs throughout Cook County in the areas of education, housing, economic development, family and children services, health and nutrition.*

***United Way of Metropolitan Chicago** improves lives by mobilizing caring people to invest in the community where their resources are needed most. Spanning 238 communities across five counties, United Way of Metropolitan Chicago is the largest non-governmental funder of health and human service programs in the region. Thousands of community volunteers are engaged with United Way to make a difference in their community and provide workable solutions to create healthier, safer communities. For more information about the United Way of Metropolitan Chicago, visit [www.uw-mc.org](http://www.uw-mc.org)*

***West Suburban United Way** is part of the larger UWMC as well as an official charter member of United Way of America. The WSUW serves 19 townships in Southwest suburban Cook County, and supports over 36 agencies, including 8 providing child and senior services, 6 providing youth development opportunities, 6 providing programs and housing for developmentally disabled individuals, 5 providing family and individual counseling and mental health services, and 11 providing crisis intervention and emergency assistance.*

***United Way of Oak Park, River Forest and Forest Park** is part of the larger UWMC as well as an official charter member of United Way of America. Serving an area with over 78,147 residents and a great deal of specific regional strengths and needs, the UWOPRFFP funds 43 dynamic programs providing vital health, education and income services to the areas' residents.*